

**ARHEOLOOGILISED
VÄLITÖÖD
EESTIS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELDWORK
IN ESTONIA**

2003

Koostanud ja toimetanud
Ülle Tamla

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Esikaas: 13.–14. saj. Liivimaal löödud brakteaat.

Tagakaas: Tinaraamis klaas (fragment vitraažist?) Piritalt.

Cover: Bracteate of the 13th–14th century, minted in Livonia.

Back cover: Glass in lead frame (fragment of a stained glass window?) from Pirita.

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**TARTU ÜLIKOOI
RAAMATUKOGU**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN RAKVERE

Tõnno JONUKS

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In 2003 relatively extensive archaeological monitoring was carried out both in the Order Castle of Rakvere and in the heritage protection area of the Old Town of Rakvere.

THE RAKVERE ORDER CASTLE

The building of an inn in the southwestern corner of the southern front yard of the castle was provided with a water and sewerage system. In the course of the work, ditches were excavated in the front yard and the northern side of the Order Castle as well as in the entrance way to the castle (Fig. 1). The profiles were documented.

The most important result of the monitoring in the front yard was the discovery of a prehistoric cultural layer. The layer had been preserved as a restricted patch in a natural depression outside the area of the castellum-type castle that has generally been considered also the boundary of the prehistoric hill-fort (Tamm 1997, 119). The stratum located at the depth of two meters from the present ground level was filled with strongly burnt stone debris. Two fragments of prehistoric hand-made pottery were gathered from the layer (Fig. 2). According to C¹⁴ analyses from the layer it belonged to 1279±50 (Ta-2854).

Since the strata of the hill-fort have been preserved only sporadically over the territory of the castle, it is almost impossible to ascertain the boundaries of the hill-fort area. It has been assumed that in the 13th century the hill-fort of Rakvere Vallimägi was taken over without a battle by the Danes who then used the wooden fortress during the remainder of the the 13th century. The stone wall of the castellum-type castle has been thought to have been completed only in the first half of the 14th century (*op. cit.*). The wall of the castellum was presumably placed more or less at the same location where the wall of the prehistoric hill-fort had stood. However, the prehistoric layer detected in 2003 is located outside the castle area. The preserved patch under discussion probably indicates the cultural layer of a settlement site situated next to the hill-fort. However, this remains as a hypotheses since the exact location of the prehistoric hill-fort is yet to be clarified. The area of the preserved prehistoric cultural layer could certainly belong to

the hill-fort territory as well since it is found on the higher western edge of Vallimägi. Thus the site would have been well protected by natural conditions and suitable for a hill-fort.

In the trench crossing the front yard of the castle only layers of the yard could be observed. Evidences of buildings were not discovered in the profile of the trench. Also, the wall of the castellum-type castle could not be observed since the reports of Toivo Aus dictated the range of the trench so that it would not graze the preserved parts of the wall. The wall of the castellum has been sufficiently investigated previously with several test pits, and in the course of the present investigations it was not necessary to encroach upon the wall. One of the crossbow arrowheads found from the cultural layer under the stratum of lime mortar associated with the construction of the castellum was dated to the 13th-14th century.

The only building encountered in the excavation was a granary, observable in the profile of the ditch along 4-5 meters. A 5-10 cm thick layer of burnt grain had been preserved from the granary. The building probably lacked a floor or else the assumed wooden floor had decayed entirely. However, the granary had walls that were distinctly traceable in the southern part of

