



PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE RESCUE EXCAVATION IN ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD AND ITS SURROUNDINGS IN TARTU 2010–2011

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INTRODUCTION

In the course of the renovation work of the former Chemistry Building (Jakobi 2) of the University of Tartu extensive soil removing took place. Earthworks were carried out in connection with thermal insulation of the foundation of the building, installing the surface water drainage system and rain water pipeline as well as replacement of a remote heating pipeline. As the area was in use as the cemetery of St Mary's Church during the Medieval and Early Modern period, rescue excavation was ordained. The investigated area covered approximately 700 m², of which the cemetery formed approximately 500 m² (Figs 1–2). In addition a section of the churchyard wall as well as the eastern wall of the building of

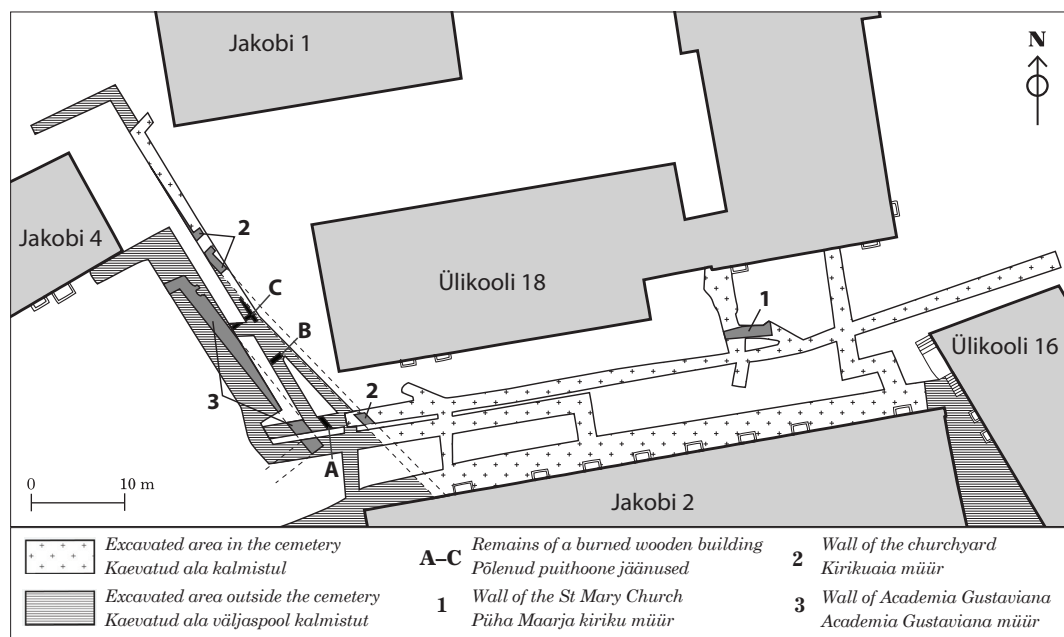


Fig. 1. Excavated areas in the St Mary's cemetery and its western side.

Jn 1. Püha Maarja kalmistul ja selle läänepoolsele kaevatud alale.

Drawing / Joonis: Raido Roog

Academia Gustaviana (*Academia Dorpatensis*), the 17th century predecessor of the University of Tartu, were opened and documented.

The general supervisor of the archaeological research during the renovation of the building of Jakobi 2 was Andres Tvauri, who conducted investigations in the courtyard by the southern side of the building (Tvauri 2011) and who was granted permission by the National Heritage Board to conduct archaeological research. The excavation at the St Mary's cemetery and its nearest surroundings was supervised by Martin Malve and Raido Roog from 8 August 2010 to 31 January 2011. Investigations continued from 12 to 30 April 2011 and were led by Martin Malve and Andres Tvauri. The dominant part of the excavation was carried out in winter and early spring with rain and frost, which required using tents with heat convectors and searchlights.

These recent investigations were the most extensive cemetery excavations in Tartu after the rescue work of the 18th–19th century orthodox cemetery of St Anthony on Hill Lillemägi in 1987 which yielded altogether 468 burials (Metsallik 1995, 18; Aguraiuja 2008, 8) and the research of St John's Church in the 1980s and at the beginning of the 1990s (Metsallik 1995, 22–23).

