

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
FIELDWORK  
IN ESTONIA**

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**ARHEOLOOGILISED  
VÄLITÖÖD EESTIS**

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## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT LOSSI 15, TARTU**

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Preliminary archaeological investigations in the Lossi 15 courtyard in Tartu (Fig. 1) were conducted due to an annex planned to the Heino Eller Music School. The aim of the investigations was to obtain information for prescribing stipulations by the National Heritage Board and for planning the building engineering.

The grounds under investigation included a courthouse (Lossi 15a), whose location along with the site of the planned building determined the sites for excavation trenches (Fig. 2). All together, approximately an 89 m<sup>2</sup>-sized area was examined (calculated from the ground level).

First an approximately 1 m high surface layer was removed from the excavation site with an excavator. After this, the investigators proceeded with manual excavations until the remains of a wall were reached. The remains were conserved and reburied after documentation. In the western part of the excavated grounds the depth of 2.3 m, in the southern part 3.6 m and in the eastern trench 2 m was reached. Natural soil was not reached in any part of the excavation.

The plot at Lossi 15 is located on the eastern slope of the *Toomemägi* (Cathedral Hill), on the medieval border area of Tartu diocese and town territories. The absolute height of the current ground level in the north-east part of the excavated area is 55.10 m and 52.95 m in the south-east part. The height difference between these two parts of the excavation (approximately 22 m apart from each other) was thus 2.16 m.

### **CULTURAL LAYER AND CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS**

In the western part of the site the cultural layer consisted of construction debris and earthy fill soil as deep as 1–2 m. Deciding from artefact finds, these layers have formed in the second half of the 18th century or later. The layer also contained a foundation made of brick and rubble stone (Fig. 2: 1), which dates to the end of the 18th century or the beginning of the 19th century.

Underneath the top fill soil was a layer of debris consisting of bricks and crumbled mortar. On top of this layer a brick pavement (Fig. 2: 2) was laid, measuring approximately 30 × 15 × 9–10 cm. The pavement dates to the 18th or beginning of the 19th century. Fragments of hollow cast iron



cannon-balls, which the Russian cannon battery used to bomb Tartu during the Great Nordic War (1700–1721) in 1704, were found in the debris layer underneath the pavement.

It was also possible to discern 1.4 m of the building wall that the debris came from in that layer (Figs. 2: 3; 3). Bricks in the dimensions 8–9 × 14–16 × 30–31 cm and

*Fig 1. Location of the Lossi 15 courtyard on the reconstructed plan of medieval Tartu.*

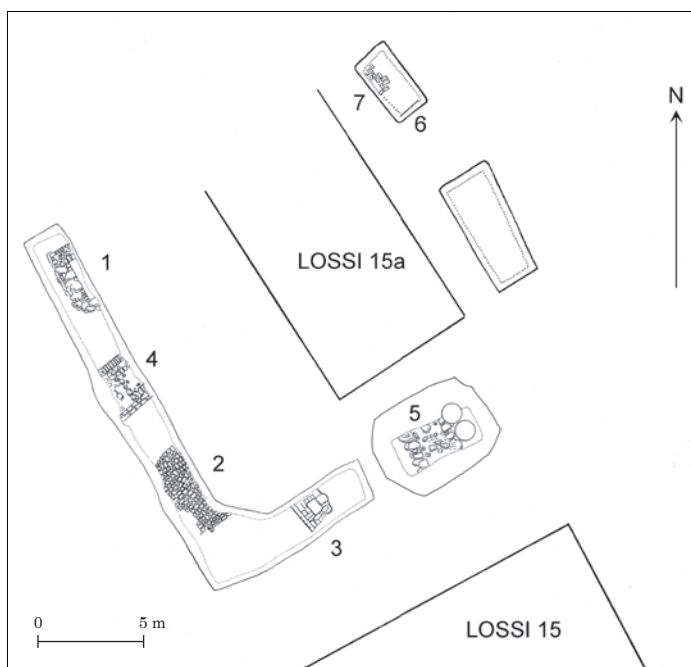
*Jn 1. Lossi 15 hoovi paiknemine keskaegse Tartu plaani rekonstruktsioonil.*

Fig 2. Investigated area.

- 1 – modern foundation
- 2 – modern brick pavement
- 3 – medieval wall with cellar window well
- 4 – remains of a medieval stove
- 5 – stratum of rubble stones and bricks
- 6 – medieval wall
- 7 – brick pavement.

Jn 2. Uuritud ala.

