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VÄLITÖÖD  
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FIELD WORKS  
IN ESTONIA

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# EXCAVATIONS ON A MEDIEVAL MANOR-COMPLEX IN KEILA IN 1997

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The work in Keila had three main aims. As in 1997 a new hypothesis about the earlier development of the central manor-building was published (Pauts 1997, 118), it was necessary to carry out extensive trial excavations on the southern part of the complex. Also, the area to the west of the entrance hall had to be excavated, as big parts of the cultural layer had been destroyed by the building of strong cellars in the 1950's. Finally, it was decided to complete the conservation of the main entrance and the two staircases leading to the first floor. The work was financed by the Keila municipality and it lasted from June 9th to October 17<sup>th</sup>.<sup>1</sup>

## **Trial excavations**

By interpreting the archive-documents discovered in 1996, it was assumed that in the western part of the complex there had to be the remains of an early tower-stronghold. Considering the fact that many phases of the development of the manor-complex were still unclear, research of the unexcavated areas was carried out. Eighteen trial pits (averaging 1–2 sq. m. , total area 35 sq. m. ) were dug to follow the walls and their connections. Such a method actually cannot give maximum information, as the cultural layer in this case was often over two metres thick. Much wider excavations would be necessary for complete detection of possible deeper and older walls.

The work can be divided into two areas. Pits 1–11 had to explain the development of the so-called central living room, the structure of its walls and the possible existence of an early tower-stronghold. Pits 12–18 were

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<sup>1</sup> The finds and the full report are kept in the Harjumaa Museum (Linnuse 9, Keila; HMK 5384:630–726). Iron objects were conserved by Maido Salum (Estonian History Museum). Soon after the end of the excavations an exhibition of the finds was displayed in the museum.



made to determine the size and exact location of the new manor-house, built in the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

