



Buildings archaeological surveys at Maasi Castle on North-East Saaremaa

Garel Püüa

SA Saaremaa Muuseum (Foundation Saaremaa Museum), Lossihoov 1, 93810 Kuressaare, Estonia;
garel.pyya@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

The Castle of the Livonian branch of the Teutonic Order in Maasi (Fig. 1), which is located on the north-eastern coast of the island Saaremaa and which is also known as Maasilinn (Germ. *Soneburg*), is the second best-known medieval fortification on Saaremaa after the Bishop's Castle in Kuressaare. Unlike Kuressaare, no comprehensive archaeological surveys have been conducted in Maasi, so there is very little knowledge of the castle's architecture. Yet Maasi Castle is one of the few castles in Estonia to have the date of its construction and its final fall quite well documented in written sources.

In August 2019, the team of Saaremaa Museum consisting of Garel Püüa, Tõnu Sepp, and Taniel Vares conducted the first major buildings archaeological survey at Maasi Castle. The survey focused on the building history of the main castle structure and the work was funded by the National Heritage Board. The present article provides a summary of the castle's earlier surveys, but most importantly, new information that was gained through this fieldwork (see Püüa 2019). The drawings were prepared on the basis of the geodesic base plan of Maasi Castle which had been formed by OÜ Geodeesiabüroo (2007), and the heights are given in the EH2000 system. During the course of the fieldwork the total of 59 artefact finds were recovered, which are now stored in the archaeological collections of Saaremaa Museum (SM 10860).

HISTORY OF THE CASTLE

In early 1227 the last of Estonia's pre-conquest regions – the island of Saaremaa – surrendered to the German crusaders. A small feudal state was formed which consisted of Läänemaa and the West-Estonian islands: the prince-bishopric of Saare-Lääne (Germ. *Oesel-Wiek*). Parts of the island were initially given also to the archbishopric of Riga and to the Order of Brethren



Fig. 1. The ruins and moat of The Castle of Livonian Order in Maasi. The castle's central residence was conserved and covered with a roof in 2001–2004. View towards south-east.

Jn 1. Maasi ordulinnuse varemed ja vallikraav. Linnuse keskne eluhoone konserveeriti ja kaeti katusega aastatel 2001–2004. Vaade kagusse.

Photo / Foto: Margus Muld

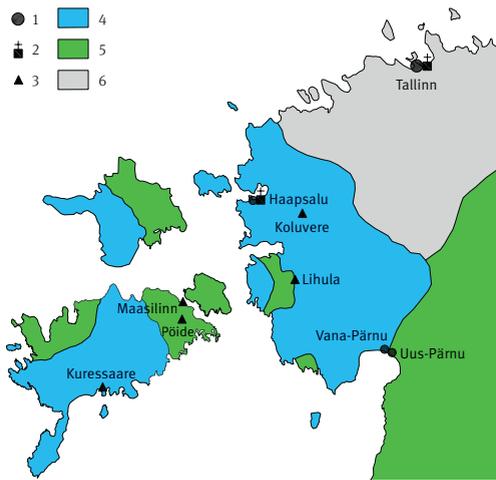


Fig. 2. Prince-bishopric Saare-Lääne (Ösel-Wiek) in 1345 when the building of Maasi Castle started. 1 – castle / town, 2 – cathedral, 3 – central castle, 4 – prince-bishopric of Saare-Lääne, 5 – Livonian Order, 6 – Estonian Duchy of Danish kingdom.

Jn 2. Saare-Lääne piiskopkond aastal 1345 kui alustati Maasi ordulinnuse ehitamist. 1 – linnus / linn, 2 – toomkirik, 3 – keskne linnus, 4 – Saare-Lääne piiskopkond, 5 – Liivi ordu, 6 – Taani kuninga Eestimaa hertsogkond

Drawing / Joonis: Garel Püüa

of Sword of Livonia. The dividing up of the land between the conquerors was largely finished by 1254. Most of Saaremaa went to the prince-bishop of Saare-Lääne and, at the end of the 14th century, the castle that was completed in Kuressaare became a central node of the prince-bishopric besides a similar centre in Haapsalu. The island of Muhu, as well as areas surrounding Põide, and part of Kihelkonna Parish remained with the Livonian branch of the Teutonic Order, the successor of Brethren of Sword of Livonia. As a centre of the Order's lands, Põide Castle was built on Saaremaa in the middle of the 13th century. In the course of the St George's Night uprising from 1343 to 1345, the locals destroyed Põide Castle and were subsequently forced to build Maasi Castle as their punishment (Fig. 2).

The 16th century chronicler Balthasar Russow speaks about Burchard von Dreileben, master of the Livonian Order, who defeated the locals of Saaremaa in winter, adding: '...what's more, they promptly had to start building a castle in Maasi (from the

Lower German: *Sonenborch*, meaning *reparation castle*, *reconciliation castle*) if they wanted to live. This was in the year 1345,' (referred via Hoeneke 1960, 127). The chronicle of Hermann Wartberge (compiled ca. 1372) also describes the quelling of the last big uprising on Saaremaa in 1345, mentioning among other things: 'But the same Master Burchard built a good, strong castle at Saaremaa, and Brother Goswin enlarged it later,' (referred via Hoeneke 1960, 109). This refers to Master of the Livonian Order, Burchard von Dreileben who ultimately quelled the uprising on Saaremaa in February 1345. Only then could the work begin to build Maasi Castle. In December of the same year, Goswin von Herike was elected Master of the Livonian Order as Burchard's successor, and acted as Master until 1359. Thus the construction of Maasi Castle which controlled the traffic across the Väike Väin (Eng. *Little Strait*) lasted only ten months under Dreileben's rule.