- 1 – uusaegne vundament
- 2 – uusaegne tellissillutis
- 3 – keskaegne müür keldriakna valguskastiga
- 4 – keskaegse ahju jäänus
- 5 – kivilade
- 6 – keskaegne müür
- 7 – tellissillutis.



monk-nun roofing tile sherds had been used in the approximately 1 m thick wall. A 60 cm wide archway was built in the wall. These were probably the cellar window and the window well in front of it. Since the cultural layer consisted of construction rubble on the western side of the wall, we may deduce that the cellar was located here. Layers of soil and sand had formed against the eastern side of the wall. On top of these, at the same height as the top of the window well, a cobblestone pavement extending at least 6 m to the north-east of the wall had been laid. Hence, a paved courtyard or a street was to the east and north-east of the discovered wall during the existence of the building.

In the western part of the excavation, 2.2 m south-west of the brick pavement, a brick construction was found (Figs. 2: 4; 4), which composed of two 31 cm thick archways perpendicular to the trench; the opening underneath the archways was bricked up. The width of the construction along the trench was 2.43 m. The size of the bricks in the construction varied between 30–32 × 14.5 – 16 × 7–10 cm. Since the area between walls was not excavated deeper, supplementary information was not obtained about this construction. It is likely that the remains originated from a stove.

The edge of the building found in the debris layer and the likely remains of a stove were located close together and perpendicular to each other, hence we may assume that they were part of the same building. The house is not marked on the Tartu town plan drawn in 1767 (ЦГБИА



*Fig 3. Debris and remains of the medieval building wall. View from the west, inside of the building.*

*Jn 3. Keskaegse hoone rusu ja müüri jäänus. Vaade läänest, hoone siseküljelt.*



*Fig 4. Presumable remains of a stove. View from the north-west.*

*Jn 4. Oletatav ahjujäänus. Vaade loodest.*

φ. 349, 12, 4665 r.). Thus, it is likely that the building was destroyed in the Great Nordic War in the beginning of the 18th century. It was probably built already in the Middle Ages, which is suggested by the size of the bricks and the artefacts found in the debris layer of the house dating from the Livonian War (1558–1582).



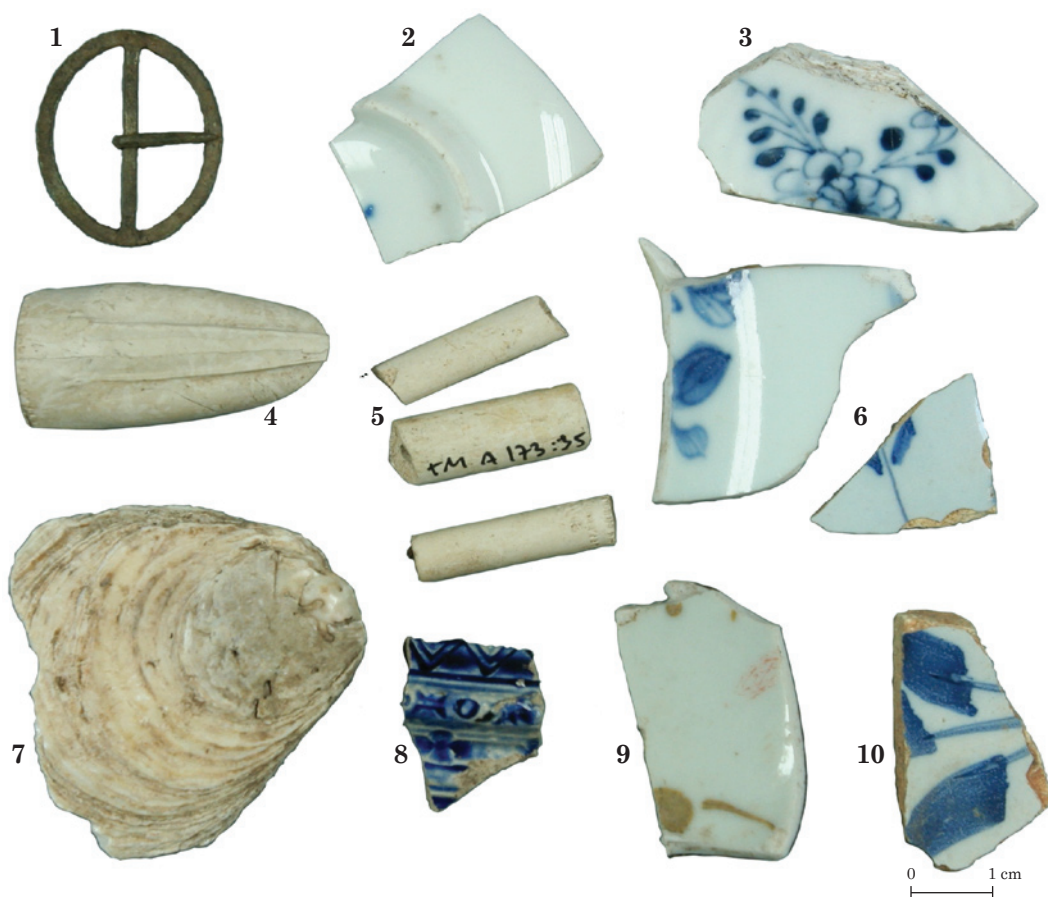


Fig 5. 17th – 18th century artefacts.

