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*Cover:* strap-divider from Harmi grave in Harjumaa

*Tagakaas:* kaelavõru fragment Harjumaalt Harmi kalmest  
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*Toimetuskolleegium:*

Ants Kraut  
Valter Lang  
Anneli Randla  
Jaan Tamm  
Toomas Tamla  
Ülle Tamla  
Heiki Valk

Uus 18, Tallinn 10111, Eesti  
e-mail: info@muinas.ee

*Kujundus ja makett:*  
Jaana Kool

TARTU ÜLIKOOLI  
RAAMATUKOGU  
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# FINDS OF LEATHER FOOTWEAR FROM THE EXCAVATIONS AT SAUNA STREET 10 IN TALLINN

**Krista SARV**

*OÜ Tael (Tael Ltd.), Rüütli 6, 10130 Tallinn, Eesti (Estonia)*

*krista.sarv@mail.ee*

In 1998 and 1999, Tael Ltd. conducted archaeological rescue excavations in Tallinn in the yard and cellar of Sauna Street 10. The excavations covered an area of 520 m<sup>2</sup> in the yard and 100 m<sup>2</sup> in the cellar of the house. The excavations yielded abundant finds, including ceramics as well as organic matter. This article presents a review of the finds of leather footwear from the excavations.

During the excavations a total of 8976 leather fragments were found. These could be divided into two main groups: 1) artefacts, and 2) waste leather. In the first group, details of leather footwear predominated: 5377 fragments (59.9%). Of these, 2356 fragments were uppers (43.8%), 1059 (19.6%) were soles, 1418 (26.3%) were seam margins, 28 fragments (0.5%) were from heelless peasant-shoes, and 516 fragments (9.5%) were fastening and strengthening details belonging to the uppers, trimmings and leather straps. Other finds included two glove fragments (0.02%), knife sheaths and their fragments (41 pieces, i.e. 0.4%), sword scabbards (five fragments, i.e. 0.05%), purses (six pieces, 0.06%), an axe pouch (0.01%) and fragments of indeterminate objects (23 pieces, 0.2%). Quite numerous were the fragments of waste leather (3519 pieces, 39.2%).

The classification of the footwear was based on their means of fastening, and the length of the legs. The typologies based on the archaeological material from Bergen (Gullskoen) by A. J. Larsen (1992), and from Schleswig (Schild) by C. Schnack (1992), were followed as examples for the classification of the footwear. The details of footwear found from the yard of Sauna Street 10 were divided into the following groups: thong shoes, laced shoes, strap shoes, low laced shoes, pumps, and soft peasant shoes.

The largest group consisted of the upper details of **thong shoes**. Thong shoes are low, medium or high shoes, fastened with leather straps over a slit either in the instep or at the side. The origin of such type of footwear dates back to the Bronze Age, and in the Middle Ages it was spread *en masse* throughout Europe. In Western Europe this type was dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> and especially the 14<sup>th</sup> centuries (Rommot 1990, 4). In Schleswig, a similar type was dated to the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Schnack 1992, 89). In Bergen, the respective type appears in great numbers (53% of all footwear) at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century; at the turn of that century and during the follow-



ing centuries the importance of the footwear fastened with one strap of leather decreases remarkably (to 5%). In the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, this type of footwear disappeared from use in Bergen (Larsen 1992, 39).

By the length of the leg, the upper fragments could be divided into three groups:

a) **low shoes fastened with one leather strap** (Fig.: 1) - the upper is cut as a whole, with a V-shaped slit in the instep. 43 fragments of such uppers were found from the site (AI 6332: 89, 100, 127, 134, 136, 142, 174, 162, 168, 181, 200, 208, 233, 239, 241, 243, 252, 256, 263, 286, 288, 300, 312, 338, 369, 371, 376, 390, 392, 398, 412, 443, 451, 478, 500, 527). One of the uppers (AI 6332: 256) was decorated with slits in the direction of the toe.

