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ARHEOLOOGILISED
VÄLITÖÖD EESTIS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD
WORKS IN ESTONIA IN
1996

Koostanud ja toimetanud Ülle Tamla

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION ON A MEDIEVAL MANOR-COMPLEX IN KEILA

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Research on medieval house-remains in Keila begun in 1977, when building remains from the fourteenth to eighteenth century were detected. First conclusions were based on a few trial trenches and did not reveal much information. (Raam, 1988; Aluve, 1993).

Major excavations were organised from 1991 onwards by the Museum of Harjumaa and financed by the Keila municipality. The results gained by 1995 had greatly changed the perception of the construction history of the manor-complex. (Mandel, 1994; Mandel, 1996).

The total area under excavations in 1996 was 630 sq. m.¹ Excavations were carried out during the period between July 10th and October 10th, mainly by local people and pupils from Keila, Vasalemma and Tallinn. The main task was to investigate and clean the surroundings of the manor-complex, but also to find answers to unsolved questions about the construction of the central part of the buildings.

So-called 2nd small chamber. In a small room south of the entrance hall was the foundation of a red-brick stove (size 1.7 to 1.3m.) that had been opened during previous years. Research of the lowest layers showed that it had been built on natural ground, against the side of a deep wall, starting from the so-called kitchen-corner, which was discovered in 1995. The only object found was an iron point (HMK 4494:468).

In the SE-part of the chamber, an opening in the outer wall was found. Its sides and bottom were evened with mortar and it leads out right next to a rectangular addition to the outer wall. The bottom of the 2nd small chamber will be filled with soil, up to the edge of the opening, when the research is completed.

¹ Finds and the full work-report are kept in the Harjumaa Muuseum, HMK 4494:468-629. Iron objects were conserved by Maido Salum (Estonian History Museum). A small exhibition of the finds was displayed in the museum.

Work in the southern part of the constructions opened so far. This area had been opened already during previous excavations, but had to be re-cleaned to find out more about the construction history of the manor-house. The oldest deep wall, starting from the kitchen-corner, crosses the area. The outer wall of the two small chambers has been added later. Between the oldest wall and the central square room lies a red-brick stove (size 1.7 to 2.5 m.), which must have belonged to the last period of this manor-building. The size of the bricks is about 23 by 14 cm. Excavating this area completely would allow us to look inside one of the oldest separate buildings which was situated on the place of the later central complex.

Work on the staircase leading to the 1st floor. The main cultural layer had already been investigated, but as the vaulted entrance to the cellar was in danger of collapsing the bottom layers were not excavated. After the conservation of the front part of the vault, the filling on top was removed. It appeared, that the side walls of the entrance, at least in the upper level, had been added to the wall of the big central room, thus, forming a wall to the staircase-part, separating it from the other rooms on the first floor. Stair-stones have been placed on top of the filling of the vault.

Future plans for the staircase include covering its top with a layer of stones and mortar (to protect it from rain-water) and building a simple wooden construction on it for making a safe and central viewing-platform to symbolise the first floor.

Excavations outside the buildings. In the south-east, an area of 36 sq. m was opened to solve the issue of the earliest separate buildings and to tidy up the outer excavation plot. The thickness of the cultural layer was one meter on the outside and two meters near the walls. Only the turf was removed with a machine, the rest of work was done completely by hand. Some bigger pieces of wall, lying on their sides, were discovered, witnessing the destruction of the manor-house by exploding parts of it. Throughout the excavation plot, the stone foundation of a surrounding wooden fence continued that was already partly uncovered in previous excavations. A pfennig of Tallinn (HMK 4494:479; mid-fifteenth century) was found at its side.²

Another, weaker fence had stood closer to the building. On the territory of the excavation plot, a post-hole with a diameter of 60 cm was found at its end. This probably belongs to an early gate in the fence. Several other post-holes were found on the plot, but no clear construction can be determined by their positions.

² All coins were identified by Ivar Leimus (Estonian History Museum).

The western part of the plot revealed remains of several walls, belonging to the earlier phases of the manor-complex. The deep wall, starting from the kitchen-corner, ended at the western part of the plot; therefore, the length of one side of that building could be measured – 9.7 meters. The outer wall of the two small chambers had been built later, on top of the deep wall. The two discovered parallel deep walls end ca. 2.1 meters further away, probably forming the entrance into one of the oldest buildings on the site of the later manor-complex. A *seestling* of Tallinn from 1367–1393 (HMK 4494:490) discovered at the foundation of the wall, dates the construction to the fourteenth century. This date is only a hypothesis in the present stage of excavations, and should be investigated in the future.

