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Excavations of the destroyed grave at Harni

Kaevamised hävinud Harni kalmel

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Esi- ja tagakaas: 2001. aastal Haapsalust leitud ahjukahlid. 16. saj. esimene pool.
Cover and back cover: Stove-tiles found from Haapsalu in 2001. The first half of the 16th century.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE BISHOP'S CASTLE OF VARBEK (KASTRE)

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The castle of Varbek (Kastre) on the northern bank of River Emajõgi (Fig. 1: 1,2), on the edge of the Emajõe Bog, belonged to the Tartu Bishop. It is one of the castles of Old Livonia, the walls of which have been demolished to the ground during later periods. The only signs of the one-time castle still visible are the moats that once surrounded it, and the beams sunk into the ground to carry the walls, visible at the riverbank. Thus, until the investigations, information about the outlook of Varbek was scarce. The Kantsi tavern, built at the same place in the 18th century, has for centuries been a well-known building, and has overshadowed the castle, the stones of which were used for building the walls of the tavern.

THE BISHOP'S CASTLE OF KASTRE (VARBEK) ACCORDING TO WRITTEN SOURCES

The first written record of a river barrier called Varbek, erected to the lower reaches of River Emajõgi to defend Tartu against Pskov and Novgorod, dates to the year 1391. In this year, a peace treaty was signed between the Hanseatic towns and Novgorod, which guaranteed the Novgorodians a free passage from a barrier on River Emajõgi (*de balke de over Embeke licht vor Werbeke*) to Tartu (LUB, III, No 1330). From 1425 onwards, there are written records that prove the existence of Varbek as the easternmost border castle of the Tartu Bishopric. In the 15th century, and the first half of the 16th century, duty was collected on fish and river traffic was controlled there. Passports and travel permits were also checked. Thus, a turnpike was placed across the river to avoid ships from slipping out by night.

At the beginning of the Livonian War in 1558, the Russians conquered the castle, the garrison of which consisted of 40 men at that time. Evidently the castle remained in good condition, but it had no military significance for the Russians, and it fell into disrepair. In the 17th century sources, the customs house and a tavern located in the outer bailey are repeatedly mentioned. In 1656, the Swedish authorities tried to make Varbek meet the most urgent needs of defence for a while, yet reconstruction of the castle was not possible. At the end of the 17th century, the Swedes planned to build a new fortress there. In connection with that, a general plan of the existing castle was drawn in 1697 (Fig. 2: 3)¹, and the location plans were completed a year later. According to the data visible on the maps, the

¹ A plan of the Bishop's castle of Varbek preserves in the Latvian Central Archives of History (F. 6828, i. 2, d. 812/2.)

castle was already then in ruins. During the Great Northern War, the castle was totally destroyed. In the 1770s, a tavern was constructed at the former location of the castle (Hermann 1973).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE CASTLE

In the summer and autumn of 2001, archaeological investigations took place in Kastre. These were prompted by the construction of an administrative building at the remains of the one-time tavern. It was the first time that archaeological excavations took place in Kastre. Of the earlier work, a special mention should be made of a plan and a compilation of historical data, both made in 1973 by the geodesist Uno Hermann. In 1994, the profiles of the ground that appeared in the moats a year earlier were recorded by Riina Vesi and Erik Tootsi (Vesi & Tootsi 1994).