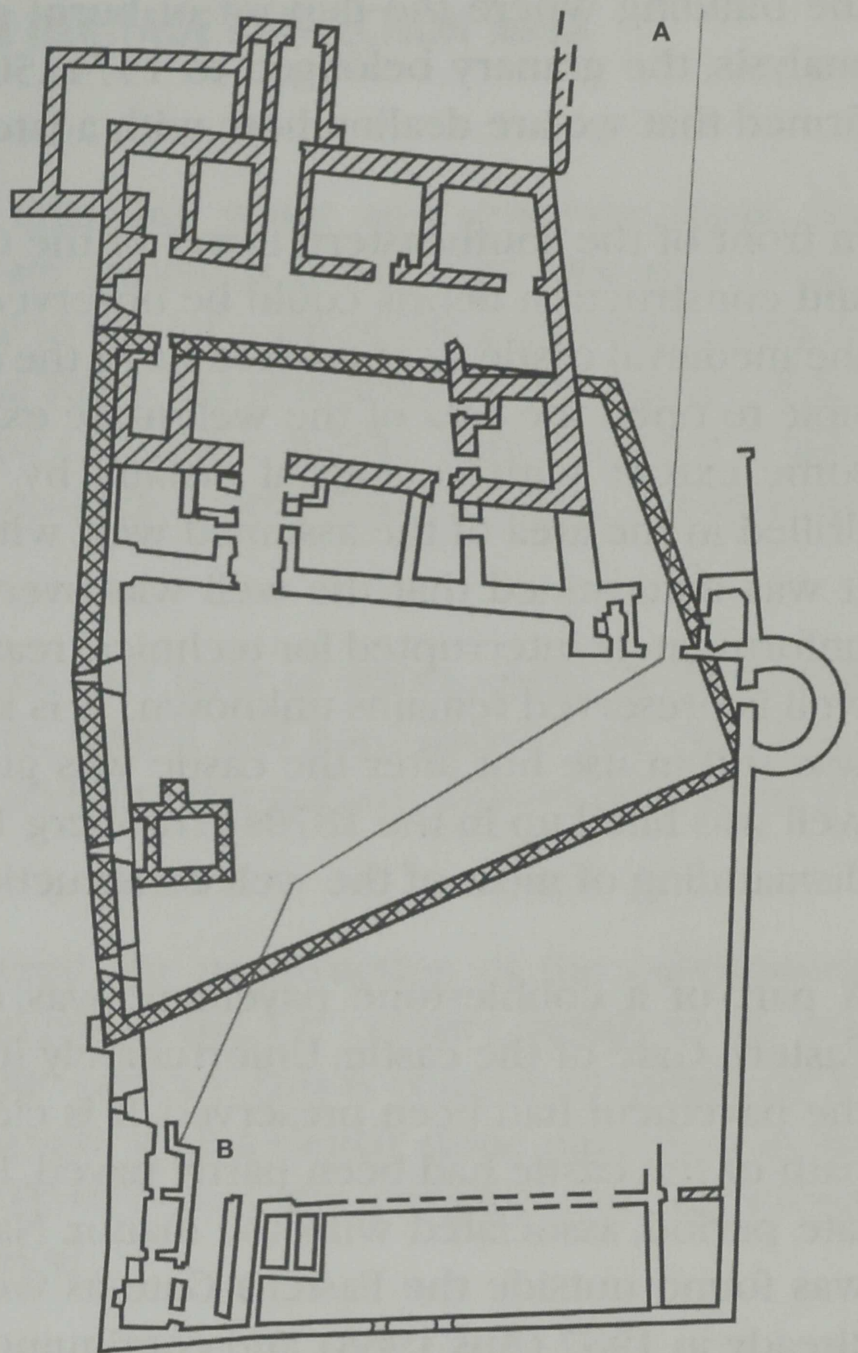


Fig. 1. Archaeological monitoring in the trench (A-B) on the territory of the Order Castle of Rakvere.

Joon. 1. Arheoloogiline järelvalve Rakvere ordulinnuse territooriumile kaevatud kraavis A-B.



Fig. 2. Sherds of hand-made pottery from the prehistoric cultural layer. Territory of the Order Castle of Rakvere (RM 6611/ A 136.)

Joon. 2. Käsikeraamika killud muinasaja lõpu perioodi kultuurkihist Rakvere ordulinnuse alalt.

the building where the deposit of burnt grain ended abruptly. According to C¹⁴ analysis, the granary belonged to 1574±50 (Ta-2855), and stratigraphy also confirmed that we are dealing here with a late edifice.