Maasi Castle remained in the possession of the Order as the centre of the bailiwick of the same name for a little over two hundred years. In May 1562, King Frederick II of Denmark took possession of Maasi Castle, and the last bailiff of the Order, Heinrich von Ludinghausen-Wulff was named 'Royal Praetor' (Tarvel 2007, 108–109). In 1566, Saaremaa was invaded by the Swedes who pillaged the entire island and left with a huge quantity of loot. Being unable to defend another castle besides Kuressaare if the Swedes were to attack again, the Danes destroyed Maasi Castle in the same year. They soon began to regret that decision and instead reinforced the castle again (Russow 1993, 163; Blumfeldt 1934, 296). In the summer of 1568, the Swedes came to Maasi Castle again, this time in eighteen ships, and on the 14th of August the castle was handed over to them (Tarvel 2007, 109). Together with the castle, both Põide and Muhu also went to the Swedes.

Signed in 1570, the Stettin Peace Treaty stipulated that Sweden was supposed to return the Maasi Castle and its surrounding territory to Denmark, but the act was delayed. King John III of Sweden failed to respect the peace treaty and in 1575 gave Maasi Castle and its surroundings to Duke Magnus of Saxe-Lauenburg, who was allied to Sweden (Pedakmäe 2007, 143). Magnus arrived on Saaremaa in the same year, promptly taking over Maasi Castle and, somewhat later, Muhu as well. Whilst there, he imprisoned Danish Praetor Claus (Klaus) von Ungern but soon released him and left Saaremaa. As a response, Ungern surrounded Maasi Castle and a few days later the defenders surrendered thanks to a large fire breaking out in the castle (Blumfeldt 1934, 296). As Maasi Castle had fallen to the Swedes very quickly again, the castle was blown up in 1576 upon the orders of Frederick II, king of Denmark (Löwis of Menar 1922, 115; Blumfeldt 1934, 296).

After the castle had been abandoned, time stopped for more than 400 years for the rubble-covered Maasi Castle. This makes Maasi Castle an even more exciting site to study. Surprisingly, a visual inspection shows the explosion to have been very superficial. The impression is that they knowingly tried to destroy only the central dwelling, not the entire castle. As only the third floor of the dwelling was fully destroyed (up to the arch bases of the second floor), the explosives were probably placed on the third floor instead of the ground floor. They seemingly did not even try to blow up the bastion and other defensive facilities of Maasi Castle. The curtain wall with its towers, the main castle buildings, and the bastion are more or less visible on the landscape even now (Fig. 3). The castle's north-east tower was left so intact that it later became an important landmark for ships (Körber 1915, 50; Pao 1997, 35). The walls have suffered worse damage from the demolition activities of subsequent centuries and from being in the vicinity of the sea than they ever did from the Danes. According to relatively broadly-known information, the ruins of Maasi Castle were used as a quarry for building the dam in the Väike väin strait (1894–1896). It is highly probable that the stones of Maasi Castle were additionally used in building Maasi mansion and were also taken elsewhere.

As a side remark, a sixteen-metre-long and six-metre-wide shipwreck was discovered in a bay near Maasi Castle in 1985 (see Pao 1997), and raised in the summer of 1987 for purely scientific purposes. The maple wood wreck, dated to around the 1550s, had been carrying lime, probably for reinforcing Maasi Castle before or during the Livonian Wars. The vessel is currently on display at the Estonian Maritime Museum's Seaplane Harbour exhibition in Tallinn.

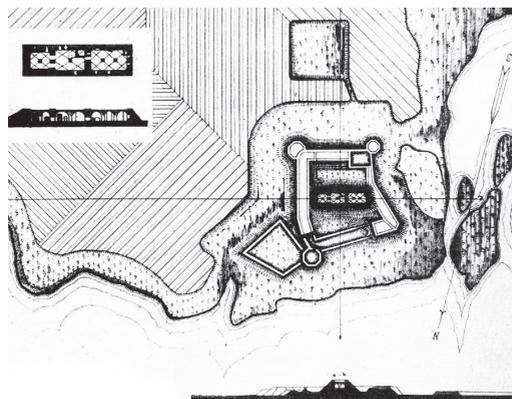


Fig. 3. Reinhold Guleke's reorganisation project of Maasi Castle, probably originating from the 1880s.

Jn 3. Reinhold Gulekese Maasilinna korrastamise projekt, mis pärineb arvatavasti 1880. aastatest.

Drawing / Joonis: ERM Fk 568:3

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

The first hints of historical interest towards Maasi Castle originate from the 19th century. A medieval seal was found in the vicinity of the castle in the first half of the 19th century (Brotze 2006, 447). In 1904, the Research Society of Saaremaa (Germ. *Verein zur Kunde*

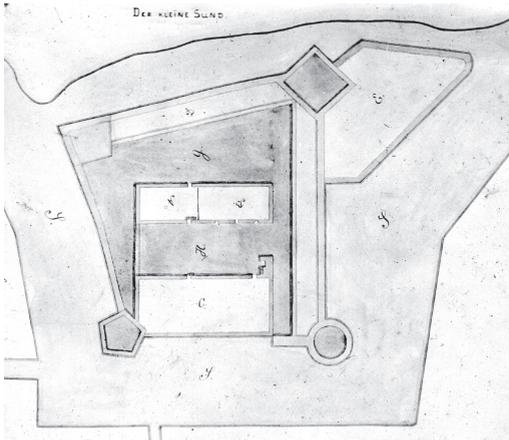


Fig. 4. Maasi Castle's main floor, as seen on the photo display of the 1904 excavations.