Jn 5. 17. – 18. sajandi leide.  
(TM A 173: 31, 59, 43, 32, 46, 35,  
38, 84, 54, 55, 47, 51, 53.)

In the trench on the south side of the building at Lossi 15a, the above mentioned cobblestone pavement was situated 1.4 m below ground level. Underneath the pavement a 0.5 m thick brick-derived layer of debris was found and underneath it there was a thin burnt layer. Underneath the burnt strata, layers of soil and sand filling continued until the very end of the trench. Beneath those (at the depth of 2.85 m) an irregular strata of rubble stones and bricks in the north-west – southwest direction was found (Fig 2: 5). Its purpose and dating remained unclear due to the limited scope of the excavation, we may only assume that it originates from somewhere between the 13th and the 16th centuries.

Two trenches were dug in the eastern part of the investigated area. In the northern trench a remnant of a wall made of large bricks (Fig. 2: 6) and a brick pavement constructed on top of a debris layer (Fig. 2: 7) were found. It is possible that these were remains of a building from the Middle Ages.



Fig 6. Belt of bronze wire.  
Jn 6. Pronkstraadist vöö.  
(TM A 173: 250.)

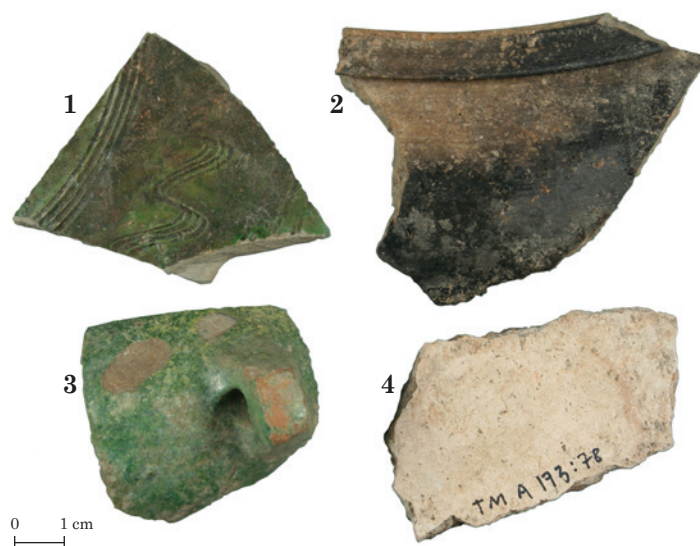


Fig 7. Pottery sherds of Russian origin from the second half of the 16th century or the beginning of the 17th century.

Jn 7. Vene päritolu savinõude kilde 16. sajandi teisest poolest või 17. sajandi algusest.  
(TM A 173: 77, 86, 76, 78.)

### ARTEFACTS

The majority of the finds originate from the 17th–18th centuries (Fig. 5). Numerous sherds of glazed redware, faience and porcelain (Fig. 5: 2, 3, 6, 9, 10), stove pots, brown glazed stove tiles and white clay pipes (Fig. 5: 5) were recovered. Along with these, two Russian copper *dengas* dated to the middle of the 18th century were also found. An interesting find from the early modern period was an almost intact belt made of bronze wire (Fig. 6). Elsewhere in Tartu, only fragments of belts of this kind have been found. Some artefacts of Russian origin such as sherds of green glazed greyware fieldflasks (Fig. 7: 1, 3), a sherd of a simple wheel-thrown white clay vessel (Fig. 7: 4) and an iron arrowhead (Fig. 8) belong to the Livonian War period. Very little evidence of German stoneware characteristic of Old Livonian

Fig. 8. Iron arrowhead of Russian origin.  
Jn 8. Vene päritolu rauast nooleots.  
(TM A 173: 196.)



towns was found. Among these are few sherds from the 14th–16th century Siegburg stoneware and fragments of a so-called Bartmann (Bellarmine) jug, which date from the second half of the 16th century. Medieval simple wheel-thrown pottery was also represented only by few sherds and some of those were situated in the early modern period stratum. Only one pottery sherd can be dated to the 11th century (TM A 173: 364), however this sherd was found in the filling layer from the Middle Ages.