In front of the southeastern tower of the Convent Building, a pit filled with lime and construction debris could be observed which marked the place of a well of the medieval castle. As the schedule of the monitoring was limited, it was not possible to open the area of the well more extensively. The well has been studied to some extent with geological drilling by Toivo Aus in 1980. Three holes were drilled in the area of the assumed well, with one of these at the shaft of the well. It was determined that the well was over 21 meters deep, with further drilling unfortunately interrupted for technical reasons (Talšin 1980, 4). How much of the well is preserved remains unknown. It is known that in the 17th century the well was still in use but after the castle was given over to the manor of Rakvere the well was filled up in the 1870s (Truuberg 1933). This probably brought about the dismantling of most of the well construction.

A part of a cobblestone pavement was detected at the southern side of the Eastern Gate of the castle. Unfortunately it was not possible to ascertain how far the pavement had been preserved. It is clear though that inside the gateway the path of the castle had been partly paved. The pavement can be dated to a rather late period, associated with the manor. Namely, a similar cobblestone pavement was found outside the Eastern Gate as well, over the pitfall that was excavated already in 1987 (Aus 1988), and continuing on the other side of it. The pitfall was filled only in the 17th century. Unfortunately no datable finds could be collected from the pavement. A 3.5 m wide pitfall and supporting walls on both of its sides, extending to the bottom of the hole at a depth of 3 meters, were documented directly in front of the gate.

The construction of the edifice the Eastern Gate of the castle had been considerably more complicated than the investigations have shown so far. Namely, the Eastern Gate had been encompassed with walls of its own under the gateways both from the northern and southern side. These walls were probably necessary to support the gates.

The cobblestone pavement extended a few tens of meters outside the castle gate, where it stopped. Beyond that, only the later layers of the renovation work of the 1980s were observable.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING ON THE HERITAGE PROTECTION AREA OF THE OLD TOWN OF RAKVERE

Despite extensive excavations while changing water and sewerage pipes, the results for the territory of the Old Town remained insufficient (see also Jonuks 2003). Undoubtedly, this was partly due to the location of the excavation, with no trench extending to the area of the Old Town but remaining at the border of the protection zone of the Old Town. In the Old Town, at Pikk Street and the adjoining streets the similar work had been completed already in previous years (Jaanits 2000).

In all the ditches, a predominantly three-part layer of street could be observed. The lowest stratum consisted of a dark, mixed and hard natural soil. A cobblestone pavement had been laid on that soil, and the present asphalt placed on the latter.

Although no datable finds were gathered, the construction of the cobblestone pavement could be dated to the second half of the 19th century, mostly to the end of it, or even to the beginning of the 20th century. This is confirmed indirectly by the covering of the market place of Rakvere with a similar stone pavement in the middle of the 19th century (Kirss 2003, 97). Thus the pavement of the streets could not originate from an earlier period.

The dating of the lowest stratum of the street is more complicated. However, its dating would be very important as it would provide some information on the beginning of the development of the present street network in Rakvere. As the earlier street network could be followed under most of the current main streets (Vallikraavi, Tammiku, Kreutzwaldi streets) it can be surmised that the stratum can not be older than the Northern War which brought with it the complete destruction of Rakvere. Thus it is probable that the older street layer was formed during the 18th century and has been survived within the framework of primary roads up to the present. The latter hypothesis is supported by fragments of the S-shaped roof tiles found from the lower stratum of the Vallikraavi-Kreutzwaldi section.