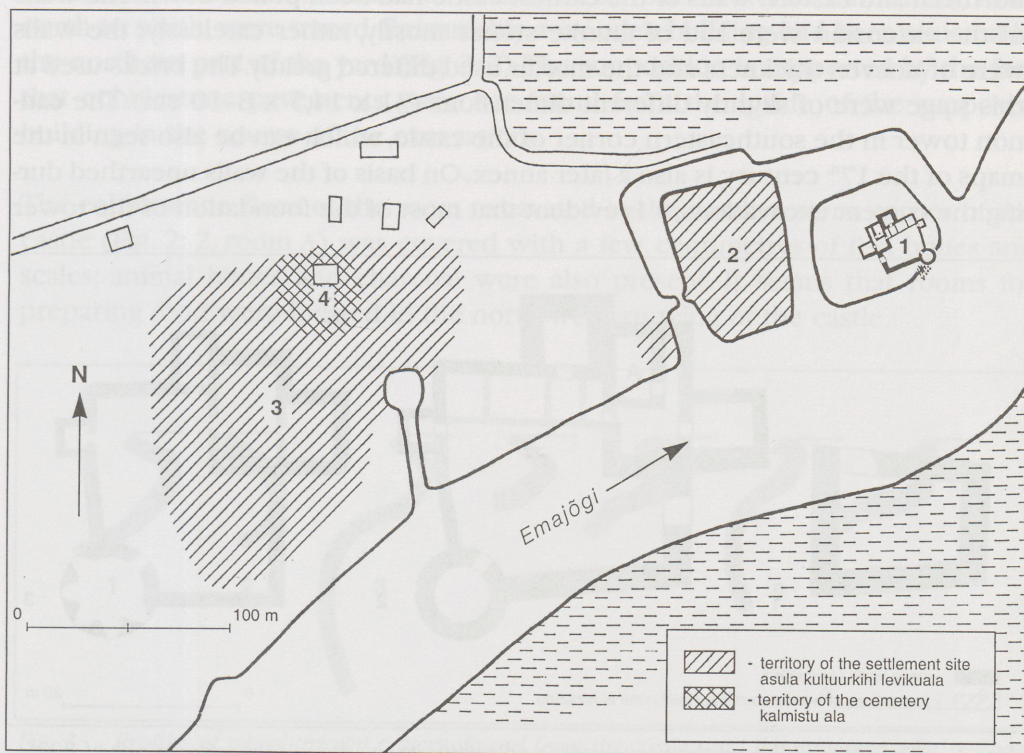


Fig. 2. Location of the Bishop's Castle of Varbek, and the settlement site next to it. 1 - the main castle, 2 - outer bailey, 3 - settlement, 4 - cemetery.

Joon. 2. Kastre piiskopilinnuse ja selle juures paikneva asula asend. 1- pealinnus, 2 - eeslinnus, 3 - asula ala, 4 - kalmistu.

In the course of the excavations it became evident that the castle had been erected in at least two stages. At first, a building with the shape of an irregular rectangle (Fig. 2: 1) was erected, using granite stones and bricks, the dimensions of which were 30–31 x 15–15,5 x 10 cm. The length of its longest wall was 17,5 m and that of the shortest – 12 m; the walls were 2,5–2,8 m thick. The entrance was situated at the northern side of the building. A testpit made next to the southeastern outer corner of the building showed that the wall had been laid just upon a raft of logs. About a half metres from the outer side of the wall, a wall made of hewn logs was situated; it rested upon the same raft. The space between the wooden wall and the stone wall was filled with clay. At the inner side of the building, unfortunately, it was not possible in 2001 to excavate much deeper than the upper edge of the preserved walls, thus the dating of this stage remained uncertain.

The walls of the northern and northwestern part of the castle have been erected later, not connected to the earlier building (Fig. 2: 2). At the same time, most of the northern and eastern walls of the earliest castle had been pulled down. The walls of the extension were laid of granite stones mostly, rather carelessly; the walls were of uneven thickness and the mortar used differed greatly. The bricks used at this stage were of slightly different dimensions (31 x 14,5 x 8–10 cm). The cannon tower in the southeastern corner of the castle, which can be seen in the maps of the 17th century, is also a later annex. On basis of the walls unearthed during the current excavations, it is evident that most of the foundation of the tower