Jn 4. Maasi linnuse põhiplaan 1904. a väljakaevamisi kajastavalt fotostendilt.

Photo / Foto: SM 2028: 3, 1

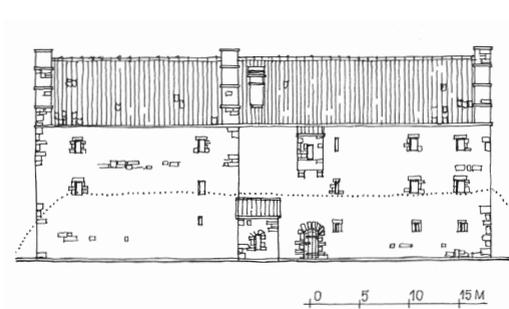


Fig. 5. A drawing of the view of the Maasi extended-dwelling-tower-type building by Kalvi Aluve (1993, fig. 96). The building's older part is on the left and the later extension is on the right. View from the south.

Jn 5. Maasi laiendatud elutorn-tüüpi hoone vaatejoonis Kalvi Aluve (1993, jn 96) järgi. Vasakul hoone vanem osa ja paremal hilisem juurdeehitis. Vaade lõunast.

Drawing / Joonis: Kalvi Aluve

Oesels) arranged excavations around the Castle, which was the only major fieldwork known in the area in the 20th century. All the survey materials were eventually lost, except one general drawing and a few photos (Fig. 4).¹

The most comprehensive architectural descriptions of Maasi are provided by art historian Armin Tuulse (Tuulse 1942) and architect Kalvi Aluve (Aluve 1993). Tuulse considers the main castle of Maasi to be typologically a reduced 'Konventhaus'. One of its wings is formed by a dwelling at the centre of the castle and the other by the buildings alongside the castle's south wall (Tuulse 1942, 186–187). It would seem that his conclusions are based mainly upon the above-mentioned drawing (Tuulse 1942, Abb. 115).

Kalvi Aluve used both plans (Figs 3–4) in his book, focusing on a more exact description of the castle's central dwelling. He viewed it as an extended 'dwelling tower-type' building (Germ. *Kemenate*) (46.9 × 12.2 m), not as a reduced single wing of a 'Konventhaus' (Aluve 1993, 28). According to him, the 'dwelling tower-type' main building was erected in two stages. The west room, 20.8 m long and 12.2 m wide with two pillars (and with a wall thickness of 2.1–2.3 m) is the older part of the building (Fig. 5, on the left). This was later supplemented by a 26.1 metres long, uniform width extension (with a wall thickness of 2.7–3.0 m; Fig. 5, on the right). The older part may have been built by Burchard von Dreileben and extended by Goswin von Herike (Aluve 1993, 29).

Smaller surveys took place in the years 2001 to 2004 in relation to work to conserve and re-roof the castle's central dwelling house (see Sepp 2003a–b; 2004; 2006). This was monitoring in which the location and size of the pits depended upon the needs of the construction work for reroofing. The work allowed to measure the entire perimeter of the central dwelling house for the first time. At the north-east and south-west corners of the dwelling house, additional shafts were dug into the rubble layer, based on which it could be presumed that the building's outer walls continued uninterrupted in the east and south directions. The smallness of the pits rendered it impossible

¹ A comprehensive overview of Maasi Castle's research and conservation is provided in an article by Tõnu Sepp (2018).

to make any final conclusions, but what could be seen indicated the construction of a *castellum* / *Ringmauerkastell*,² with a corner tower, in the middle of the 14th century. This draws a parallel with Kuressaare *castellum* with a corner tower, which was the prince-bishop's castle before the 'Konventhaus' (Püüa *et al.* 2016, 32–44 and figs 22, 199).

Following the conservation work of 2001 to 2004, only small surveys under supervision were carried out in Maasi. In 2014, four trenches were dug into the north-east part of the moat for an enacted battle that was arranged by the Military Equipment Museum of Saaremaa (Püüa 2014). Two limestone walls that had been laid without a binder were documented in the moat, probably parts of the foundation of an auxiliary building which originated from the 1800s or 1900s.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK IN 2019

The goal of the recent fieldwork was to get information about the architectural formation of the castle such as verifying a specific version of the *castellum* by unearthing one of its corner towers, but also archaeological strata, courtyard pavements, etc. The total of eight trenches were dug, most of them related to the opening of various architectural nodes of the main castle (Fig. 6). Also, a section of the curtain wall's west side was cleaned of rubble – roughly thirty metres in length – with the hope that a gateway into the main castle could be unearthed (Fig. 6: 1). The stone material was stored close to the moat on the castle's east side, in order to reuse the stones in future conservation work.