b) **medium-high shoe fastened with a single leather strap** (Fig.: 2) - the upper consists of several pieces. A border of different material may have been attached to the upper part of the leg. The shoe was fastened with a leather strap pulled through the incisions at the ankle. Thirteen upper fragments of such footwear were found (AI 6332: 10, 91, 95, 103, 122, 141, 215, 250, 271, 299, 324, 431).

c) **high shoe fastened with two or three leather straps**. (Fig.: 3 and 4) Fifteen upper fragments of footwear of this type (AI 6332: 123, 164, 180, 187, 209, 225, 289, 324, 336, 399, 483, 511) were found. Nine of the shoes were fastened with two leather straps. Of these, four (AI 6332: 123, 187, 289, 483) were fastened at the side, the rest had V-shaped slits in the instep. This type was very widespread in its time - from the British Isles to Novgorod (Schnack 1992, 132). In Bergen, the percentage of such footwear was quite modest, decreasing from 28% at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century to 8% at the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century (Larsen 1992, 39). In Schleswig this type appears in the 11<sup>th</sup> century and lasts throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> century, a few pieces have also been found in the layers of the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Schnack 1992, 140). By the archaeological material of Bremen, such shoes have been determined as everyday footwear of the 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries (Schnack 1993, 64). The respective type of footwear in Scandinavia has been dated to the 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century. The finds from Lossi Street in Tartu and from Pärnu are dated to the 14<sup>th</sup> century - first half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century (Rommot 1990, 4).

**Laced shoes** (Fig.: 5). Laced shoes are up to 23 cm high, with the uppers consisting of one or two details. At the outer edge of the slit at the shin are incisions. At the opposite edge, leather straps are fastened, 3 cm long, with large knot at the end. The straps were pulled through the incisions, the knots serving as buttons. Twelve fragments of such uppers (AI 6332: 101, 157, 181, 251, 165, 296, 379, 380, 408, 443, 492, 510) were found from Sauna Street. One of the fragments (AI 6332: 165) belongs to a richly ornamented women's laced shoe. The toe is deco-