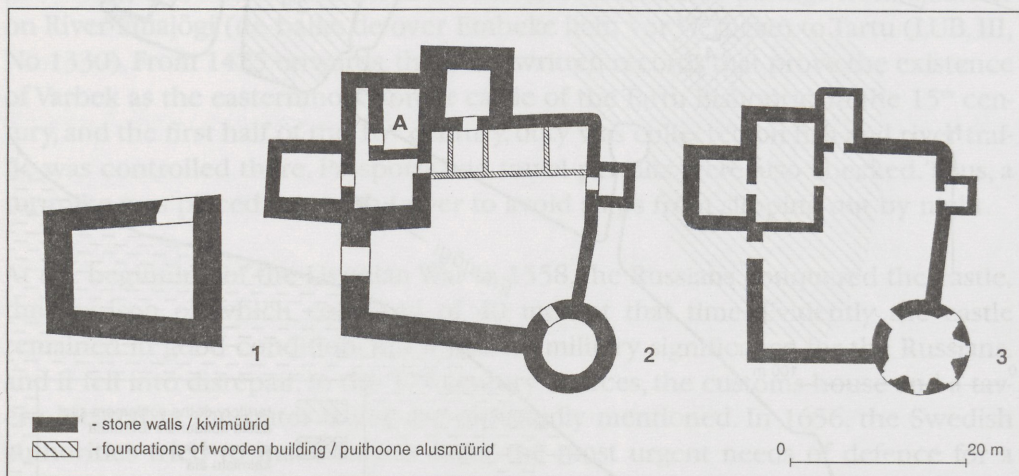


Fig. 2. The general plan of the Varbek castle according to the data of the excavations of 2001. 1 - the earlier stage, 2 - the later stage, 3 - the general plan of the castle according to the map of 1697.

Joon. 2. Varbeki linnuse põhiplaan 2001. aasta kaevamiste andmetel. 1 - vanim ehitusjärg, 2 - hilisem ehitusjärg, 3 - Varbeki linnuse põhiplaan 1697. aasta plaani järgi.

has been washed away by the river Emajõgi. The raft of logs is partially visible on the bank of the river (Fig. 4). The area between the walls of the extension was filled with a 0,6–1,5-metre layer of granite stones and river sand; it also contains pieces of bricks and mortar, animal bones and sherds of stoneware vessels. Upon this filling, both inside the building and in the yard, a cobblestone pavement was erected.

The walls of the quadrangular room projecting from the northern wall of the castle are remarkably thicker than the other walls of the northern and western wings of the castle. Thus there are good reasons to suppose that the quadrangular tower was situated there, not in the western side of the castle, north of the gate, as suggested by Armin Tuulse (1942, 97–98).

In the yard of the castle, 4,5 m south of the northern wall, a row of stones, connected with mortar and generally oriented to the east-west directions, was unearthed. North of it, remains of at least three rows of stones, all running from north to south, were traced. Presumably a wooden building had been situated in the northern part of the yard (Fig. 2: 2). The supposition is supported by the fact that cobblestone pavements were not found from the inside of the supposed building in the course of the excavations.

The cobblestone floor of the room excavated in the northwestern corner of the castle (Fig. 2: 2, room A) was covered with a few centimetres of fish bones and scales; animal bones and charcoal were also present. It seems that rooms for preparing food were located in the north-western wing of the castle.