Burials have been found from the St Mary's cemetery during archaeological rescue excavations already earlier. In 1985 while installing a remote heating pipeline approximately 30 skeletons were discovered and excavated under the supervision of Lea Täheväli (Metsallik 1995, 18; Täheväli & Metsallik 1985). In 1995 human bones were found in the course of an archaeological investigation carried out in connection with buttressing the foundation of the main building of the University of Tartu. The remains of at least 56 individuals could be identified (Aus 1995). In 2007, during the installation of a culvert in the courtyard of the University main building, remains of the wall of the northern part of St Mary's Church and abundant mixed human bones were unearthed (Tvauri 2008).

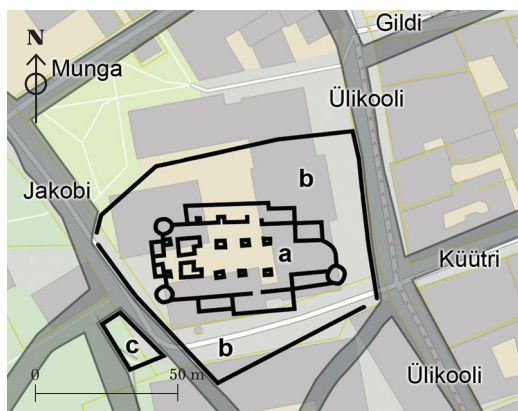


Fig. 2. The location of the St Mary's Church (a), the cemetery (b) and the first building of Academia Gustaviana (c).

Jn 2. Püha Maarja kiriku (a), kalmistu (b) ja Academia Gustaviana esimese hoone (c) asukoht.
Drawing / Joonis: Raido Roog

ST MARY'S CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD

The remains of St Mary's Church

St Mary's Church, beside St John's Church, was one of the two parochial churches in medieval Tartu (Alttoa 2009, 7). The exact time of building St Mary's Church is not known. For the first time St Mary's Church has been mentioned in written sources in 1319 (Alttoa 2009, 10). Since 1585 the church was in the possession of the Jesuit Order (Helk 2003, 82).

After the Swedish army conquered Tartu in 1625 it was transmuted to the church of the Swedish garrison and in 1632 it became the church of the newly established University, *Academia Gustaviana*. The extent of damage to the church

in the Great Northern War (1700–1721) is not exactly clear. In 1712 sermons were still held there, but in 1715 the congregation was forced to move to another church because of the risk of collapsing. In 1749 the church was intended to be restored, but the plan never materialized and in 1802, in connection with erecting the main building of the re-established University of Tartu, the church ruins were dismantled (Altoa 2009, 11–12).

The recent excavation investigated the area next to the southern side of the dismantled church (Fig. 2). One of the most important discoveries at the site of the cemetery was the south-eastern corner of the southern row of chapels of St Mary's Church. In addition to bricks and big boulders a half of a millstone was used as building material. Since the wall had been founded directly above the burials and thin, 7 cm thick, bricks had been used for building (Fig. 3), it can be assumed that the unearthed wall section derives from an early modern outhouse.

The western wall of the churchyard

In the course of work the western wall of the cemetery of St Mary's Church was unearthed as well (Fig. 4). It was a wall laid of boulders and bricks (30–31 × 14–15 × 9.5–10 cm), which had preserved under the Jakobi street in places up to the height of 60 cm and approximately as 95 cm wide sections. A 1.7 m wide pavement of bricks was unearthed by the inner side of the churchyard. A possible gate opening with the width of 2.25 m was also discovered in the churchyard. It seems that the wall of the churchyard has been founded after some more extensive construction work in the church. Namely, a 10–30 cm thick levelling layer, consisting of unused bricks, profile bricks and pieces of roof tiles, was situated directly under the wall of the churchyard.



Fig. 3. The southern wall of the chapels of the St Mary's Church and burial No. 77 under it.

Jn 3. Püha Maarja kiriku kabelitreea lõunamüür ja selle all asunud matus nr 77.

Photo / Foto: Kristel Külljastinen



Fig. 4. The churchyard wall (on the right) and a brick pavement next to it.