The largest of the opened areas, trench no 1, covering around 125 m², was located on the western side of the castle's second curtain wall, i.e. the large wall with corner towers (Fig. 6: 1). If a gateway had been found, then it would have been possible to lead tourists from the car park directly into the castle without damaging the walls. A section of the curtain wall, approximately thirty metres wide, was cleared of rubble to the height of around 1.5–2 m, but no gate leading to the main castle was found. The wall's top was left covered with soil and grass to protect it, so the thickness of the curtain wall could not be verified.

The lowermost layer in the trench consisted of soil mixed with demolition debris that contained not only rubble but also fragments of bricks and roof tiles, animal bones, charcoal, sherds of redware tripod pots, 15th and 16th century coins, rifle bullets etc. Trench no 1 is the source of practically all the artefacts from the fieldwork. As the soil that was deposited against the curtain wall's outer side yielded finds that could be dated to various centuries but which were found in the same level, it cannot be excluded that earlier deposits have been taken from another area of the castle (perhaps from the moat?) and heaped into the earthen wall in front of the stone wall. After the curtain wall had been established, the ground level beside the moat was probably lower than that of the mixed layer. The trench was not dug any deeper for fear of the wall toppling over due to the pressure of the soil that was heaped behind it.

For the construction of the west side of the second curtain wall, a wall of an existing building or tower was apparently used, as this differs visibly from the rest of the wall, although this cannot be categorically confirmed at the current stage of research. Even so, there was a straight wall section of 10.5 m in length at the southern corner of the curtain wall, which had been laid exclusively of limestone and which reached up to 80 cm higher than the rest of the curtain wall in the excavation. Towards the north-west, the corner of a presumed building

² The term *Kastell* is used differently in different regions. In Central Europe an additional feature of such a castle type is a perimetral building. In Nordic countries (see Tuulse 1947, 7–38) the main character of a *castellum* is a relatively standard surrounding wall, such as with its archetype, the Roman military camp. In addition, the terms *Ringmauerkastell* and *Randhauskastell* have also been used (see Alltoa 2008, 14).

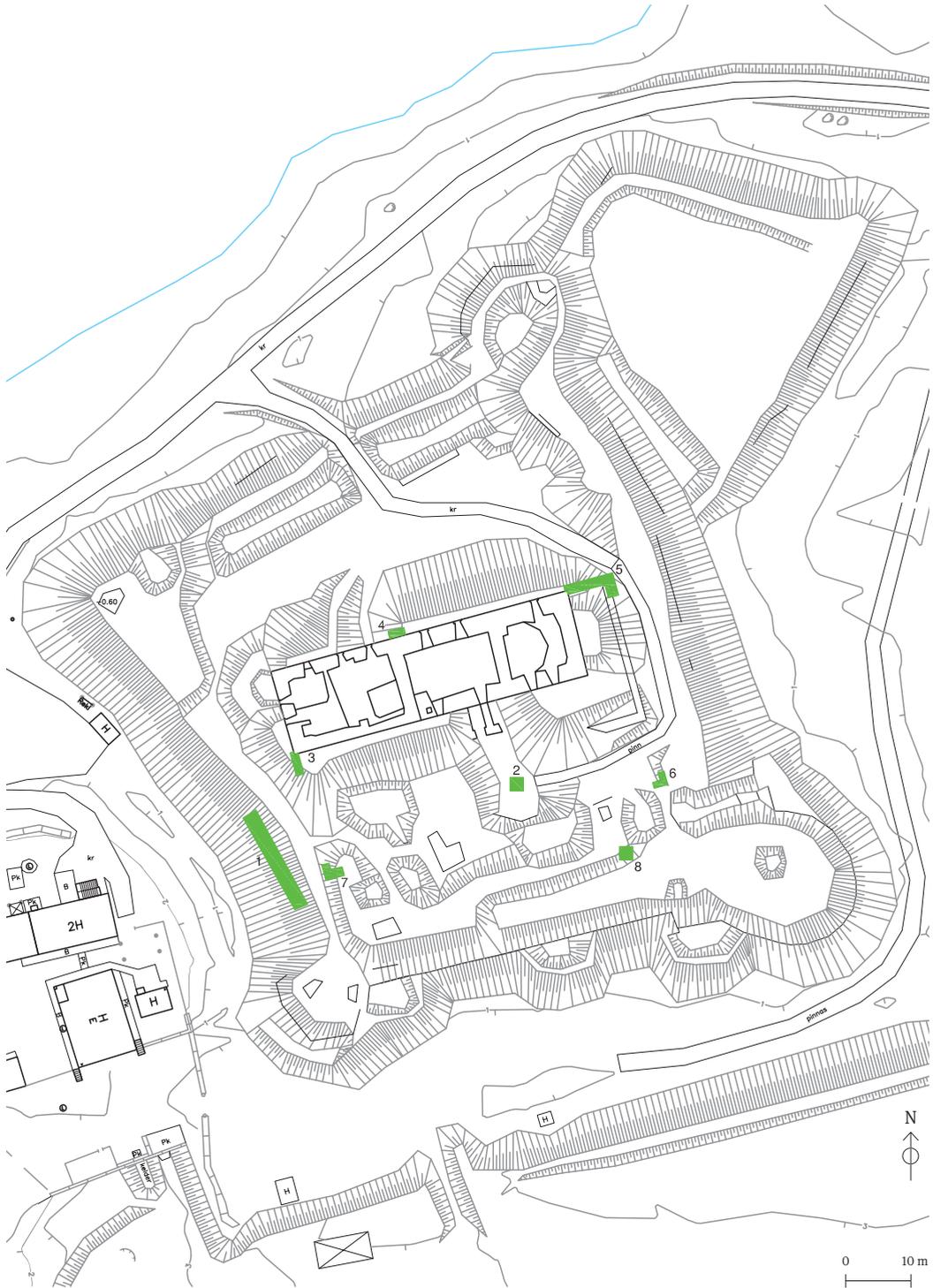


Fig. 6. Research at Maasi Castle in 2019. The schematic for pits 1–8.