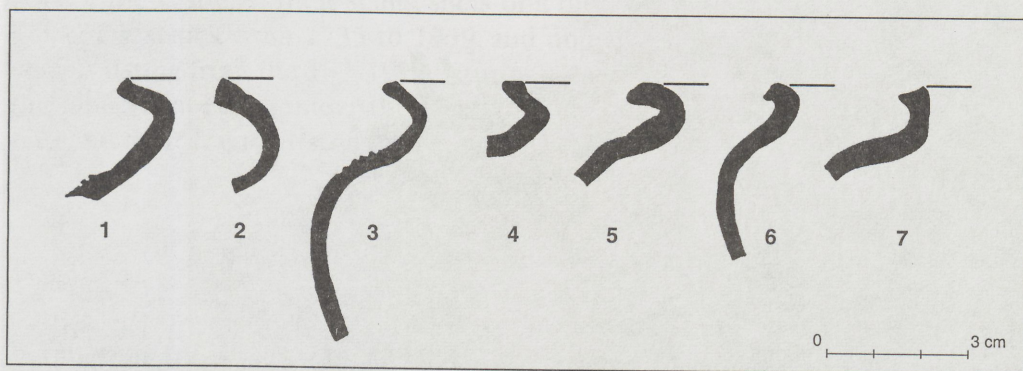


Fig. 3. Profiles of wheel-thrown pottery, found from the castle, and the settlement site. 1 - castle, 2 - outer bailey, 3 - the western moat of the outer bailey, 4-7 - settlement site (TÜ 1014: 102; 146; 147; 1032: 20, 27, 21, 22).

Joon. 3. Linnuselt ja asulast leitud libtkeraamiliste savinõude kildude profiile. 1 - linnus, 2 - eeslinnus, 3 - eeslinnuse läänepoolne vallikraav, 4-7 - asula.

The territory of the castle was surrounded by a moat, partly up to 15 metres wide. On the western side, an outer bailey with the dimensions of approximately 60 x 60 metres is situated. The latter has been surrounded by a moat as well; the width of the moat was up to 10 metres. The construction of drainage ditches in the autumn of 2001 unearthed a log reinforcement of the outer edge of the western moat; this might be the case elsewhere also. The dimensions of the moat of the outer bailey could be defined more precisely. In addition to that, it became evident that during the usage of the castle, it could be accessed over the western moat of the outer bailey.

Only very few finds that can be dated to the period of usage of the castle were collected. Noteworthy were a small bone die (TÜ 1014: 29) and a bone whistle (TÜ 1014: 138) found from the filling in the northern wing of the extension of the castle. In the same filling, sherds of stoneware vessels were found, mostly produced in Siegburg and dating from the 15th-16th centuries. Inside the castle walls, fragments of window glass and of lead window frames were found, as well as a Swedish copper coin (1/6 öre) of 1666. None of the finds could be dated to an earlier period than the 15th century.



Fig. 4. The raft foundation of the round tower of Varbek castle at the bank of River Emajõgi.
Joon. 4. Varbeki linnuse ümartorni alusparv Emajõe kaldal.

THE SETTLEMENT SITE BY THE CASTLE

After the establishment of the castle, a small settlement formed west of the outer bailey, on the northern bank of river Emajõgi (Fig. 1: 3). The present village name, Aleviküla, has survived from the settlement. A small chapel (Hermann 1973, 10) and a cemetery were also located in the settlement (Fig. 1: 4); the latter was marked by human bones and copper coins, ploughed to the ground. The coins, a Swedish 1/4 ore, coined in the 1630s (TÜ 178), a Swedish 1/6 ore, coined in 1666 (AI 5461: 1), and a Russian denga, minted in 1753 (AI 5461: 2), should originate from graves. A sooty cultural layer that contains a lot of stone rubble and potsherds is visible in the location of the settlement. Among the finds gathered (AI 5460, TÜ 1032) there are a blue glass bead and a fragment of a clay crucible, in addition to stoneware of German origin, vessels of green-glazed grey earthenware, made in Russia, and wheel-thrown pottery (Fig. 3). The pottery and other artefacts, gathered from the settlement site, could be dated to the 14th–17th centuries.

THE KANTSI TAVERN

The walls of the castle of Varbek were pulled down and in the 1770s, or at the beginning of the 1780s, the Kantsi tavern (Schanzenkrug) belonging to the Kastre manor was built at the same location. The walls of the tavern were laid of granite stones and bricks. Most likely during the construction work of the tavern, the bones of at least two humans were reburied inside the walls of the western part of the castle. At their skulls, signs of a blow are visible. The 20 Russian copper coins, struck from 1735 to 1859, and numerous fragments of clay and glass vessels dating from the 18th–19th centuries should originate from the tavern. From the filling heaped up under the western wing of the tavern, a lot of white stove tiles and their fragments, dating from the 18th century, were found.