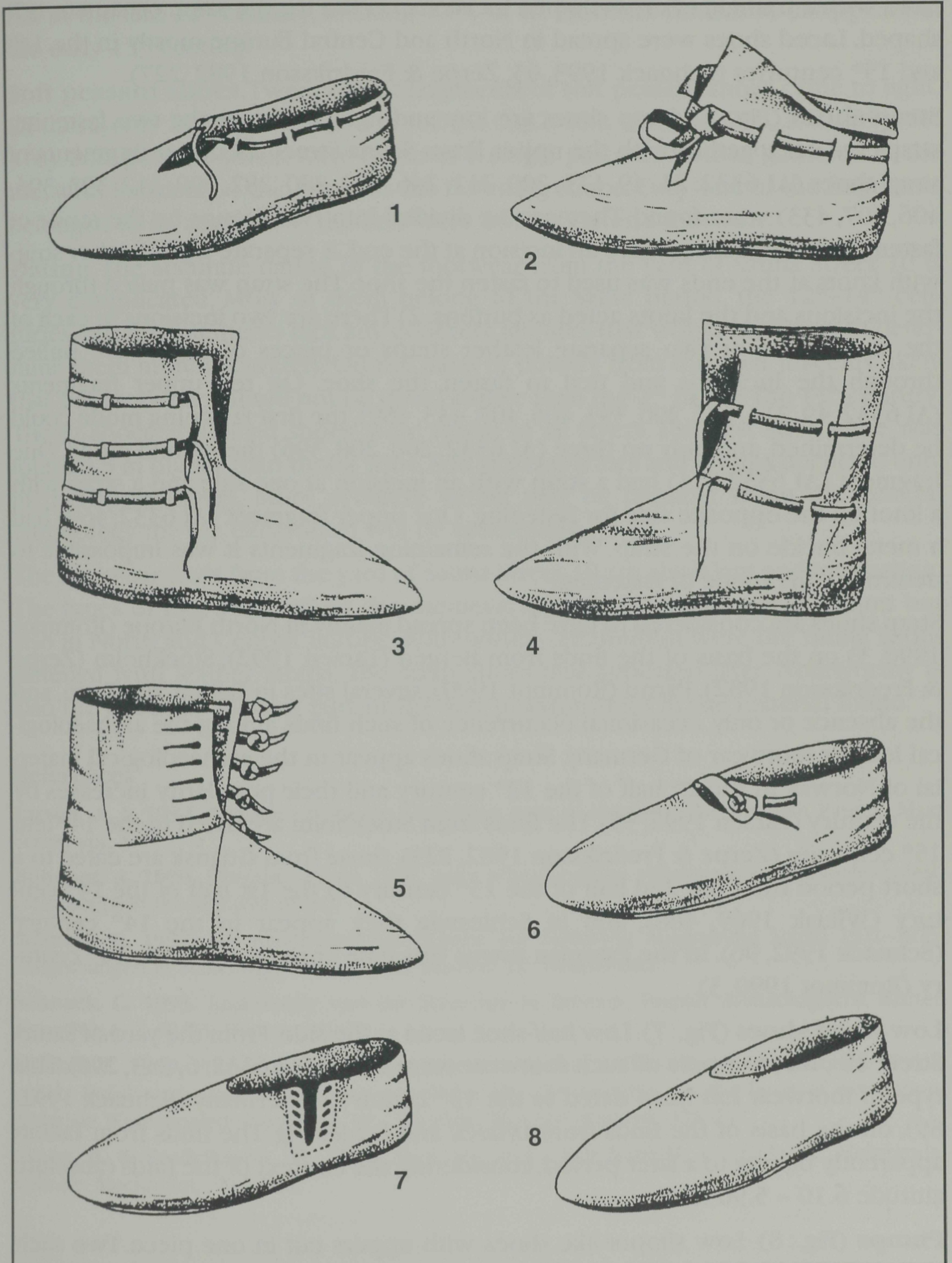


Fig. Some examples of shoes from Tallinn, Sauna St. 10.  
Joon. Näiteid Tallinnast Sauna t. 10 leitud nahkjalatsitest.



rated with a triangle of cross-shaped incisions, on the leg the same ornament is T-shaped. Laced shoes were spread in North and Central Europe mostly in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries (Schnack 1993, 65; Zerpe & Fredriksson 1982, 227).

**Strap shoes** (Fig.: 6). Strap shoes are low and light footwear, the two fastening straps are cut together with the upper. From Sauna Street, 19 upper fragments of strap shoes (AI 6332: 21, 49, 173, 200, 211, 246, 252, 280, 282, 290, 312, 393, 396, 406, 407, 433) were found. They can be divided into two groups by the mode of fastening: 1) Both straps have an incision at the end. A separate small leather strap with knots at the ends was used to fasten the shoe. The strap was pulled through the incisions and the knots acted as buttons. 2) There are two incisions in each of the straps. One or two separate leather straps or pieces of cord were pulled through the incisions and tied to fasten the shoe. On ten upper fragments (AI 6332: 49, 211, 282, 290, 393, 406, 407, 433, 469), the first fastening mode could be determined, and only on three (AI 6332: 200, 208, 396) the second mode. One fragment (AI 6332: 211) had a strap with an incision at one side and a strap with a knot on the opposite side for fastening. One upper fragment (AI 6332: 469) had a metal buckle on the strap. With the remaining fragments it was impossible to determine the mode of fastening.

Strap shoes are considered to have been spread mainly in North Europe (Rommot 1990, 3) on the basis of the finds from Bergen (Larsen 1992), Stockholm (Zerpe & Fredriksson 1982), Pärnu (Rommot 1990), several sites in Tallinn and Tartu, and the absence or only occasional occurrence of such finds among the archaeological leather footwear of Germany. Strap shoes appear in the archaeological material of Norway in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century and their popularity increases by the century (Larsen 1992, 39). The finds from Stockholm are dated to the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries (Zerpe & Fredriksson 1982, 223), those from Gdansk are dated to a short period from the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century to the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Wiklak 1969, 488), and in Schleswig they appear in the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Schnack 1992, 96). In the Estonian towns this type appears since the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Rommot 1990, 3).