Jn 4. Kirikaia läänemüür (paremal) ja selle kõrval surnuaiaas asunud tellistest sillutis.

Photo / Foto: Kristel Külljastinen

BURIALS

Since the excavation took place on the southern side of the church, which used to be one of the most preferred burial areas in the churchyard during the Middle Ages (Valk 2001, 19), the burial density was high and the find material contained many mixed bones and skeletons that had been destroyed by secondary burials. Approximately 736 burials were unearthed and a considerable amount of mixed human bones were collected in front of the Jakobi 2 building.

According to the grave goods found with the burials the cemetery has been used from the second half of the 13th century to at least the beginning of the 18th century. In the case of St Mary's cemetery it can be assumed that similarly to Tartu Cathedral,

the churchyard was in active use right after the selection and consecration of the plot for the church (Valk 1995, 75).

The churchyard contained predominantly inhumations, but a single cremation (burial No. 146) was discovered as well. This had been buried in a 20 × 45 cm big plank coffin fixed together with nails. The dead had mostly been buried in log and plank coffins, but many burials had been buried without a coffin, whereas it is possible that a shroud was used. A single burial was exceptionally surrounded by a grave boundary laid of roof tiles and bricks (Fig. 5). Abundant coffin nails were gathered around the burials and samples for identification of the wood species were taken from all coffins. In addition to wood and textile even preserved human hair were found.

The majority of burials were single graves. Multiple burials were unearthed as well: an adult was buried together with a child and 2–3 children buried together in a single grave. In two cases there were adults on top of each other in the same grave. In addition, a mass grave was found where 8 children and juveniles were buried together. The dead had been placed into the graves in extended supine position with their heads directed towards west. However, some burials in prone position or with their heads directed to the opposite direction were also discovered.

Finds from burials

Abundant finds were gathered from the burials as grave-goods or as details from clothing. The most numerous find group was coins, mostly Swedish silver and copper öres from the 17th century and shillings of the Free Town of Riga from the second half of the 16th century (Fig. 6). A hanseatic brooch (see Valk 1999) from the 13th–14th century (Fig. 7: 1), round brooches from the 15th–17th century (Fig. 7: 2) and heart-shaped (Fig. 7: 3) and small brooches from the 17th–18th century (Fig. 7: 4) were found (for similar finds from churchyards, see Valk 2004, 431–434). Some deceased were buried with flat ornamented bracelets



Fig. 5. Grave border from roof tiles and bricks around burial No. 491.

Jn 5. Katusekivideest ja tellistest tehtud hauapiir matuse nr 491 ümber.

Photo / Foto: Kristel Külljastinen



Fig. 6. Coins from the St Mary's cemetery. 1 – penny of the Bishopric of Dorpat, Johannes II Bertkow (1473–1485), 2 – shilling of the Free Town of Riga (1577), 3 – shilling of the Free Town of Riga (157?), 4 – shilling of the Free Town of Riga (1576), 5 – shilling of the Free Town of Riga (1577), 6 – ½ öre, Johan III (1578), 7 – 1/6 öre, Karl XI (1666), 8 – 1/6 öre, Karl XI (1682), 9 – 1 öre, Karl XI (1671), 10 – ½ öre, Gustav II Adolf (1624).

Jn 6. Püha Maarja kalmistult leitud mündid. 1 – Tartu piiskopkonna penn, Johannes II Bertkow (1473–1485), 2 – Riia vabalinna killing (1577), 3 – Riia vabalinna killing (157?), 4 – Riia vabalinna killing (1576), 5 – Riia vabalinna killing (1577), 6 – ½ öör, Johan III (1578), 7 – 1/6 öör, Karl XI (1666), 8 – 1/6 öör, Karl XI (1682), 9 – 1 öör, Karl XI (1671), 10 – ½ öör, Gustav II Adolf (1624).

Photo / Foto: Raido Roog



Fig. 7. Brooches from the St Mary's cemetery. 1 – hanseatic brooch, 2 – round brooch, 3 – heart-shaped brooch with a crown, 4 – small brooch.

Jn 7. Püha Maarja kalmistult leitud sõled. 1 – hansasõlg, 2 – rõngassõlg, 3 – krooniga südasõlg, 4 – vitssõlg.