The main aim of the work in 1996 was to demolish and clean the old cellars from the area west of the manor building. Total size of the opened plot was 573 sq. m. In the 1950's, at least seven holes of four to seven meters were dug into the cultural layer. Most of the cellars had brick walls with concrete floors and ceilings covered with soil. The last of them were unlocked by their owners in the summer of 1996. Since the cellars had destroyed the cultural layer in the vicinity of medieval antiquities and were hiding the view of the manor-complex, it was decided to demolish them. A special license was gained to cut down the bushes and some bigger trees on top of the cellars. All mechanised work took place under supervision: only the top soil-layer with grass was removed from the untouched areas. The waste ground was used for filling the area between the Harjumaa Museum and the Keila river.

Although the excavation of this plot had just begun, interesting results were achieved. A wall built of lime- and fieldstones, which appeared to be the remains of a smaller building, was discovered 7.6 meters NW of the corner of the entrance hall. A corner of a house has survived in between the destroyed pits, with walls stretching to 7 meters and 4.9 meters. Four Russian coins from 1730(?)–1756 were found (HMK 4494:527–530) from the top layers of the new house, giving us the probable date when the building was abandoned. Three of the coins were wrapped in textile (HMK 4494:531), which after cleaning appeared to be the remains of a fine silk purse.³

A foundation of a fence, which runs to the SW, starts from the corner of that new house. Since the area was not excavated in 1996, it is too early to give an explanation to this feature.

One hundred and twenty eight objects were found from the top layer of the plot. The abundance of clay pipe fragments (1219), found directly in

³ Textile was conserved by Heige Peets (Conservation Centre “Kanut”).

front of the window of the entrance hall, deserves special mention. Another surprise was the amount of flint objects.⁴ If items HMK 4494:526, 559, 601 and 617 can be identified as scrapers, then there must have been a Neolithic settlement here. Unfortunately, nothing else yet has been found to prove that this was a Stone Age settlement. Another explanation for the use of these flint pieces can be in connection with the extensive use of clay pipes: the means of making fire had to be there together with the import of pipes.⁵ This interesting question may be solved by excavating the remainder of the mostly destroyed cultural layer of the area west to the central building of the Keila manor-complex.



Fig. 1. Corner of early tower-stronghold.

⁴ Altogether 13 flint pieces have been found during the 1991-1996 excavations.

⁵ Aivar Kriiska (Tartu University) has determined the Scandinavian origin of the flint found from Keila.

Observations about the floor-plan of the medieval manor-building. In 1987, Ivar Leimus compiled a reconstruction of the central building, based only on written records from 1694 (Leimus, 1987). Comparing it with the results of the excavations of 1991–1996, several problematic issues arose. Mati Mandel, the previous archaeologist in charge of the work in Keila, could not connect the “old living tower”, mentioned in the description, with any of the discovered rooms (Mandel, 1994, 18). In the summer of 1996, Aivar Pöldvee (Harjumaa Museum) found a similar, but earlier document from the Estonian History Archives (EAA f. 1, n. 2, s. 940. “Inventarium och Wackenbook i Harrien och Kegel sochn”), dating back to 1686. Hence, the two floors of the central building could be described in greater detail. The author of the 1686 “Inventarium”, while standing on the first floor of the central square room,⁶ depicts the entrance “to the old, dilapidated living-tower”. In 1996, the top layer of the outer wall at the staircase was again cleaned. It appeared that the lime-stone wall of the central square room had been constructed against the wall of another separate building of which the corner is visible (Fig. 1). Its thick wall is made mainly of field-stones covered on the outside with mortar. This discovery explains the mistaken assumption the earlier researchers had had about the walls of the central square room being made thicker at some phase (Aluve, 1993, 46), by showing the existence of an unknown building. It can be identified as an early tower stronghold. Apparently the western side of the building was partly destroyed by one of the solid cellars built there in the 1950’s.

The position of the three separate buildings, discovered in 1995–1996, explains that the later complex was formed from parts of these earlier houses (Fig. 2). Considering the importance of this fact for the construction history of the Keila manor-complex, as well as the need to demolish the last Soviet-time cellar, it is strongly recommended that the remaining parts of the tower stronghold are opened in the coming years. The cultural layer of the fourteenth century can be expected there.