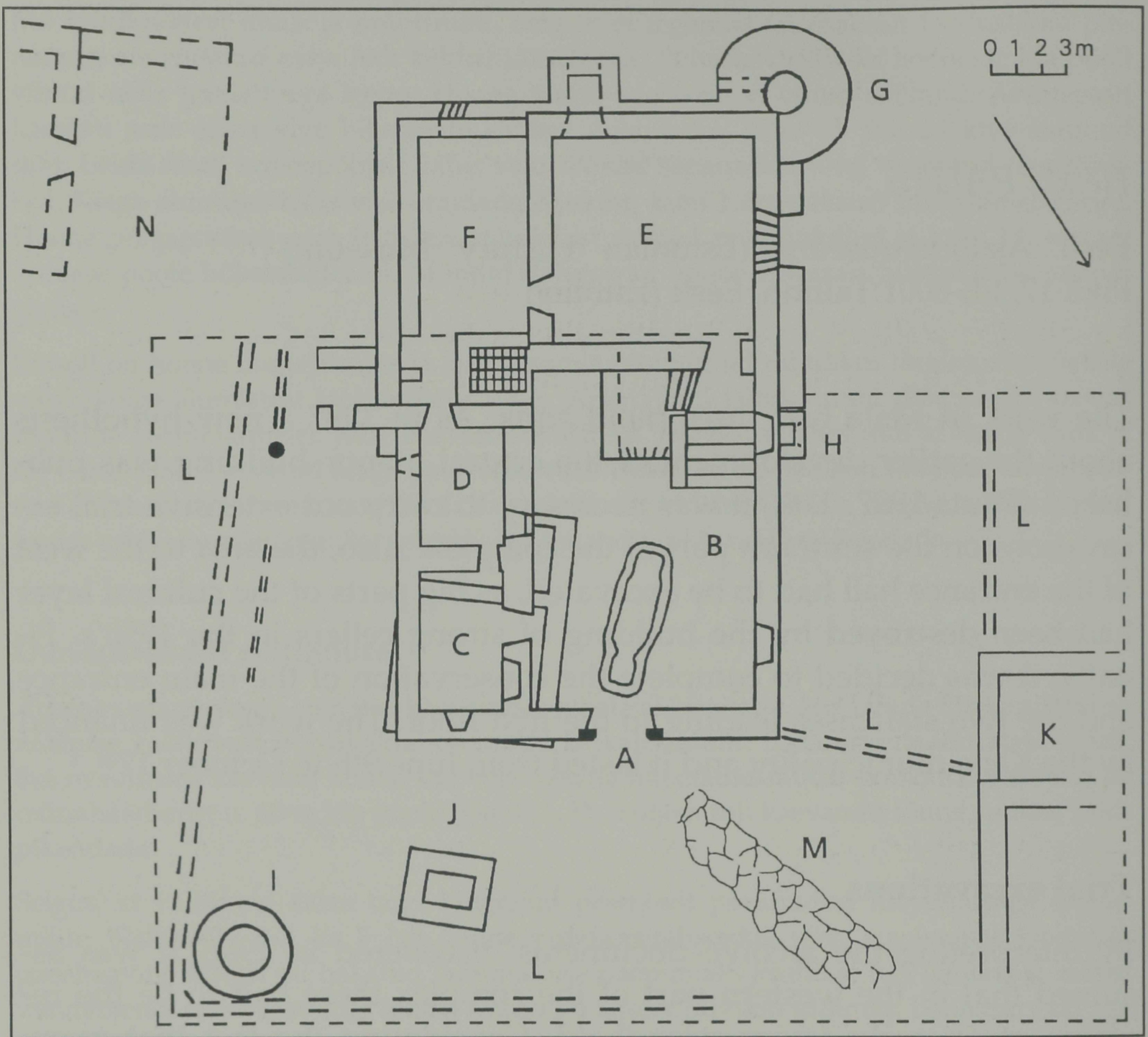


Fig. 1. The centre of the Keila manor-complex. A – the main entrance, B – entrance-hall, C – first small chamber, D – second small chamber, E – central living room, F – chamber, G – round tower, H – toilet, I – well, J – summer kitchen (?), K – new building, L – fences, M – pavement, N – new manor house.

As a result of research, it became obvious that the western, southern and eastern walls of the central living room consisted of two different halves. The inner, older limestone wall had probably been built during the first expansion of the complex – when the originally separate houses were connected under one roof somewhere in the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Caused most probably by the low quality and weakness of the limestone used, it was decided somewhere in the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century to strengthen the house. The older walls were made thicker from three sides; to the fourth side a two-storied building with a hall and two chambers was added. Also, a round tower for gun powder storage or prison was added to the south-western corner of the room (Fig. 1).



Partly due to the small size of the trial pits it was not possible to find the mentioned “. . . not finished living-tower. . .”. By reinterpreting the written sources it can be suggested that its entrance was in the chamber east of the central living room. The final answer to this question can only be given by complete excavation of the southern part of the complex.

Around 1670, a new one-storied manor-building was erected to the south-east of the old castle. As its remains could mostly be followed on the ground, it was only necessary to uncover the corners by removing the turf-layer. The size of the building was 29.5 by 9.3 metres. Additionally the walls of a small hall in the east end and an annex (length at least 5.8 metres) in the west end were found. One trial pit gave a Russian coin dating from 1763 (HMK 5384:653). None of the trial pits touched the interior of the new manor-house, as it was not among the purposes of the excavations.

### **The main excavation-plot**

The area under study was 246 sq. m., as the western edges of the territory were left untouched. Also the interior of the additional house discovered in 1996 was not excavated.

1. A pavement made out of two rows of limestone blocks was found in the north-eastern part of the plot, right after removing the top layer of soil. It ran from north-west to south-east, towards the main entrance. Although under the upper stones another layer of limestone-blocks was discovered, it still cannot be dated to an earlier time than the 18th century, as a Russian coin from 1734 (HMK 5384:676) found nearby proves.
2. A disturbed foundation of a fence appeared between the north-western corner of the main building and the house discovered in 1996. Swedish silver öre from 1669 (HMK 5384:677) gives this feature a dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
3. The remains of a stove at the west wall of the entrance hall. Outside of a staircase, weak remains of a stove were found. It consisted only of some limestone and red bricks placed to form a corner. Although no dating finds were found, it can be assumed that the stove was used in the 18th century, as it is situated quite high on a cultural layer.
4. A shaft under the previously mentioned remains of a stove. A limestone construction of 1.85m to 1.2m was found under the stove. It had been built together with the western thickening-wall of the central living room (Fig. 2). 1.05m from the top a vault started in the outer, west-



ern wall of the shaft. As the bottom-layers were not yet excavated, it is too early to say anything about the dating of a possible toilet. The only find – a bronze bowl (HMK 5384:679) –was situated 1.1m from the top edge of the shaft. It is not possible to decide whether the entrance to the toilet was from outside of the building or through the suggested window beside the staircase in the entrance-hall.



