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**ARHEOLOOGILISED
VÄLITÖÖD
EESTIS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELDWORK
IN ESTONIA**

2005

Koostanud ja toimetanud
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Esikaas: Hilisviikingiaegne kõrva- või oimurõngas.
Rekonstruktsioon 2005. a. avastatud Ubina hõbeaardes
sisalduva fragmendi põhjal. Joonistanud Kersti Siitan.
Cover: Earring or temple ornament from Late Viking Age.
Reconstruction based on the fragment from the silver board
of Ubina discovered in 2005. Drawing by Kersti Siitan.

Tagakaas: Tartust Tähtvere tänavalt 2005. a. leitud 15. saj.
haruldase savikannu kild.
Back cover: Fragment of stoneware goblet from the 15th century.
Stray find from Tartu, Tähtvere Street in 2005.

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TARTU ÜLIKOOLI
RAAMATUKOGU
SUNDASEMPLAR

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT LAI STREET IN TARTU

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Archaeological investigations at Lai Street, carried out from May till October 2005, were carried through due to the reconstruction of sewer pipelines beneath the street and the planned construction work on the site of Lai Street 11/13. Archaeological monitoring was conducted along the whole length of the streets, starting from the park area on the bank of the Emajõgi River near the crossing of Lai Street and Vabaduse Avenue and ending at the crossing of Lai and Jakobi Streets. The explored area was more than 500 m long and 2.5–3 m wide (Fig. 1). Three trial pits with the total area of 15 sq. m were dug in the course of preliminary investigations on the site Lai Street 11/13, and the remains of walls of three buildings dating from the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the post-medieval period were partly uncovered.



Fig. 1. The site of archaeological investigations in Lai Street.
Joon. 1. Arheoloogiliste uuringute ala Laial tänaval.

Most interesting constructions discovered in Lai Street were the walls of the outer gate of the *Vene* ("Russian") gate at the river end of the street, and the remains of quite massive walls at the crossing of the Jakobi and Lai Streets, that presumably belonged to the buildings of St. Cathrine's nunnery, which had been located on that spot in the Middle Ages. Walls of medieval buildings were surveyed at the southern side of Lai Street between Jaani and Jakobi Streets, in the sidetrack of the trench dug across the present-day pavement. In two of the three cases the uncovered walls were damaged by the earlier installation of sewerage pipes. A better preserved brick wall came to light only in the new section of the track at Lai Street 11/13. The northern side of the building (facing the street) and a stone pavement against its side, on a bolster of red sand at the absolute altitude of 39.30 m were documented. In the upper part of the preserved brick wall an aperture for ventilation or illumination was located, 40 cm wide and at least 40 cm high, with a curved arch. The southern side of the wall had been destroyed by the installation of a cable beneath the pavement, and its thickness could not be established. On the medieval maps of Tartu we can see that the primary function of Lai Street was to lead the traffic through the *Vene* gate in the direction of the cathedral on *Toomemägi* (Dome hill). Those who were headed from *Vene* gate to the Big Market (today Town Hall Square) took a shortcut along Magasini Street (the name dates from a later period) (on this subject see more: Mäesalu & Vissak 2002). Until 2005 no extensive archaeological investigations had been carried out at Lai Street. The north-western part of the medieval urban territory, located between Lai and Jaani Streets, has also been only briefly studied.

The excavation was mainly located in the driveway on the southern side of the present-day Lai Street (medieval *Breit Strasse*), the earlier timber and later stone paving of which came to light mainly at the edge of the excavation. In the central and southern parts of the excavation the cultural layer and paving had been destroyed by an earlier installation of sewerage at approximately the same depth, and wooden conduits mounted in the early post-medieval period. Among the wooden conduits there were those made of beams with drilled holes as well as the ones with a rectangular cross-section, made of planks, dating from a later period. One to three layers of wooden pavements came to light in the excavation. In the neighbourhood, e.g. in the northern part of Rüütli Street before the crossing with Lai Street, a length of a medieval street with at least three wooden pavements placed on top one-another has also been excavated.

The wooden pavement discovered in Lai Street lay at the absolute altitude of 34.80 m in the lower, river end, and at the higher end towards *Toomemägi*, 100 m towards the river from Jakobi Street, the upper pavement lay at the altitude of

37.30 m. The pavement mainly consisted of softwood logs or roundwood split in halves. In a few places a horizontal prop, and immediately beside it, a frame beam with a triangular cavity, supporting the ends of the pavement logs, also were unearthed in the excavation.



Fig. 2. Presumable blank of a wooden bowl.
Joon. 2. Arvatav treitud puukausi toorik.

At the river end of the street the compact dark cultural layer beneath the pavement was 20–40 cm thick. It contained various wood trash, shavings and twigs, and sporadically also natural peat. The finds from the dark layer date from the 2nd half of the 13th century and the 14th century. The density of finds was quite low. A circular piece of split-log, probably a blank prepared for turning a bowl (Fig. 2) and some ornamented fragments of local wheel-thrown pottery should be mentioned. No prehistoric layer was discovered in the area of the trench.