**Low laced shoes** (Fig.: 7). Low half-shoe laced at the side. From the yard of Sauna Street 10, three uppers of such footwear were found (AI 6332: 6, 243, 298). This type of footwear has been dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> century in Germany (Schnack 1992, 89), on the basis of the finds from Lybeck and Schleswig. The finds from Tallinn apparently belong to a later period, considering the context of the finds (absolute altitude 6.10 – 5.90 m).

**Pumps** (Fig.: 8). Low slipper-like shoes with uppers cut in one piece. Two such uppers (AI 6332: 258, 246) were found from the yard of Sauna Street 10. Analogies are known from Bergen, where such footwear appears in the archaeological mate-



rial in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century, forming 7.6% of all footwear finds, and disappears in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century.

**Soft peasant shoes.** Twenty-eight fragments of soft peasant shoes came to light. Of these, only 10 were well preserved (AI 6332: 100, 134, 168, 270, 278, 285, 308, 370). Soft peasant shoes were made of a single piece of leather, gathered at the toe, with incisions at the sides for the fastening straps. Only one of the fragments belonged to an adult shoe, the rest were from children's footwear.

**Dating.** The accurate dating of the footwear from the yard of Sauna Street 10 is very complicated. Most of them belong to the same period, the 12<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> centuries, but the fragments lack any concrete features that would enable us to determine them more accurately. On the basis of pottery from the yard, it seems likely that the footwear should not be dated earlier than the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Thong shoes and laced shoes were found in all layers. The first strap shoe was found 0.5 m higher than thong shoe. Soft peasant-shoes and pumps occurred only in the upper layers. More accurate dating may be possible when the general chronology for the excavation will be established.

The footwear finds from the yard of Sauna Street 10 are abundant and interesting. The types of footwear reflect the medieval shoe fashion not only in Tallinn but also in North and Central Europe. With widest distribution were the thong shoes fastened with leather straps, and strap shoes that appeared later. Noteworthy is also the relatively modest part of the soft peasant-shoes in the material found.

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## NAHKJALATSID TALLINNAST SAUNA TÄNAV 10 ARHEOLOOGILISTE KAEVAMISTE LEIUMATERJALIS

Krista SARV

1998. ja 1999. a. tegi OÜ Tael arheoloogilisi päästekaevamisi Tallinnas Sauna t. 10 hoone keldris ja hoovis ühtekokku 620 m<sup>2</sup> suurusel alal. Artiklis antakse ülevaade nendelt kaevamistelt kogutud nahkjalatsitest.

Kokku leiti 8976 nahatükki, mis võib jagada kahte rühma: (1) esemed ja (2) jäägid. Esemetest domineerisid jalatsidetailid 5377 katkendiga (59.9%), millest pealseid oli 2356 (43.8%), taldu 1059 (19.6%), taldade õmblusääri 1418 (26.3%), pastlaid 28 (0.5%) ning pealsete juurde kuuluvaid kinnitus- ja tugevdusdetalle, ääriseid ning nahkribasid 516 (9.5%).

Kõige arvukamalt oli säilinud paelkinga pealsedetaile. Paelking on madal, poolkõrge või kõrge king, mille kinniseks on nahkpaelttega kokkutõmmatav sisselõige kas jala peal või küljel. Sääre kõrguse järgi sai leitud paelkingade pealsed jagada kolme rühma: ühe naharibaga kinnitatav madal king (joon.: 1.), ühe naharibaga kinnitatav poolkõrge king (joon.: 2) ning kahe või kolme naharibaga kinnitatav kõrge king (joon.: 3 ja 4). Sellise kinnitusega jalatsi päritolu ulatub tagasi varasesse pronksiaega ning keskajaks kujunes paelkingast üleeuroopaliselt massilise levikuga jalatsitüüp.