*Fig. 2. A shaft at the west wall of the building*

5. Already in 1996 a foundation of a fence, running from the SE corner of the new house towards SW, was found. It can be followed also under the corner of this house, as the southern part has been added only in the end of the 17th century.<sup>2</sup> The northern end of the foundation can be de-

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<sup>2</sup> In the profile under the foundation–stones a Swedish 1/6 öre from 1666 (HMK 5384:710) was found. In 1997 an original corner of the earlier house was uncovered, but due to lack of time further research on it was not carried out.



scribed as a ditch, which has remains of wooden posts in it. The only find – a fragment of an iron key (HMK 5384:680) – was found in the middle of the feature between the stones.

The foundation was built on top of a hill of sand, which was one metre high and three metres wide at the base. Such dark-brown sand is very different from the surrounding layers of construction-remains, appearing to be deliberately brought there. Similar foundations of fences have also been found on the northern and eastern sides of the main building. Together with additional buildings they formed an inner yard, which has been suggested already by earlier researchers (Raam 1988, 105). Another example of such a fence comes from the Kunda manor, depicted by Adam Olearius (Olearius 1996, 95).

6. Near the north-western corner of the entrance-hall a row of stones, running NE, was discovered. East of it a layer of burned stones were situated, the edge of it covering the row of stones. A similar heap of burned stones was found in 1993 at the northern fence (Mandel 1994, 14), which gave an unique bronze chain with a pendant, dating to the second half of the 14th century (Mandel 1994, plate VII).

In addition to an axe and a fragment of a ceramic vessel (HMK 5384:696–697), the oldest coin discovered in Keila so far was found. A penny minted during bishop Johann I Vyffhusen's time (1346–73, coin after 1365; HMK 5384:700) in Tartu gives an exact dating to this feature.<sup>3</sup>

To the west of this row, from the deepest layers, two more coins were found. A seestling of Tallinn from the end of the 14th century (HMK 5384:715) and a lübische of Tartu from the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries (HMK 5384:717) show that this period saw extensive construction-works on the northern part of the manor-building.

The collapse of the western wall of the entrance-hall must have been quite sudden, because the cultural layer shows empty gaps and spaces between the fallen stones. Probably most of the outside of the central manor-building had been covered with 1–2 cm thick mortar – parts of it have been preserved on the deeper layers of the survived walls.

### **Conservation of the staircases**

Continuing the work started in 1996, a viewing platform was built on top of the vaulted entrance to the cellar, symbolising the former first

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<sup>3</sup> All medieval coins were identified by Ivar Leimus (Estonian History Museum)



floor. The top layers of it were made relatively water-resistant, trying to avoid further destruction of the vault. A wooden rail would be necessary to provide more safety on this 3m high platform.

The steps of the upper staircase, leading to the first floor, needed almost total reconstruction. During cleaning it became obvious that this was already the second phase of the staircase, the first one being under a slightly different angle. The lowest step was still in place, while the others had been replaced probably somewhere in the 17th century.

Both the area between the two staircases and the lower staircase were cleaned and strengthened with mortar and small stones. The weak remains of dry walls, laid on top of the floor-plates in front of the entrance to the central living room, were removed.