From the river up to the site Jaani 11/13 the original soil beneath the cultural layer consisted of lime, but in the higher part nearer to Toomemägi it was sand. Since from the middle of the quarter between Jaani and Rüütli Streets to Jakobi Street the pipelines were installed higher than the original soil, the lower deposits of cultural layer were not investigated in the western part of the track.

In the eastern part of the excavation walls of the outer gate of the medieval Vene gate came to light 25–30 cm



Fig. 3. The curved end wall of the outer gate of the Vene gate. View from E.
Joon. 3. Vene värava eesvärava kaarjas otsamüür. Vaade idast.

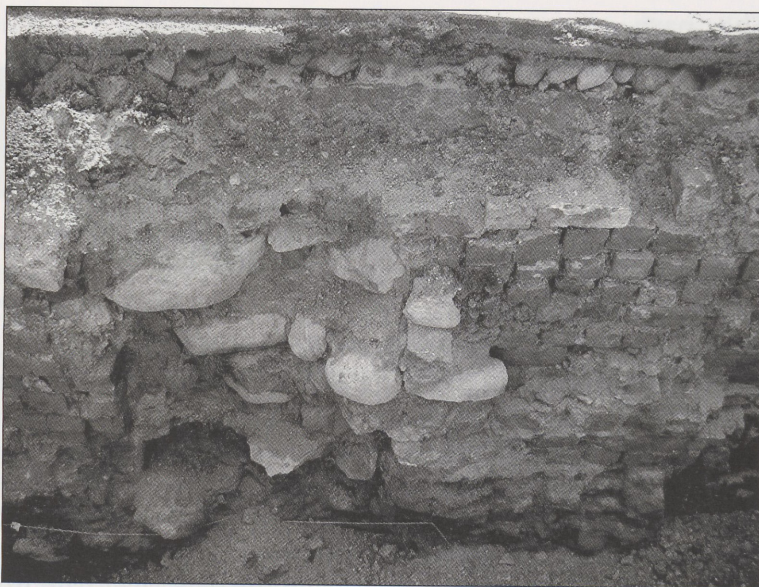


Fig. 4. The walled-up aperture in the southern wall of the outer gate.
Joon. 4. Kinnimüüritud ava eesvärava lõunapoolses müüris.

below the present-day street level, at the altitude 35.65–35.80 m. A part of the curved eastern end of the outer gate could be observed in the excavation. On the southern side it was damaged by an earlier trench (Fig. 3). The thickness of the wall of the curved part was approximately 4–4.5 m. The walls on the southern side of the gateway also came into sight. Between these and the curved wall a 3.3 m wide lower part of the gateway located in the southern side of the outer gate was discovered. South of the gateway a wall made of bricks and granite stone was located. In its excavated northern side, towards the outer gate, three walled-up apertures (Fig. 4) came to light. Parallel to this southern wall another wall ran approximately in E–W direction. Its upper part was made of bricks and the lower part, quite irregularly, of granite stones. The southern side of this wall was heavily damaged by the installation of an earlier sewerage and therefore it was impossible to establish whether a narrow, ca. 0.75 m wide gallery had been once located between these two walls, or a supporting extension had been erected against the northern side of the earlier southern wall. The described walls were unearthed in a length of 13 m and rested upon a base of large granite stones.

In the northern side of the excavation a 5 m long fragment of a brick and granite wall came to light at a depth of 34.55 m, located more or less in line with the pre-



Fig. 5. Lai Street 11/13 wall with arches from the 17th century.
View from N.

Joon. 5. Lai t. 11/13 kaartega müür 17. sajandist.
Vaade põhjast.

viously described northern wall. This part of the wall must have been destroyed by the construction of the outer gate with the curved end wall, at the latest, but the wall fragment visible in the excavation did not allow drawing conclusions about the earlier design of the outer gate.

The preliminary investigations carried out on the site of Lai Street 11/13 brought to light at the altitude of 41.00 a NE-corner of a post-medieval building, erected most likely in the 17th century mainly of granite stones. The thickness of the E wall was 1.12 m but the N wall was 3 m thick. The cellarless building had been erected on the place of an earlier medieval brick building. A 1 m long fragment of a destroyed wall of this earlier building came to light at the altitude of 39.94 m between the later walls in the NE-corner. In the eastern foundation of the later building two brick-laid successive round arches (Fig. 5) were discovered. The merit of such construction, alongside with reducing the weight of the wall, might have been also the better drain of rain water in the ground.