Conservation work. Limestone from the Vão quarry and a mixture consisting of lime, sand and cement, in a proportion of 3 to 1.5 to 0.5, was used in all conservation work. The walls in the two small chambers were strengthened by replacing the old mortar in between the stones. The wall of the vaulted entrance to the cellar was heavily damaged by fire on the side of the kitchen corner; therefore, the outer layer had to be reconstructed. In 1996, work also started on top of the vaulted entrance to construct a viewing platform in the coming years. As the vault itself was on the verge of collapsing, caused by rainwater and vandalism, it

⁶ Underneath it had been a cellar with a wooden ceiling.

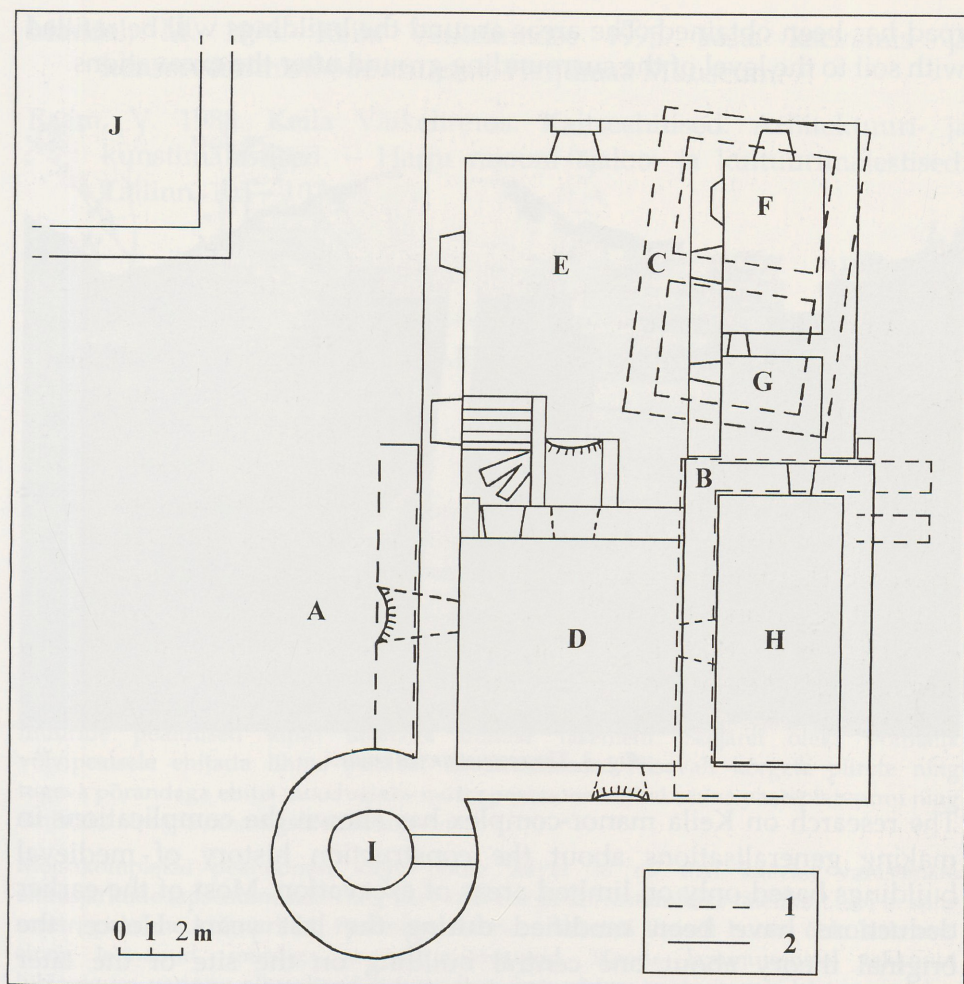


Fig. 2. Development of the Keila manor-complex. 1 — earlier constructions, 2 — later constructions, A — probable early tower stronghold, B — second early house, C — third early house, D — central square room, E — entrance hall, F — first small chamber, G — second small chamber, H — third room, I — round tower, J — separate house.

was necessary to reconstruct it quickly (Fig. 3). The workers of the "Padise tourism centre" were invited to provide professional help because of their valuable experience in restoring the Padise monastery. First, a wooden clamp was constructed for support, then the vault-stones were laid on its top and covered with horizontal layers of limestone.

Tidying up the whole territory of the manor-complex was started in connection with demolishing the cellars. Viktor Treimuth (Harjumaa Museum) cleared the area of grass and shrub between the park-paths and the old river-bed. A tractor was used to even the excavated plot south of the well. Now, a better view of the manor-complex from the

road has been obtained. The areas around the buildings will be refilled with soil to the level of the surrounding ground after the excavations.



Fig. 3. The reconstructed vault.