### **Restoring the main entrance**

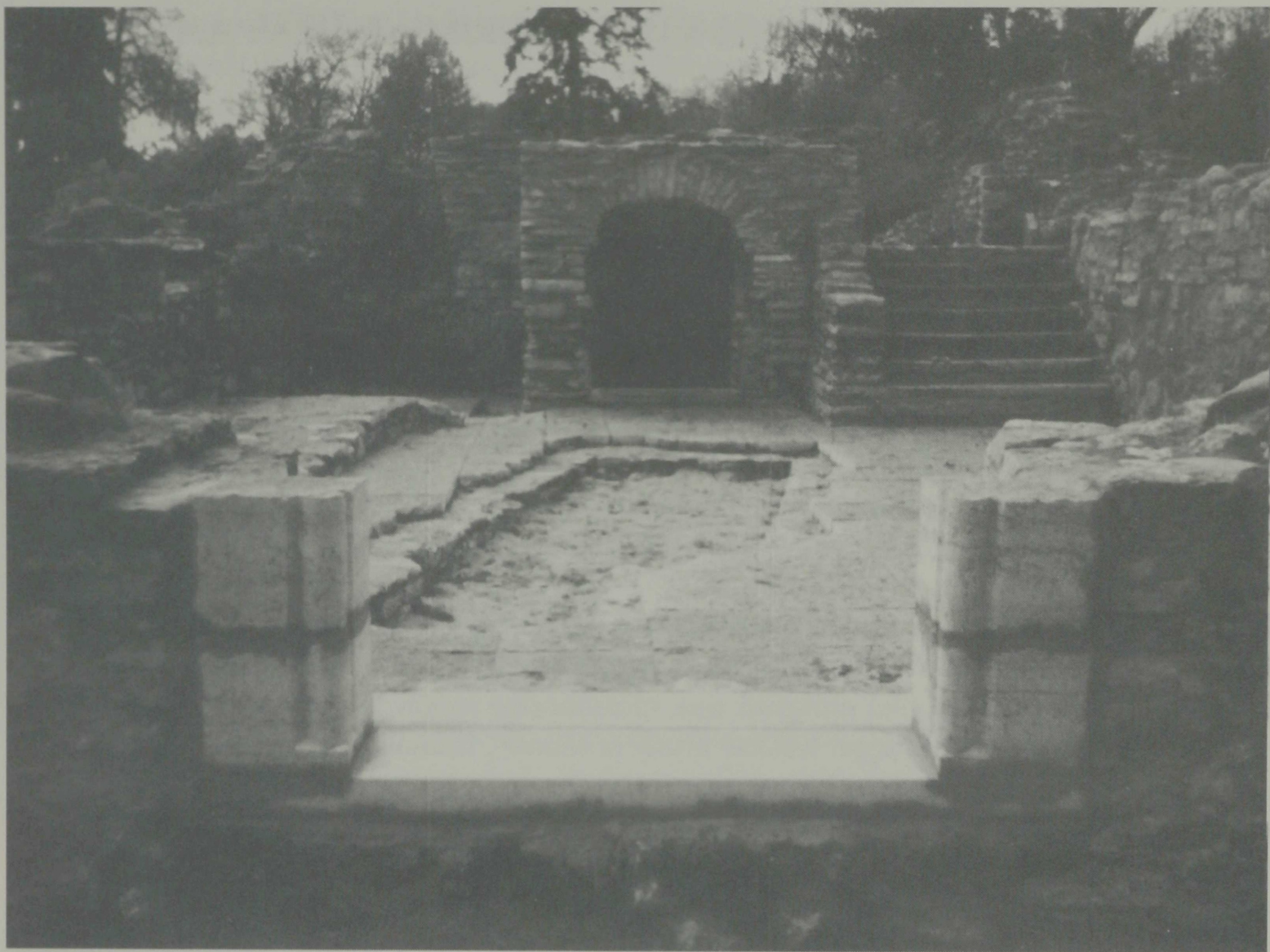
Necessary preparations had been made already during 1992–1993, by conserving the ends of walls and the foundation for the portal. The copies of carved stones for the corners of the portal had also been prepared already in 1992. Before actual work, it was decided to compare the construction of the manor-entrance with that of the inner (older) portal of the Keila church. Both are so similar that they appear to be made during the same period, the end of the 15th century. Two big under-stones and altogether four carved corner-stones were placed as a portal (Fig. 3). In front of the entrance, some big limestones were laid to mark the former pavement running north, in direction of the medieval centre of Keila.

### **Other work**

The whole territory of the manor-complex was cleared of old grass and shrubs. A tractor was used to fill the excavated bottom of the second small chamber beside the entrance hall. Excavation-plots from 1977 and 1996 were evened to restore the park.

After the end of the excavations an information-stand introducing the history of the Keila manor and the research of 1991–1997 was erected to the north-east of the main building. Small-scale excavations and conserving should follow in the coming years to complete the research of the northern half of the Keila manor-complex.