### CONCLUSION

As a result of the investigation, it was determined that the thickness of the cultural layer in the Lossi 15 courtyard was at least 3.6 m. The top layer of this was made up of 1.3–2 m of the 18th–19th century debris and filling layers. Medieval brick building remains appear at the depth of 1.2 m below the ground. Since most of the investigated area was not excavated deeper than the 18th century debris layer, the finds consist mainly of 16th–18th century ceramics. Only a few finds from an earlier period were found.

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ЦГВИА ф. 349, 12, 4665 р. (War History Central Archive in Moscow.) Tartu town plan from the year 1767.



## ARHEOLOOGILISED UURINGUD TARTUS LOSSI 15 KRUNDIL

Arheoloogilised eeluuringud Tartus Lossi 15 hoovis (jn 1) toimusid seoses Heino Elleri nimelise Tartu Muusikakooli juurdeehituse planeerimisega. Uuriti läbi u 89 m<sup>2</sup> suurune ala.

Tehti kindlaks, et kultuurkihi paksus Lossi 15 hoovis on vähemalt 3,6 m. Sellest pealmise 1,3–2 m moodustavad 18.–19. saj rusu- ja täitekihid. Selles kihis asetses tellistest ja maakividest laotud vundament (jn 2: 1), mis pärineb 18. saj lõpust või 19. saj algusest. Pealmise täitepinnase all oli tellistest ja mõrdipurust koosnev rusukiht, mille peale oli 18.–19. saj laotud tellistest sillutis (jn 2: 2). Sillutise alusest kihist leiti õõnsate malmist kahurikuulide kilde. Selliste pommidega pommitas Vene vägi Tartut 1704. a piiramise käigus.

Leiti ka hoone müür, millest rusu pärines (jn 2: 3; 3). Umbes 1 m paksust müüri läbis kaarvõlviga ava, mille idaküljel paiknes tellistest ja maakividest kast. Tegemist on arvatavasti keldri aknaavaga ja selle ees oleva valguskastiga. Müüri idakülje vastu olid ladestunud mullast ja liivast koosnevad kihid. Nende peal, valguskasti ülaserava kõrgusel, on olnud munakivisillutis, mis ulatus müürist vähemalt 6 m kirde poole. Avastatud müürist kirde ja ida pool on seega olnud sillutatud õu või tänav. Kaevandi lääneosas oli oletatav keskaegne ahjujäänus (jn 2: 4; 4). Rusukihist leitud hoone sein ja arvatav ahjujäänus on arvatavasti sama hoone osad. Tartu plaanil aastast 1767 seda hoonet enam kujutatud ei ole. Seega on hoone hävinud tõenäoliselt Põhjasõja ajal 18. saj alguses. Hoone püstitati arvatavasti juba keskajal, mida näitab nii telliste mõõtmed kui ka hoonet

täitva rusukihi seest saadud Vene-Liivi sõja (1558–1582) aegsed leiud.

Lossi 15a hoone lõunaküljel paiknenud kaevandi lõunaosas asus eelpool mainitud munakivisillutis 1,4 m sügavusel maapinnast. Sillutise all oli 0,5 m paksune tellisehitise pärinev rusukiht, mille all omakorda õhuke põlengukiht. Põlengukihi all jätkusid kuni kaevandi põhjani mullast ja liivast koosnevad täitekihid. Nende all (2,85 m sügavusel) avastati loode-kagu-suunaline maakividest ja tellistest ebakorrapärane lade (jn 2: 5), mille otsarve ja dateering jäid kaevandi väikese ulatuse tõttu selgusetuks. Võib vaid väita, et see pärineb 13.–16. sajandist.

Kuna enamusel uuringualast 18. saj rusukihtidest sügavamale ei kaevatud, koosneb kogutud leiutamaterjal valdavalt 16.–18. saj keraamikast (jn 5), sh glasuuritud punaste savinõude, fajanss- ja portselannõude, ahjupottide, pruuni glasuuriga ahjukahlite ja savipiipude katkeist. Nendega koos leiti kaks Vene vaskdengat 18. saj keskpaigast. Huviavaks varauusaegseks leiuks on peaaegu terve pronkstraadist vöö (jn 6). Vene-Liivi sõja perioodist, pärinevad mõned Vene päritolu leiud, nt rohelise glasuuriga hallide välipudelite killud, valgest savist lihtkedrakeraamilise poti kild (jn 7) ja rauast nooleots (jn 8). Vana-Liivimaa linnadele iseloomulikku Saksa päritolu kivistkeraamikast saadi väga vähe, sh mõned killud Siegburgi päritolu 14.–16. saj nõudest ja nn habemikkannu katked, mis pärinevad 16. saj teisest poolest.