SUMMARY

In the excavations of 2001, an understanding was obtained of the general plan of the castle of Varbek. Most data could be collected of the construction of the northern and western wings of the castle. These parts are later extensions, built most likely in the 15th century or the first half of the 16th century. The walls of the Varbek castle have been built upon a massive raft of logs. The area between the walls has been filled with stones and river sand, upon which the cobblestone

floor of the ground floor of the castle and the cobblestone pavement of the yard have been constructed. Only the foundations of the walls, and partly the cobblestone pavements and floors have been preserved.

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ARHEOLOOGILISED UURINGUD VARBEKI (KASTRE) PIISKOPILINNUSEL

Andres TVAURI

Tartu piiskopile kuulunud Varbeki (Kastre) linnus Emajõe põhjakaldal (joon. 1:1,2), Emajõe Suursoo serval on üks nendest Vana-Liivimaa linnustest, mille müürid hilisematel aegadel maatas hävitati. Kuna ainsad tänaseni nähtavad jäljed kantsist on seda ümbritsenud vallikraavid ja jõekaldast paistavad alusparve palgid (joon. 4), oli Varbeki omaaegsest välimusest vähe teada. Hoopis tuntum ehitis oli 18. sajandil linnuse asemele ehitatud maakividest müüridega Kantsi kõrts. 2001. aasta suvel ja sügisel toimusid Varbeki linnusel esmakordselt arheoloogilised kaevamised seoses haldushoone ehitusega kõrtsihoone varemetesse.

Kaevamiste käigus selgus, et Varbeki linnust ehitati vähemalt kahes järgus. Esmalt on rajatud maakividest ja tellistest ebakorrapärase nelinurga kujuline hoone (joon. 2: 1), mille pikim külg oli 17,5 m ja lühim 12 m pikk ning müüride paksus ulatus 2,5–2,8 m. Sisepääs paiknes hoone põhjaküljel. Esimese ehitusjärgu kagupoolsele välisnurgale tehtud kaeve näitas, et müür oli laotud palkparvele. Müürist 0,5 m väljapool asetses palkparvele toetuv tahutud palkidest sein, kusjuures kivimüüri ja palkseina vahe oli täidetud saviga. Linnuse vanima ehitusjärgu siseküljel ei saanud kaevata säilinud müüride ülapinnast oluliselt sügavamale, mistõttu selle dateering jäi lahtiseks.

Linnuse põhja- ja loodeosa müürid on rajatud vastu algkavatise müüre (joon. 2: 2). Seejuures on lammutatud enamus varasema linnuse põhja- ja idamüürist. Juurdeehituse ebaühtlase paksusega ja valdavalt maakividest müüriladu on tehtud lohakalt ja erineva mõrdiga. Sama ehitusjärgu vaheseinte vundamendikivide vahel mörti pole. 17. sajandi lõpus tehtud plaanidelt nähtub, et hilisemaks juurdeehituseks oli ka linnuse kagunurgas paiknenud suurtükitorin, mille alusmüürid on Emajõgi käesolevaks ajaks suures osas ära uhtunud. Jõekaldal on näha tornialust palkparve (joon. 4). Juurdeehitise müüridevaheline ala oli täidetud maakividest ja jõeliivast koosneva 0,6–1,5 m paksuse täitekihiga, milles leidis tellise- ja mõrditükikesi, loomaluid ning kivikeraamiliste nõude kilde. Müüride-vahe-

lisele täitekihile siseruumides ja arvatava hoovi territooriumile oli laotud munakivisillutis.

Linnuse põhjapoolsest müürist eenduv nelinurkne ruum on oluliselt paksemate müüridega kui ülejäänud linnuse põhja- ja läänetiiva müürid. Seetõttu võib oletada, et nelinurkne torn paiknes just siin, mitte aga linnuse lääneküljel, nagu arvas Armin Tuulse.