Photo / Foto: Raido Roog



Fig. 8. Three flat ornamented bracelets dating from the 13th–15th century found from burial No. 100.

Jn 8. Matus nr 100 juurest leitud kolm 13.–15. sajandist pärinevat lamedat ornamenteeritud käevõru.

Photo / Foto: Raido Roog



Fig. 9. Rings from the St Mary's cemetery. 1 – fragment of a ring found from the prehistoric layer, 2–3 – closed rings, 4–7 – signet rings, 8 – a ring decorated with a 'stone', 9 – ring.

Jn 9. Püha Maarja kalmistult leitud sõrmused. 1 – muinaskihist leitud sõrmuse katke, 2–3 – lihtne vitssõrmus, 4–7 – pitsatsõrmus, 8 – kiviga sõrmus, 9 – sõrmus.

Photo / Foto: Raido Roog



Fig. 10. Different artefacts from the St Mary's cemetery. 1 – silver pendant, 2 – orthodox cross-pendant, 3 – Jew's harp, 4 – lead bullet.

Jn 10. Püha Maarja kalmistult leitud esemed. 1 – hõberipats, 2 – õigeusu kaelarist, 3 – parmupill, 4 – pliikuul.

Photo / Foto: Raido Roog



Fig. 11. Beads from the St Mary's cemetery.
 Jn 11. Püha Maarja kalmistult leitud helmed.
 Photo / Foto: Raido Roog

(Fig. 8), dated to the 13th–15th century (Ligi & Valk 1993, 193). Simple closed rings (Fig. 9: 2–3) (Valk 2004, 435) as well as signet rings with various impressions (Fig. 9: 4–7) from the second half of the 16th century and the beginning of the 17th century were collected (Valk 1991, 190–192). Additionally, other ring types (Fig. 9: 8–9) were found as well. Two burials included pendants, one of them a silver pendant (Fig. 10: 1) and the other an orthodox cross-pendant (Fig. 10: 2), which originates from the 18th century (Valk 2004, 439). From one burial a Jew's harp was found (Fig. 10: 3). One adult male had a lead bullet in his chest (Fig. 10: 4). Necklaces (Fig. 11) which consisted of glass beads and cowry shells were found from the neck area of several skeletons. In some cases knives were placed into the graves. Among the details from the clothing, pins and loops for attaching clothing, belt buckles and buttons from soldier's greatcoat were gathered (Fig. 12). Three burials, around which patterns of bronze spirals were detected, were taken up as monoliths and are currently being cleaned in the archaeological conservation laboratory of the University of Tartu.

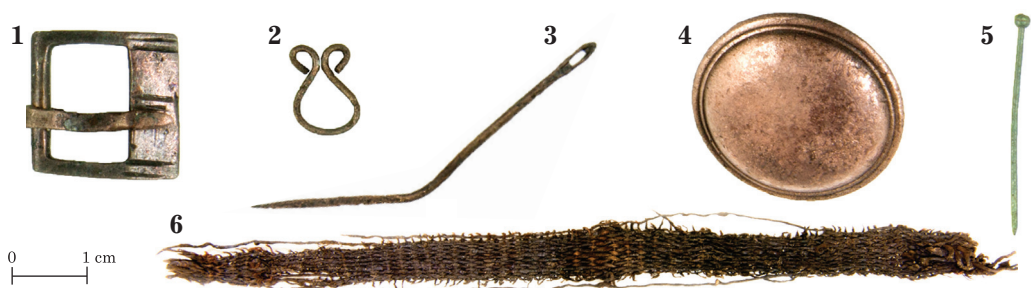


Fig. 12. Details of clothing from the St Mary's cemetery. 1 – belt buckle, 2 – loop for attaching clothing, 3 – sewing needle, 4 – button of greatcoat, 5 – headpin, 6 – textile fragment.

Jn 12. Püha Maarja kalmistult leitud riietusega seotud leiud. 1 – vööpannal, 2 – rõivakinnitusaas, 3 – õmblusnõel, 4 – sineli nõõp, 5 – nõõpnõel, 6 – tekstiili katke.