The research on Keila manor-complex has shown the complications in making generalisations about the construction history of medieval buildings based only on limited areas of excavation. Most of the earlier deductions have been modified during the last years. Hence, the original theory about one central building on the site of the later complex of houses has changed: the walls of at least three separate houses were used as a foundation for the manor-house. Excavating the areas outside the houses can give interesting results also, and work should continue there.

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UURIMISTÖÖD KEILA KESKAEGSEL MÕISAKOMPLEKSIL

Heikki PAUTS

Harjumaa Muuseumi eestvõttel jätkusid arheoloogilised kaevamised Keilas, mida finantseeris kohalik omavalitsus. 1995–1996 aasta huvitavad kaevamistulemused on muutnud oluliselt varasemat ettekujutust mõisahoonde ehitusloost.

Eeskojast ida–kagu poole jäävas väikeses ruumis ning sellest edela suunas jääval alal uuriti ahjusid. Teises väikeses kambris avastati aknaava – väljapoole kitsenev ja mõrdiga tasandatud nišš. 1996. aastal alustati eeskoja läänenurga konserveerimist, kust viib trepp teisele korrusele ja võlvitud sissekäik elutorni alumisele korrusele. Edaspidi on kavas müüride pealmised kihid taastada ühtlase tasemeni. Seejärel oleks võimalik võlvipealsele ehitada lihtne puidust konstruktsioon. Piisavalt kõrgete piirete ning tugeva põrandaga ehitis moodustaks mõisa peahoone keskel asuva vaateplatvormi ning tähistaks ainsana omaaegset teist korrust.

Mõisakompleksi peahoonest kagu poole jääval 36 m² alal kaevati varasemate ehitusjärgude täpsustamiseks ning kaevandi nurga korrastamiseks täielikult läbi u. kahe meetri paksune kultuurikiht. Pealmistes kihtides avastati ilmselt hoone õhkulaskmisel sinna lennanud, mõrdiga seotud müüritükid. Hoone lammutamisel tekkinud lubjaseguse varingu all paljandus tumedam, katusekive, naelu ja muid leide sisaldav kiht.

Kaevandi alal jätkus juba eelmistel aastatel osaliselt välja puhastatud, hoonet ümbritsenud tara vundament. Selle all ilmus nähtavale looduslikku pinnasesse kaevatud u. 60 cm sügavuselt 70 cm laiune kraav. Taraaluse dateeris leitud münt – Tallinna penn 15. sajandi keskpaigast. Teine, kitsam ja madalam kraav asus hoonele lähemal ja lõppes võimsa ümara postiauguga. Võimalik, et see on jäänus algsest väravakohast. Kogu kaevandi alal esines eriti alumistes kihtides rohkelt suurte koduloomade luid.

Huvitavaid tähelepanekuid tehti kaevandi lääne–loodeosas. Selgus, et peahoone välismüür ei ole laotud horisontaalselt ühes tükis (nagu varasemad uurijad on arvanud), vaid on külge ehitatud kööginurgast algava vanima hoone müürile. Viimasega paralleelsena avastati ca 1 m kõrguselt säilinud suurtest paekividest müür. Sokli juurest leitud münt – Tallinna seestling (1367–93) – dateerib müüri hiljemalt 14. sajandisse. Kaevamiste praeguse seisjuures jääb ettekujutus ühe vanima hoone nurgast veel ebaselgeks. Kaevandi ja kööginurga vahelise ala põhjani läbikaevamine võimaldaks heita pilku mõisakompleksi arvatavalt ühe varaseima hoone sisse.

Mõisa peahoonest läände ja loodesse jääva ala kultuurikihti oli oluliselt rikutud 1950. aastatel ehitatud keldritega. Ehkki 1996. a. ülesandeks oli vaid keldrite lammutamine,

jõuti huvitavate avastusteni. 573 m² suuruses kaevandis, keskse mõisahooneloodenurga lähedal, paljandus pae- ja raudkividest laotud 84 cm laiune müür. Keldriaukude vahelisel alal oli säilinud hoone nurk – loode suunas 7 m, kirde suunas 4,9 m müürijupp. Selle pealmisest kihist leiti 4 vene münti ajavahemikust 1730–1756, mis näitavad ilmselt hoone kasutuse lõppaega. Sealjuures olid kolm münti mähitud peene ornamendiga importsiidist valmistatud kukrusse.