*Fig. 3. The main entrance after reconstruction*

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- Olearius 1996. Täiendatud uus reisikiri Moskoovia ja Pärsia teekonna kohta, mis toimus Holsteini saatkonna lähetamisel Vene tsaari ja Pärsia kuninga juurde, milles leida läbi käidud paikade ja maade, nimelt Liivimaa, Venemaa, Tataaria, Meedia ja Pärsia kirjeldus; koos nende elanike iseloomu, eluviisi, kommete, koduste, ilmalike ja vaimulike oludega hoolsasti üles tähendanud ja paljude enamasti elust joonistatud piltidega kaunistatud, mille annab teistkordselt välja Adam Olearius Ascanius, Schleswig–Holsteini võimuloleva valitseja bibliotekaarius ja õukonna–matemaatik. Tallinn.
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## KEILA KESKAEGSE MÕISAKOMPLEKSI UURIMINE 1997. AASTAL

### Heikki PAUTS

1997. aasta töödel oli kolm eesmärki: kontrollida mõisa peahoone kujunemise uut hüpoteesi, kaevata läbi peahoonest lääne poole jääv ala ja lõpetada peasissekäigu ning esiku treppide konserveerimine.

### Šurfimine

1996. aastal avastatud arhiividokumentide tõlgendamisel oletati, et peahoone idaosas paiknes 13. –14. sajandil paksude müüridega tornlinnus. Oletuse kontrollimiseks tehti ühtekokku 18 šurfi kogumahuga 35 m<sup>2</sup>. Šurfid nr. 1–11 kaevati peahoone alale, et selgitada nn. keskse elutorni kujunemist, väidetavat müüride paksemaks ladumist ning kirjalikes allikates mainitud vana elutorni asukohta. Ülejäänud seitsme šurfiga püüti selgitada 17. sajandi teisel poolel ehitatud uue mõisahoone mõõtmeid ning selle võimalikku seotust keskaegse peahoonega. Keskse elutorni lääne-, lõuna- ja idaseina uurimisel selgus, et välismüürid koosnesid kahest osast. Neist vanem e. sisemine oli laotud peamiselt paekividest, kuna uuem e. välimine oli tehtud enamasti raudkividest. Arvatavalt tugevdati 15. sajandil lagunema hakkavaid paekivimüüre nii, et hoonele, mille edelanurgas paiknes paksude seintega ümartorn, laoti kolmest küljest ümber tugevam raudkividest müür (joon. 1). Siiski jäi veel selgusetuks, kus paiknes kirjalikes allikates mainitud “vana, lagunenu elutorn. “. Kirjalike allikate uuel interpreteerimisel võib oletada, et sissepääs sellesse torni pidi paiknema keskse elutorni kõrval asuvas külgakambris. Oletust saaks kontrollida ehituskompleksi lõuna- ja läänekülje täieliku avamisega. 17. sajandil ehitatud mõisahoone juures kontrolliti selle vastavust kirjalikes allikates mainitud mõõtmetega, samuti hoone lääneotsa ulatust ja võimalikku ühendust peahoone kompleksiga. Hoone pikkuseks mõõdeti 29,4 – 29,5 m (kirjalikes allikates on mainitud 20 süllda) ja laiuseks 9,3 m. Veel avastati, et selle hoone idaotsas paiknesid arvatava eeskoja müürid ning lääneotsas kuni 5,8 m pikkune juurdeehitis. Uue mõisahoone müürid ei olnud paralleelsed keskaegse peahoonega, vaid kulgesid selle suhtes väikese nurga all.

### Kaevand

Kuna keldrite ehitamisega oli kultuurkihti tugevalt lõhutud, korrigeeriti 1997. aastal kaevandi piire nii, et sellest jäi välja segipööratud läänepoolne servaala. Kaevandi suuruseks jäi 246 m<sup>2</sup>. Kaevandi kirdeosas puhastati välja suurtest paeplaatidest loode–kagu suunaline sillutis. Ehkki uurimisel selgus, et pealmise kivikihi all oli veel teinegi kivi-sillutis, ei saa seda dateerida 18. sajandist varasemaks.

Pea- ja uue hoone vahelisel alal leiti ebakorrapärane ja halvasti säilinud tاراalus. Sedagi konstruktsiooni võib pidada hiliseks. Peahoone esiku trepipoolse akna ees avastati pealmiste rusukihtide eemaldamisel ahjualus, mida arvatavalt kasutati 18. sajandil. Ahju alt avastati müüriserv, mis kulges samal joonel keskruumi läänepoolse müüri väliservaga. 1,2 m laiuse müüri otsa vastu oli ehitatud 1,85 m pikkune paekividest šaht, arvatav käimla (joon. 2). Selle põhjakülg oli krohvitud lubjamördiga.