Arvukuselt järgmise rühma moodustasid rihmkinga (joon.: 6) pealsete leiud. Rihmking on madal ja kerge jalats, mille kinnise moodustavad koos pealsega lõigatud kaks rihmakest. Lähtuvalt kinnitusviisi eripärast, sai Sauna t. 10 hoovist leitud rihmkingade pealsed liigitada kahte rühma:

1. Mõlema rihmakese otsas on aas. Jalats kinnitati nahkribaga, mille otsas oli suurem sõlm. Sõlm toimis tõkkena rihma pingutamisel.
2. Mõlema rihmakese otsas on kaks sisselõiget. Jalats kinnitati ühe või kahe nahkriba või hoopis nööri abil, mis seoti omavahel.

Ühel pealse katkel oli rihma küljes säilinud metallist pannal, mis viitab kolmandale kinnitusviisile. Rihmkingad levisid 12. sajandi II poolest 15. sajandini ennekõike Põhja-Euroopas.

Arvestatavalt suur oli ka nöörsaabaste (joon.: 5) leidude hulk. Nöörsaabaste puhul on tegemist ühest või kahest tükist väljalõigatud pealsega jalatsiga, mille sääreosa on kuni 23 cm kõrgune. Selline jalats kinnitati sääre sisekülje serva õmmeldud ja sõlmega lõppevate naharibade tõmbamisega läbi sääre väliskülje sisselõigete. Sauna t. 10 nahaleidude hulgas leidis veel üks naiste nöörsaapa pealse katke, mis erines teistest rikkaliku kaunistuse poolest: ninaosas oli ristikujulistest sisselõigetest kolmnurk ning sääreosas moodustas sama ornament T-kujundi. Nöörsaabas levis Põhja- ja Kesk-Euroopas peamiselt 14. ja 15 sajandil.

Nahaleidude hulgas võis eristada veel madalaid, küljelt kinninõoritavate poolkingade (joon.: 7) ja ühest tükist lõigatud pealsega pastlalaadsete, sussitaoliste kergemate poolkingade (joon.: 8) katkeid. Pastlaid leiti võrdlemisi vähe. Kuna kõikide pastlaleidude seas oli vaid üks täiskasvanu jalats, siis näib,



et pastel oli peamiselt laste jalavari.

Sauna tänava kaevanditest saadud nahkjalatsite täpsem dateerimine on keerukas. Pidades silmas Schleswigi ja Bergeni vastavate leidude põhjal väljatöötatud kronoloogiaid, langeb enamus jalatsitüüpe laia ajavahemikku 12.–14. sajandini. Kahjuks puuduvad jalatsitel sellised tunnused, mis lubaks neid täpsemalt dateerida. Sauna t. 10 hoovist saadud muu leiumaterjali, eriti paremini dateeritava keraamika taustal näib, et 13. saj. II poolest varasemaid jalatseid siin pole. Stratigraafilise jao-tuse alusel leidus paelkingi ja nöörsaapaid kõigis kihtides. Rihmkinga varaseim leid saadi 0.5 m kõrgemast horisondist kui paelkinga oma. Pastlaid ja pastlalaadseid kergeid kingi saadi ainult ülemis-test kihtidest. Tõenäoliselt täpsustub nahkjalatsite dateering pärast Sauna t. 10 kaevandi üldkrono-loogia koostamist.

Sauna t. 10 hoovi arheoloogilistelt kaevamistelt leitud nahkjalatsid on rikkalik ja huvitav leiuaines. Siin esinevad jalatsitüübid kajastavad mitte ainult Tallinna, vaid ka Põhja- ja Kesk-Euroopa keskaegset jalatsimoodi. Kõige levinumateks jalatsiteks olid paelkingad ning neist hiljem kasutusele tulnud rihmkingad. Märkimisväärne on pastelde suhteliselt tagasihoidlik osa.