Besides the house with the foundation with arches, foundations and a corner of a cellar of another post-medieval building, probably destroyed in the 18th century, were partly unearthed at an altitude of 40.47 m. These were located in the part of

the site towards Lai Street. Of the layers investigated on this site the clay deposits discovered at an altitude 39.30–38.70 m should be mentioned, the red clay of which contained charcoal fragments and brick fragments of slighter baking than usual. Beneath the clay layers there lay various sandy deposits, which probably originated from sand washed down from Toomemägi by rain. In the lowest deposits at the altitude of 38.60 m remains of heavily decayed wooden constructions came to light. The construction consisted of horizontal round beams with a diameter of 20 cm. The stud or mortised joint of the discovered NW-corner of the construction had perished. Between the crossing beams a layer of red clay could be observed. No prehistoric layer was observed on the site Lai Street 11/13.

In several sections of the excavations of sewerage trenches at the crossing of Lai and Jakobi Streets medieval stone walls came to light. These may have belonged to the complex of the destroyed St. Cathrine's nunnery. The southern and northern walls and the transverse partition wall of the building were documented in the course of the investigations. The highest part of the preserved walls was located at the depth of 0.7–1 m from the present-day street level, at an altitude of 42.20–42.00 m. The southern brick wall rested upon a granite foundation, 2 m wide. At the southern side of the wall stone pavement lay on a base of red sand at an altitude of 41.00 m. From the thin brownish soil upon the pavement fragments of local late wheel-thrown pottery, baked at low temperatures, were found, as well as fragments of inner glazed redware, and green-glazed stove tiles. On the basis of these the latest use of the pavement can be dated to the 17th century. The debris layer upon the described brownish soil contained, besides simple brick fragments, also fragments of bricks of specific shapes, used in window or door-frames. 10 m north of the inner side of the southern wall a 1.6 m thick brick wall on a 1.8 m wide granite foundation, parallel to the previously described wall, came to light. In the area between the walls several burials were discovered in a mixed sandy layer. The skeletons were located higher than the level of the destroyed floor of the building. The thickness and stratigraphic position of the layer indicate that the area between the walls was used for a burial site after the collapse of the building. Since many of the skeletons were disturbed by later burials we may assume that the site was used as a cemetery for quite a long time. From the mixed sand several fragments of limestone slabs from the floor of the building came to light. No finds related to skeletons were discovered.

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ARHEOLOOGILISED UURINGUD TARTUS LAIAL TÄNAVAL

Rünno VISSAK ja Eero HEINLOO

Arheoloogiline järelevalve ja uuringud Tartus Laial tänaval olid tingitud uute vee- ja kanalisatsiooni-trasside paigaldamisest. Töid tehti kogu tänava pikkuses alates Emajõe kaldapealsest pargialast Laia tänava ja Vabaduse puiestee ristumiskoha läheduses kuni Laia ja Jakobi tänavate ristumiskohani, ühtekokku üle 500 m pikkusel ja 2,5–3 m laiusel trassil (joon. 1).

Leitud ehituskehanditest on huvipakkuvad Vene värava eesvärava müürid Laia tänava jõepoolses osas (joon. 3; 4) ja üsna massiivsete müüride jäänused Jakobi ja Laia tänava ristumiskohal, mis ilmselt kuuluvad keskajal siinses piirkonnas eksisteerinud Katariina kloostri hoonetekompleksi. Nimetatud müüride vahelisel alal tulid kaevetöödega päevavalgele matused, mis pärinevad perioodist, mil hoone oli juba varemetes.

Lai tänav 11/13 krundil läbi viidud eeluuringutel paljandus tõenäoliselt 17. sajandil rajatud hoone müüri kirdenurk. Peamiselt maakividest ehitatud hoone idapoolses alusmüüris tulid nähtavale kaks tellistest laotud läbivat ümarkaart (joon. 5). Keldrita hoone oli rajatud varasema tellishoone kohale, millest õnnestus välja puhastada ühe meetri pikkune lõhutud müürifragment hilisemate müüride vahel.

Laia tänava trassikaevises fikseeriti mitmes lõigus ühes kuni kolmes kihis puitsillutisi. Peamiselt koosnesid sillutised 10–18 cm läbimõõduga okaspuu ümarpalkidest või lõhandikest. Üksikutes kohtades jäid kaevandialale ka sillutise konstruktsiooni fikseerinud rõhtne tugipalk ja vahetult selle kõrval asunud kolmnurkse sisseraiega ja alumiselt ning ülemiselt küljelt lamedamaks tahutud raampalk, millele toetusid 10 cm pikkuselt sillutise palkide otsad.

Sillutise alune orgaanilisi lisandeid sisaldav tumedat värvi kultuurkiht oli tänava jõepoolses osas keskmiselt 20–40 cm paksune ja selles sisaldus mitmesuguseid puidulisandeid, peamiselt laaste ning oksa, kohati oli kihis ka looduslikku turvast. Tumedast kihist saadud leiuaaines pärineb 13. sajandi teisest poolest ja 14. sajandist. Saadud leidudest on eraldi märkimist vääriv ringikujuliselt tahutud lõhandikutükki, mille näol võib olla tegemist kausi treimiseks valmistatud toorikuga (joon. 2). Muinasaegset kultuurkihti trassialalt ei leitud.