The absence of a medieval layer at the crossing of the streets Vallikraavi and Kreutzwaldi is definitely surprising, with the castle and its outer fortifications situated in the close vicinity of the crossing while the town and monastery with its considerably thick cultural layer are located on the other side. Nevertheless, it would seem unreasonable to date the lower cultural layer at this crossing to earlier than the 18th century. Since finds older than the Modern Age layer were not

collected anywhere, it can be suggested that the hill on which the crossing is situated had been leveled off at a later time. It is possible that the medieval layers there have been destroyed while building the bastions of Vallimägi and steepening the northern side of the hill. Thus a plateau would have been formed and a street network developed on it. Upwards, to the south from the plateau, there was Vallimägi, and downwards there remained the monastery and the town, where the manor was also established later on. The genesis presented is supported by the description about Rakvere in the chronicle of Balthasar Russow from 1558. According to this, the Russian troops dug "a long hillside in front of the castle quite steeply off and built walls on both sides" (Russow 1967, 113). The rearranging of the northern part of the natural esker of Vallimägi is indicated by the profiles of the hill.

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ARHEOLOOGILISED UURINGUD RAKVERES

Tõnno JONUKS

2003. aastal toimus Rakveres mitu suuremahulist järelevalvetööd. Neist esimene oli seotud Rakvere ordulinnuse lõunapoolsesse eeshoovi kaevatud vee- ja kanalisatsioonitrassiga (joon. 1). Kuna nimetatud trass läbis kõiki eeshoovi ladestusi, fikseeriti need alates kõige ülemisest kuni loodusliku pinnaseni. Eraldi väärib mainimist vahetult looduslikule moreenile ladestunud mõnekümne sentimeetrise läbimõõduga kultuurkihi laik, millest leiti kaks käsikeraamika kildu (joon. 2). Seda, et tegemist on muinasaja lõppu kuuluva ladestusega, näitas ka samast kogutud söeproovi analüüsitulemus. On tähelepanuväärne, et sedavõrd varane kiht avastati hilisemast kastell-linnusest väljapoole jäävalt territooriumilt – seni on arvatud, et muinaslinnus paiknes hilisema kastell-linnuse alal. Et huvipakkuv kultuurkihilaik avastati loodusliku kõrge ja kitsa astangu serva pealt, siis on tõenäoline, et tegemist võib olla muinaslinnusele kuulunud, kuid kaitstud linnuse territooriumist väljapoole jääva (elu)hoone jäänusega.

Sama järelevalvetöö ajal satuti linnuse eeshoovis viljaaida jäänustele, mis radiosüsiniku analüüsi tulemuste järgi pärineb 16. sajandi lõpust. Konvendihoone kagutorni ees riivas trassi sissekaeve omaaegset linnuse kaevu kohta, mis olevat täis aetud alles 19. sajandil Rakvere mõisa korraldusel. Linnuse idapoolses väravakäigus ning sinna suunduval/sealt väljuval alal fikseeriti munakivisillutis. Ehkki dateerivaid leide sillutiselt ei saadud, võib arvata, et tegemist on 17.–18. sajandil laotud kividega.

Olulise ehituskonstruksioonina jäi trassi alale ka tõenäoliselt kastell-linnuse põhjamüüri tähistav müürikatkend. Väljapool idaväravat muutusid ladestunud kihid küllaltki sarnasteks ning alates linnuse loodenurgast ei olnud eriaegseid ladestusi võimalik fikseerida. Ilmselt olid need viimaste aastakümnete ehitustegevusega sealt hävitatud.

Mahukad uuringud toimusid ka Rakvere vanalinnas, kus muinsuskaitsevööndi äärealadel vahetati välja vee- ja kanalisatsioonitorustik. Tänavate all oli pea kõikjal näha kolmeosalist kihti, millest pealmise moodustas 20. sajandi teise poole asfalt, vahepealse munakivisillutis ning alumise prügitatud kattekiht. Arvatavasti on hakatud munakivisillutisega tänavakatet Rakveres maha panema alates 19. sajandi lõpust ja kõige rohkem on seda tehtud 20. sajandi algusaastatel. Ehkki alumisest tänavakihist dateerivaid leide ei saadud, võib arvata, et see pole varasem 18. sajandist. Sellist dateeringut toetavad ka Kreutzwaldi mäel alumisest tänavakihist leitud S-kujulised katusekivi tükid. Seega võib arvata, et praegune Rakvere tänavavõrgustik kujunes alles pärast Põhjasõda.