Jn 6. Uuringud Maasi ordulinnuses 2019. Kaevandite 1–8 skeem.

Drawing / Joonis: Garel Püüa

was separated from the curtain wall that had been laid against it by a vertical joint that could be tracked to the height of at least two metres (Fig. 7). Further away from the building, the curtain wall repeatedly changed its direction and was constructed not only of limestone, but also of suitable boulders (Fig. 7).

The south tower of the large curtain wall was built against the second corner of the presumed building, again separated from the wall by a vertical joint. A similar tower or building is included in Reinhold Guleke's project to tidy up Maasi Castle (Fig. 3), but the drawing does not correspond to the data collected at fieldwork. Light-coloured stucco patches were preserved at the junction between the tower and the curtain wall and it is possible that, similar to Kuressaare Castle, the curtain wall of Maasi Castle was also plastered smooth on the outside, using lime grout. After documenting, it was decided not to cover the curtain wall with soil. As it did not need immediate conservation, it is well observable and provides added value to the castle as a tourist attraction.

Trench no 2 was erected on the southern side of the dwelling house (Fig. 6: 2) and was intended to determine the initial height of the castle's courtyard. The location of the trench was chosen in an area that had been least disturbed by earlier excavations. Almost immediately the last courtyard pavement which had been laid of irregularly-shaped limestone slabs was uncovered close to the level of the topsoil (the largest slab measured 60 × 33 × 9 cm). In the excavation the pavement was located at the height of 4.63–4.77 m above sea level and had been laid on a lime mortar layer about 6–7 cm thick. About 30 cm deeper (at an absolute height of 4.35–4.48 m above sea level), another presumed courtyard pavement was found, made of cobblestones and limestone (Fig. 8). From between the pavement stones, a crossbow bolt with a tang was found, dating from the end of the 14th or start of the 15th century (SM 10860: 23). The pavement stones were laid directly on a soil mixture which contained clay and crushed stone with smaller animal bones and roof tile fragments as well. The final depth of the trench remained about one metre.



Fig. 7. A section of the big surrounding wall cleared on the castle's western side (pit 1), where no gates were found. The middle of the photo shows the higher wall of a probable earlier building, to which the later section of the surrounding wall (on the left) and a corner tower (on the right) were added. The background (on the left) displays the main Maasi Castle building. View from the south-west.

Jn 7. Linnuse lääneküljel välja puhastatud suure ringmüüri lõik (kaevand 1), kust väravakohta ei leitud. Foto keskel on näha arvatava varasema ehitise kõrgemat müüri, millega on liidetud hilisem ringmüüri lõik (vasakul) ja nurgatorn (paremal). Tagaplaanil (vasakul) Maasi linnuse peahoone asukoht. Vaade edelast.
Photo / Foto: Garel Püüa



Fig. 8. Pavement laid with irregular limestone slabs and lime mortar, and an earlier pavement laid directly on soil, in the castle's courtyard (pit 2).

Jn 8. Ebakorrapärasest paeplaatidest lubimördiga laotud sillutis ja varasem otse pinnasele laotud sillutis kastellihoovis (kaevand 2).

Photo / Foto: Garel Püüa



Fig. 9. Opening the surrounding wall at the dwelling tower's south-west corner (pit 3), where binding stones are seen jutting out of the wall. View of a probable embrasure (on the right) and remains of a window.

Jn 9. Ringmüüri avamine elutorni edelanurgas (kaevand 3), kus on näha seinast eenduvaid sidekive. Vaade arvatava laskeava (paremal) ja akna jäänustele.

Photo / Foto: Garel Püüa

Trench no 3 was established at the south-western corner of the older part of the Maasi dwelling in order to verify the continuation of the initial (first) curtain wall from the building towards the south (Fig. 6: 3). It turned out that, while constructing the building's older part (the elongated dwelling tower), binding stones with regular intervals were set at the corner for the later continuation of the wall. The binding stones were jutting out of the wall by about 35 cm (Fig. 9). Also, remains of the curtain wall were uncovered when clearing the bottom of the excavation. This indicates that, when erecting the dwelling tower, there were already plans to establish a housekeeping yard that was protected by a wall and to join the curtain wall to the tower's south-western corner.

The wall's thickness at the height of the second floor (around 8.5–9 m above sea level) was at 120 cm and, while clearing it, a presumed broken embrasure and a window niche were found (Fig. 9). So there were at least two floors of a building on the dwelling tower's southern side, something that is also reminiscent of Kuressaare's early *castellum* with its corner tower (Püüa *et al.* 2016, 32–44 and fig. 19). The embrasure was located directly beside the dwelling tower (30–60 cm away) and its external end was broken. The embrasure's side which faced towards the tower was made up of jutting binding stones, with limestone and brick fragments packed tight between them. After that, the wall had been plastered smooth with lime grout. Right beside the embrasure (with a partition wall that was only about 30–60 cm thick) was a window niche about 95–120 cm wide. A presumed sitting bench about 30–45 cm wide, which had been laid with limestone was on its southern side. The room's wall towards the dwelling tower and probably the entire interior of the room were plastered with mortar.