Hämmastav oli nn. hollandi savipiipude varrejuppide ja kahade rohkus. Peamiselt eeskoja akna eest leiti kokku 1219 piibuvarre juppi ning vähemalt 40 kaha. Üllatav oli ka kaevandi alalt leitud tulekiviesemete rohkus. Pidades aastatel 1991–1996 leitud 13 tulekivieset kõõvitsateks, on võimalik kiviaegse asulakoha olemasolu samal künkal. Kahjuks ei õnnestunud leida muid jäänuseid, mis kinnitaksid seda hüpoteesi. Teine seletus tulekivi otstarbe kohta on, et kilde kasutati 17.–18. sajandil tuletegemiseks, eriti seoses ulatusliku piipude kasutamisega. Siiski on võimalik, et kaevandi puutumata alade sügavamates kihtides võib olla säilinud jäänuseid kiviaegsest kultuurkihist. Seega oleks ülimalt vajalik kaevata mõisa peahoonest läände ning loodesse jääv keldriaukudega lõhutud ala täielikult läbi, et selgitada lisaks keskaegse kultuurikihi iseloomule ka seda küsimust.

Tänu Aivar Põldvee (Harjumaa Muuseum) avastusele Eesti Ajalooarhiivis 1996. a. suvel õnnestus selgitada mõisakompleksi peahoone kahe korruse ruumidejaotus. Võrreldes ainult kirjeldusele baseeruva rekonstruktsiooni ning esimeste kaevamistulemustega selgusid mitmed küsimused, eelkõige need, mis puudutavad nn. keskset elutorni. Nimelt ei õnnestunud M. Mandelil seostada kirjelduses esinenud “vana elutorni” ühegi kaevamistel leitud ruumiga. Vastavastatud rootsikeelne “Inventarium” aastast 1686 aitab mõista ruumide paigutust. Asudes nn. keskse elutorni teisel korrusel (esimene oli puitlaega kelder) kirjeldab autor pääsu “vanasse, lagunenud elutorni”. 1996. aastal puhastati taas välja eeskoja trepi ja elutorni ukseavaga külgneva välismüüri pealispind. Selgus, et hilisema elutorni paekivimüür on laotud vastu vanemat, peamiselt raudkividest laotud ja algselt väljastpoolt krohvitud hoonemüüri (joon. 1). Järelikult on siinkohal tegemist veel ühe eraldi seisnud vanima hoonega. Tõenäoliselt on selle hoone vana jõesängi poolne serv hilisemate keldrite ehitamisega täielikult hävitatud.

Nimetatud avastus kummutab varasemate uurijate arvamused elutorni müüride paksemaksladumisest ja asendab selle seletuse seniteadmata hoone olemasoluga. 1995 ja 1996. aastal avastatud kolme hoone asend seletab, et nn. keskne elutorn on ehitatud vähemalt kahe varasema hoone seinu ära kasutades, olles seega nendest mõnevõrra hilisem (joon. 2). Arvestades selle tähtsust Keila mõisakompleksi vanima ajaloo seisukohalt (samuti fakti, et viimane sinnarajatud näotu kelder tuleb kõrvaldada), oleks äärmiselt soovitatav järgnevate aastate kaevamistega avada varakeskaegse tornlinnuse säilinud osad. Analooge arvestades võiks eeldada vähemalt 13.–14. sajandi kultuurikihi paljandumist hoone sisemusest.

Konserveerimistööd toimusid põhiliselt esimeses ja teises väikses kambris ning kööginurgas – müüride kividevahed täideti uue seguga. Eeskojas paikneva keldrisissekäigu võlvi eesosa olukord nõudis professionaalset tööjõudu. Selleks oli munitsipaaltegevõtte “Padise turismikeskus” töögrupp, kellel on häid kogemusi Padise kloostri conserveerimistöödel. Võlvi taastamiseks ehitati algul puidust rakis, mis kindluse mõttes jäeti paigale ka peale kaevamiste lõppu (joon. 3). Rakisele laoti võlvikivid, nende vahed täideti segu ja kividega.

Seoses keldrite likvideerimisega võeti ette ka kogu kompleksi korrastamine. Keskaegse mõisahoonel ümbruses raiuti võsa ja niideti rohi. Kompleksil ulatus töödetsoon vanast jõesängist kuni ida- ja põhjapoolse pargiteeni, samuti 1995. aastal avastatud mõisa keskaegse lautadekompleksini.

Ühtekokku koguti 162 numbrit leide. Loodetavasti õnnestub töid Keila mõisakompleksil jätkata. Senised tulemused on näidanud, et Keila jõe pargis asub unikaalne keskaegne mälestis, mille uurimine, konserveerimine ja eksponeerimine annaks lisateadmisi Eesti varastest mõisatest, samuti looks Keilasse olulise tähtsusega vaatamisväärsuse.