Linnuse hoovil, põhjapoolsest müürist 4,5 m lõuna pool kulges enam-vähem ida-lääne suunaline mõrdiga seotud kivist. Sellest põhja pool oli veel vähemalt kolme põhja-lõuna suunalise kivirea jäänuseid. Ilmselt on linnuse hoovi põhjaosas paiknenud puithoone. Seda oletust kinnitab ka tõsiasi, et eeldatava puithoone alalt ei leitud kaevamistel munakivisillutist.

Linnuse loodenurgas avatud ruumi (joon. 2: 2, ruum a) munakividest põrandasillutist kattis paari sentimeetri paksune kalaluude ja -soomuste kiht, milles leidis ka loomaluid ja sütt. Nähtavasti on linnuse loodetiivas paiknenud toiduvalmistamisruumid.

Linnust ümbritses kuni 15 m laiune vallikraav. Lääne pool paiknes umbes 60 m pikkune ja laiune eeslinnus (joon. 1: 2), mis oli samuti ümbritsetud kuni 10 m laiuse vallikraaviga. 2001. aasta sügisel kuivenduskraavide rajamise ajal tehtud tehtud tähelepanekud näitasid, et vähemalt eeslinnuse läänepoolse vallikraavi välisküljel oli olnud kindlustatud palkseinaga. Täpsustati ka eeslinnuse vallikraavi piire. Selgus, et linnuse kasutusperioodil on eeslinnusele pääsenud üle eeslinnuse läänepoolse vallikraavi.

Linnuse kasutamise aega dateeritavat leiumaterjali saadi vähe. Esemelidudest väärivad eraldi märkimist linnuse juurdeehitise põhjatiiva täitekihist leitud luust väike täring ja vile. Samas täitekihis esines kilde kiveraamilistest nõudest, mis on toodetud enamasti Siegburgis 15. ja 16. sajandil. Linnuse müüride vahelt leiti veel aknaklaasi kilde ja akende pliiraamide katkendeid ning 1666. aastal Rootsis vermitud 1/6 öörine vaskmünt. Seni pole linnuse alalt saadud ühtegi 15. sajandist varasemat leidu.

Pärast linnuse rajamist tekkis eeslinnusest lääne poole Emajõe põhjakaldale väike asula (joon. 1), millest on tänaseni säilinud külanimi Aleviküla. Asulas paiknes ka väike kabel ning kalmistu (joon. 1: 3), millest on tunnistuseks maapinnale künatud inimluud ja hauapanustest pärit vaskmündid: Rootsi 1/4 öörine 1630. aastatest ja 1/6 öörine 1666. aastast ning Vene denga aastast 1753. Keskaegsest asulast on praegu nähtav rohkesti tahma, põlenud kivide purdu ja savinõukilde sisaldav kultuurikiht (joon. 1: 4). Asula alalt kogutud leidude seas on sinine klaashelmes ja savitiigli katkend. Lisaks on leitud siit nii Saksa päritoluga kiveraamikat, Vene päritolu rohelise glasuuriga hallist savist nõude katkendeid kui lihtkedrakeraamikat (joon. 3: 4-7). Asulast saadud keraamika ja leiud võib dateerida 14.-17. sajandisse.

Varbeki linnuse müürid lammutati ning asemele ehitati 1770. või 1780. aastate algul maakividest ja tellistest müüridega Kantsi kõrts, mis kuulus Kastre mõisale. Ilmselt kõrtsi rajamise ajal on linnuse lääneosa müüride vahele ümber maetud ka vähemalt kahe inimese luud. Nende kolpadel on näha lõõgijäljed. Kõrtsi tegevusega seostub kaevamiste käigus leitud 20 Vene vaskmünti aastatest 1735-1859 ning arvukad 18.-19. sajandi savi- ja klaasnõude killud. Kõrtsi läänetiiva rajamise aegsest täitekihist leiti hulk 18. sajandisse dateeritavaid valgeid maalitud ahjukahleid ja nende katkendeid.