About 4.7 m from the tower, a section of the room's exterior wall was cleared from the rubble layer. The room's southern wall coincided with the line of the main castle's secondary buildings (the lobby and the auxiliary rooms of the dwelling's newer section – see below Fig. 12: 3). Based on the wall fragment that was found here, the width of the room with the window niche and the embrasure could have been about 3.5–4 m.

As the excavation was rather narrow and the walls could only be opened from above due to the thick layer of rubble, it remained unclear whether the window niche and the embrasure were built together with the curtain wall or were later broken into the wall. Considering the rather sloppy use of stones, the brick fragments, and the masonry work, the impression was that the room was added later. It seems that the entire building volume to the south of the extended dwelling was planned and built in the course of the dwelling tower's extension and according to a unified plan.

Trench no 4 was dug at the junction between the dwelling's older and newer sections, on the northern side of the main castle, to determine the architectural connection between the various stages of construction (Fig. 6: 4). The geo-basis indicates that the building's older

section – the dwelling tower – was about 20 m long and the newer part was 26.5 m long. The width of both sections was approximately 13 m. When opening up the junction between the two building stages, no vertical joint was uncovered and, instead, it appeared that binding stones jutting out by up to 35 cm had been installed at the corner of the building's older part when erecting it. There was a clear plan to continue the wall towards the east, therefore a picture quite similar to trench no 3 appeared.

According to Tõnu Sepp, who dealt with clearing, conserving, and reroofing the dwelling house's walls from 2001 to 2004, a clearly visible vertical joint was present in the north wall of the building's newer section, just as though the initial wall had afterwards been made thicker on the inside (see Fig. 12: 4). Unfortunately, photos of the joint that was found whilst clearing the wall have not been preserved. This is of significance for **trench no 5**, which was erected on the north-east side of the dwelling's newer section (Fig. 6: 5). Upon opening up the corner, it was discovered that the curtain wall continued from the dwelling house towards the east and was homogeneous with the laying of the building's wall, at least on the outside. No vertical joint or binding stones were visible, unlike in earlier excavations. On the one hand there was a vertical joint between the curtain wall's interior side and the dwelling house's newer section.³ It seems that the building's newer section was built against the existing curtain wall (width 120 cm) and the curtain wall was made thicker by more than a metre inside the dwelling in the course of its construction. The geo-basis indicates that the wall's total thickness is about 275–285 cm (see Fig. 12: 5). The curtain wall continued for about 6.5 m towards the east from the dwelling house's newer section and then turned towards the south at a right angle (Fig. 10). Trench no 5 provides evidence for an opinion that the tower's



Fig. 10. Clearing the surrounding wall's north-east corner at the eastern side of the extended dwelling building (pit 5). The extension was laid directly against the surrounding wall's inner side.

Jn 10. Ringmüüri kirdepoolse nurga puhastamine laiendatud eluhoone idaküljel (kaevand 5). Juurde ehitatud hooneosa oli laotud vastu ringmüüri sisekülge.

Photo / Foto: Garel Püüa

³ The upper section of the walls was restored when the ruins were reroofed, and there is no longer a joint there.

extension was undertaken only after the *castellum* was completed. Why such a 6.5 m gap was left between the building and the curtain wall's east side is still unclear.

Trench no 6 was erected at the presumed junction between the curtain wall's east side and the main castle's south wing (Fig. 6: 6). There are several wall sections from the south buildings that are visible in the castle's courtyard, and the wall's line at the courtyard side is pretty easily visible. Upon opening up the presumed junction point, it turned out that the buildings do not reach the curtain wall. Similarly to the case with the dwelling house's newer section, there is a gap that is 7 m wide between the south wing's building and the curtain wall's east side (see Fig. 12: 5, 6, 8). The wall had been opened in two places on the curtain wall's east side (at a height of about 8–9 m above sea level), and its measured thickness was about 120 cm in any case (see Fig. 12: 6).

Trench no 7 was dug at the presumed junction between the curtain wall's west side and the main castle's south wing buildings (Fig. 6: 7). The trench unearthed the curtain wall's west side for a length of about 2.7 m, and the wall's thickness in the excavation was measured at 125–140 cm at a height of 7.5–8 m above sea level. This is a little more than in other excavations. In some places the wall's interior side was preserved to a height that was up to 50 cm higher than its outer side. A series of buildings or rather rooms that had been arranged in a line and which measured about 43 m in length had been built against the curtain wall's west side. As was discovered during the excavation, the buildings had been separated from the curtain wall by a vertical joint. Therefore it could be seen that the south wing's buildings were erected only after the curtain wall had been completed. The thickness of the courtyard-side wall of the building, which had been laid against the curtain wall's west side, was 110 cm, while the width of the rooms (the distance from the curtain wall's south side) was about 8.5 m (see Fig. 12: 7).



Fig. 11. View from the north-east onto the surrounding wall's southern side (on the left) and the building erected directly against it (trench no 8). A vertical joint is visible between the surrounding wall and the building. Both walls had been damaged by fire. On the right, Maasi Castle's main building.