Kaevandi lääneosas jätkati kirde–edela suunalise tاراالuse puhastamist. Tara on ilmselt alanud kaevandi lääne–loodeosas avastatud hoone varasema järgu nurga juurest. Tاراalus oli laotud ca 3 meetri laiuse ja 1 meetri kõrguse liivavalli otsa. Tumepruun pehme liiv erines oluliselt ümbritsevast lubjasegusest ja rohkete ehitusrusudega pinnasest. Kuna sarnased tاراalused leiti ka hoonest põhja ja ida pool, on kindel, et nendest moodustus sisehoov. Alumiste kihtide puhastamisel avastati peahoone esiku loode–nurga juurest kirde poole kulgev kivirida. Hoonepoolses otsas oli kivirea kõrval u. 2 m läbimõõduga põlenud kerisekivide kiht. Samast leiti kirves ja reinikeraamika kild. Ravis asetsevate kivide vahelt saadi vanim Keila linnuselt leitud münt – Tartu piiskop Johann I Vyffhuseni (1346–1373) raha, mis on vermitud pärast 1365. aastat. Kivirea ja uue hoone vaheliselt alalt leiti alumistest kihtidest veel lahtiste otste ja laieneva keskkilbiga pronksõrmus ja 2 münti – Tallinna 14. saj. lõpu seestling ja Tartu 14. saj. lõpu – 15. saj. alguse lübische. Selliseid münte leiti palju peahoonest põhja ja ida pool, mis näitab, et ehitustööd toimusid siin 14. –15. sajandil küllaltki laial alal.

### **Esiku võlvipealse ja treppide konserveerimine**

Eelmisel aastal alustati külgmüüride tugevdamisega ja taastati võlvi varisenud esiosa. Seekord ehitati külg– ja otsamüürid ühele tasemele ning keskele tekkinud tühikusse laoti võlvipealse tihendamiseks raud– ja paekive. Pealmise kihi ladumisel kasutati tugevamat vedelat segu, et vältida niiskuse ja vee imbumist võlvipealsesse. Teise korruse trepiastmete uurimisel selgus, et trepp on laotud varingule. Ilmselt paiknes varem samas kohas samuti trepp, millest oli säilinud alumine aste. Uute astmete ehitamiseks oli kasutatud telliseid ja katusekivide tükke. Treppidevahelisel platvormil puhastati välja pealt lihvitud põrandaplaadid. Nende pragunenud pealispinda üritati säilitada nii, et praod täideti tugeva seguga. Plaatidele hiljem peale laotud sekundaarsed kiviread likvideeriti. Alumise e. suurema trepi astmete vahed puhastati prahist ning täideti väiksemate kivide ja seguga selleks, et toetada suuri kiviplokke. Ka nende pealispinda tasandati tugeva seguga, et vältida edasist lagunemist.

### **Portaali restaureerimine**

1992 – 1993 oli tehtud eeltöid peahoone sissekäigu restaureerimiseks. Portaali viivad müüriotsad konserveeriti, samuti laoti uksepaku vundamendile tugev kiht raudkive. 1992. aastal telliti ja valmistati portaali nurkades olnud raidkivide koopiad (joon. 3).

Portaali restaureerimisel kontrolliti raidkivide sarnasust Keila kiriku vanema, s. o. siseportaali kividega. On tõenäoline, et mõlemad portaalid valmistati samaaegselt, kuna kivide profiilis ja suuruses on sarnasus. Portaali silluskivid ja nurgakivid kinnitati õhukese segukihiga. Portaali ette asetati liivapadjale mõned suured paekivid markeerimaks kunagist ukseesist sillutist.

### **Heakorrastustööd**

Heakorrastustöid alustati rohu niitmisega. Ekskavaatoriga täideti peahoone teise väikse kambri läbikaevatud põhi mullaga. Kinni aeti 1977. ja 1996. aasta kaevandid, mis paiknesid peahoonest kagus ja idas. Seni tehtud töö tutvustamiseks püstitati Keila mõisa ja selle uurimise ajalugu kajastav stend.