Jn 11. Vaade kirdest ringmüüri lõunapoolsele küljele (vasaku) ja selle vastu ehitatud hoonele (kaevand 8). Ringmüüri ja hoone vahel on näha vertikaalset vuuki. Mõlemad müürid olid tulekahjus kannatada saanud. Paremalt Maasi linnuse peahoone.

Photo / Foto: Garel Püüa

Trench no 8 unearthed the junction between the curtain wall's south side and the buildings of the main castle's south wing, and this trench became an addition to trench no 6 (Fig. 6: 8). The buildings of the main castle's south wing ended at approximately the same line with the northern wing (the dwelling house's newer section). About seven metres of empty land was left between the curtain wall's east side and the south wing's buildings (see Fig. 12). It turned out that the buildings had been built against the curtain wall and the walls had been separated by a vertical joint (Fig. 11). Both limestone walls had been severely damaged by fire. In addition to trench no 8, it was possible to inspect the path and the thickness of the curtain wall at several more sites on the castle's south side (see Fig. 12). The wall had been preserved under the topsoil at an average height of 8 m above sea level and its thickness was measured as being between 120–130 cm.

CONCLUSIONS

The completed fieldwork indicates that, in 1345, Master of Livonian Order, Burchard von Dreileben began building a *castellum* with a curtain wall and a corner tower in Maasi (Fig. 12), which was modelled on Kuressaare Castle. The building work at Kuressaare had been started about fifteen years earlier. Apparently, the Order first built a dwelling tower of up to three floors which was made of local limestone, leaving binding stones jutting out by about 30 cm at its two outer corners (Fig. 12: 3, 4). Therefore, whilst the tower was being erected, there were plans in place to continue building the castle's curtain wall along the line of the later castle's north and west walls.

So the initial castle consisted of a curtain wall with a length of about 53×41 m (as compared to one about 43×43 m in Kuressaare), with a dwelling tower about 20×13 m in its north-west corner. Apparently, the main castle's location and size are largely related to natural conditions at the site but there is currently no clear data on that. The construction of the tower was probably started by Master of the Livonian Order, Dreileben, and the curtain wall was later worked on by Master of the Order Goswin von Herike, who also enlarged the castle, according to Hermann Wartberge's chronicles.

As a rule, the thickness of the curtain wall that was dug out of the rubble layer at the height of the second floor (around 8–9 m above sea level) was measured approximately as 1.2 m. In all likelihood, the stone wall did not reach much higher. After the completion of the curtain wall, the tower was extended towards the east and an extension was added of about 26 m in length (Fig. 12). Within the extent of the new building, the curtain wall was made thicker by more than a metre. A series of rooms was established on the south side of the extended dwelling house, and the castle's south wing was built. A rather narrow courtyard with the width of up to 13 m remained between the north and the south wings of the buildings. In the main castle courtyard, two different courtyard pavements of the 15th to 16th centuries were found, with a height difference of around 30 cm. The castle was supplemented with a new and larger curtain wall in the 15th century or at the start of the 16th, adding bastille towers and rampart fortifications to it. Maasi Castle was blown up in 1576 on the orders of Frederick II, king of Denmark.

The fieldwork of 2019 indicated that the walls are rather well preserved in the rubble soil. Sections of the large curtain wall that is covered by a protective layer of top soil can be displayed to some extent even without immediate conservation work (trench no 1). To plan any further conservation and restoration work, a future-orientated development plan should be prepared for the castle, setting out the various necessary items of work and their approximate volume as a list that is ranked by priority.

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EHITUSARHEOLOOGILISED UURINGUD SAAREMAAL MAASI ORDULINNUSES

Garel Püüa

2019. a augustis korraldas SA Saaremaa Muuseum esimesed pealinnuse ehitusloole keskendunud ehitusarheoloogilised uuringud Maasi ordulinnuses (jn 1). Saaremaa kirderannikul asuv Maasi linnus ehk Maasilinn on üks väheseid Eesti linnuseid, mille rajamisega ja hülgameine on ajalooliselt küllaltki hästi teada. Nimelt hävitasid saarlased Jüriöö ülestõusu käigus ordu senise keskuse Pöidel. Pärast mässu mahasurumist 1345. a käskis ordumeister Burchard von Dreileben neil karistuseks ehitada ordu uue tugipunkti Maasi (alamsks *Sonenborch* = heastuslinn, lepituslinn; jn 2). Maasilinn jäi ordu samanimelise foogtkonna keskuseks 1562. aastani, mil see anti üle taanlastele. Kuna Maasilinn langes järgnevatel aastatel korduvalt rootslaste kätte, õhiti linnus Taani kuninga Frederik II käsul 1576. a.

Maasilinnas ei ole varem põhjalikke arheoloogilisi uuringuid toimunud ning teadmised linnuse arhitek-

tuurist on pinnapealsed (jn 3–4). 1904. aastal uuris seal Saaremaa Uurimise Selts (sks *Verein zur Kunde Oesels*), mis jäid ainsateks suuremateks välitöödeks 20. sajandil. Kõige põhjalikumad ülevaated pärinevad Armin Tuulselt ja Kalvi Aluvelt. Tuulse peab Maasi pealinnust tüpoloogiliselt redutseerunud konvendihooneks. Selle ühe tiiva moodustab linnuse keskmes paiknev eluhoone ning teise tiiva linnuse lõunamüüri ääres asuv hoonestus. Tema järeldused tuginevad suure osas 1904. a järgselt valminud plaanile (jn 4).

K. Aluve kirjeldab Maasi linnuse tsentraalset eluhoonet kui laiendatud elutorni tüüpi (nn kemaat-tüüpi) ehitist (46,9 × 12,2 m), mitte kui redutseerunud konvendihoonet ühte tiiba. Elutorni tüüpi peahoone ehitati kahes järgus. Läänepoolne, 20,8 m pikkune ja 12,2 m laiune kahe piilariga ruum (müüride paksus 2,1–2,3 m) moodustab hoone vanema osa (jn 5, vasa-kul). Sellele on hiljem lisatud 26,1 m pikkune vanema

järguga ühelaiune juurdeehitis (müüride paksus 2,7–3 m; jn 5, paremal). Linnuse peakorpus ümbritses ebakorrapärane neljakandiline eeslinnus, mille ringmüür oli ääristatud hoonestusega. Ringmüüri nurkadel paiknenud basteitornide ja mõnede säilinud laskekambrite põhjal kestis eeslinnuse tugevdamine 16. sajandini.

Väiksemad ehitisarheoloogilised uuringud Tõnu Sepa juhtimisel toimusid aastatel 2001–2004, seoses linnuse keskse eluhoone konserveerimise ja katus-tamisega (vt jn 1). Siis avanes esimest korda võimalus mõõdistada kogu keskse eluhoone perimeeter. Kaevandite väiksuse tõttu polnud võimalik lõplikke järeldusi teha, kuid nähtu viitas nurgatorniga kastelli rajamisele 14. sajandi keskel. 2014. a kaevati Saaremaa Sõjavara Seltsi näidislahingu tarbeks vallikraavi kirdeossa neli kaevikut (G. Püüa). Vallikraavis fikseeriti kaks ilma sideaineta laotud paekivimüüri, ilmselt 19.–20. sajandist pärineva abihoone vundament.

2019. a väliuuringute eesmärk oli teadusliku informatsiooni hankimine Maasi linnuse ehitusliku kujunemise (nurgatorniga kastelli versiooni kontrollimine), kultuurikihi, hoovisillutiste jms kohta. Kokku rajati 8 kaevandit, millest enamik oli seotud pealin-nuse erinevate ehituslike sõlmpunktide avamisega (jn 6). Lisaks puhastati rusust u 30 m pikkune lõik nurgatornidega ringmüüri lääneküljel, kust loodeti leida pealinnusesse viivat väravakäiku (jn 6: 1; 7).

Uuringute põhjal võib öelda, et ordumeister Burchard von Dreileben alustas Maasis 1345. aastal Kuressaare piiskopilinnuse eeskujul nurgatorniga ringmüürkastelli ehitamist (jn 12). Esmalt rajas ordu ilmselt kuni 3-korruselise kohalikust paekivist laotud elutorni, mille kahte välisnurka (jn 12: 3, 4) jäeti seinast umbes 30 cm eenduvad sidekivid (jn 9). Seega kavatseti torni püstitamisel jätkata linnuse ringmüüri

ehitamist hilisema kastelli põhja- ja läänepoolse seinajoonel. Torni lõunaküljelt, sidekivide kõrvalt (kaevand 3), leiti ringmüürist arvatava laskeava ja trellitatud aknaava fragmendid (jn 9). Mõlemad seos-tuvad arvatavasti pealinnuse hilisemate ehitusetappi-dega. Ringmüüri olemasolu tehti kindlaks ka linnuse ida- ja lõunaküljel (jn 12: 5–8). Seega koosnes algne linnus u 53 × 41 m pikkusest ringmüürist (võrdluseks: Kuressaares u 43 × 43 m), mille loodenurgas asus u 20 × 13 m suurune elutorn. Ilmselt on pealinnuse paiknemine ja suurus seotud paljuski looduslike tingimustega, kuid selle kohta hetkel täpsed andmed puuduvad.

Rusukihist välja kaevatud ringmüüri paksuseks teise korruse kõrgusel (u 8–9 m üle merepinna) on reeglina 1,2 m (jn 10). Ilmselt kivimüür oluliselt kõrge-male ei küündinud. Torni laiendati pärast ringmüüri valmimist ida suunas ning lisati u 26 m pikkune juurdeehitus (jn 12). Uue hoone ulatuses paksendati ringmüüri enam kui meetri võrra (seina kogupak-sus geoaluse põhjal u 275–285 cm). Pikendatud elu-hoone lõunaküljele tekkis veel terve rida ruume ning hoonestati ka kastelli lõunapoolne tiib (jn 11). Põhja- ja lõunapoolse hoonetiiva vahele jäi üsna kitsas, kuni 13 m laiune sisehoov. Pealinnuse hoovi rajatud kae-vandist (jn 6: 2) leiti kaks 15.–16. saj hoovisillutist, mille kõrguste vahe oli u 30 cm (jn 8). 15. sajandil või 16. sajandi algul täiendati linnust uue suurema ring-müüri, millele lisati basteitornid ja muldkindlustu-sed. Maasilinn õhiti 1576. aastal, kuid täielikult hävis vaid eluhoone kolmas korrus. 2019. a väliuuringutega selgus, et müürid on rusupinnases küllaltki hästi säilinud. Mättakihiga pealt kaitstud suure ringmüüri lõike on võimalik mingis ulatuses eksponeerida isegi koheste konserveerimistöödeta (jn 7).