Photo / Foto: Raido Roog

Skeletons

The found skeletons are preserved in the depository of bones of the Department of Archaeology of the University of Tartu. The mixed human bones are analyzed and the minimal number of destroyed burials will be determined. More interesting pathological cases are sorted out and will be preserved for future studies. The rest of the mixed bones were reburied (Tvauri 2012).

During the Middle Ages the St Mary's cemetery was according to burial customs and grave goods a common cemetery for a town congregation, where men and women, from unborn children up to aged persons, were buried. As mentioned above, during the Early Modern period, St Mary's Church used to serve as a Jesuit missionary church, a church for the Swedish garrison and the church of the University of Tartu. Thus, it might be assumed that the origin and social composition of the buried individuals changed in time. This, however, is a question to be discussed in future studies.

The skeletons were very well preserved. According to the results of the preliminary investigation a considerable amount of different pathologies are revealed in the osteological material. Diseases connected with the aging of the skeleton such as osteoarthritis on limb joints and spinal column (spondyloarthritis, spondylosis and osteochondrosis), excessive

growth of bone on skeleton (e.g. Forestier's disease), infectious diseases (e. g. syphilis, tuberculosis) and metabolic diseases, which occurred mostly on children skeletons (e. g. rickets, scurvy) were identified. In some cases injuries which had already healed or were in the process of healing (bone fractures of mostly ribs and limb bones), luxations (e. g. shoulder luxations) and wounds were present; a skull with a fatal injury was found among the mixed human bones (Fig. 13). In addition tumours (mostly benign tumours on skull, e. g. button osteomas), several disorders of bone growth and development (e.g. on spinal column: bifid sacrum, the partial or complete joining of the fifth lumbar vertebra with the sacrum) and dental diseases (caries, teeth lost *ante mortem*, alveolar reduction, tartar, abscesses in jaw bone and defects of the development of tooth enamel) occurred.



Fig. 13. Male cranium with a fatal cut wound on the right parietal bone.

Jn 13. Surmav löikehaav mehe kolju paremal kiiruluul.
Photo / Foto: Raido Roog

THE BUILDING OF THE JESUIT SCHOOL AND ACADEMIA GUSTAVIANA

During the installation of a remote heating pipeline on the western side of the cemetery the inner side of a brick building (Figs 1, 14) was unearthed almost in its total length of approximately 24 m. The same wall was opened from both sides in the trench for the rainwater pipeline as well. The wall with a thickness of 1.5 m and a preserved height of 1 m had been erected on the footing of logs. The oldest written records of the described building originate from the beginning of the Polish times, from 1585, when it was presented to the Jesuit order together with St Mary's Church. Before that the building had been in the possession of the Catholic town priest (Helk 2003, 70). The Jesuit gymnasium was situated in this building until 1625 when Tartu was conquered by the Swedish troops (Piirimäe 1982, 27). In 1630 the gymnasium was reopened in the building, which, in 1632 was transformed into a university (*Academia Dorpatensis*, later *Academia Gustaviana*). The building was already in ruins by 1646 and by 1675 these were demolished as well (Karling 1934, 30–36).

The 9–11 cm thick bricks, which had been used as building material for the



Fig. 14. Eastern wall of Academia Gustaviana.

Jn 14. Academia Gustaviana idamüür.
Photo / Foto: Kristel Külljastinen

walls, suggest that the house has been erected in the Middle Ages. Considering that the depression for the wall had been dug only to the depth of 40–50 cm below the present street level and through the approximately 50 cm thick strata of street pavements, it seems likely that the building was erected only in the first half of the 16th century. The sherds of glazed red earthenware¹ gathered from the filler of the depression dug during the building of the wall can also be dated to the 16th century.

The inside of the building was entirely filled with debris, which yielded numerous 17th century finds. The more noteworthy of these are the stove tiles with the portrait of the Swedish king Gustav II Adolf, the sherds of glass beakers and glazed red earthenware as well as red slipware, small clay marbles and fragments of clay pipes.

Due to the discovered walls, the location of St Mary's Church, the wall of the churchyard and the building of *Academia Gustaviana* could be specified. It was ascertained that these are situated approximately 5 m to the east compared to the most exact reconstructed plan of medieval Tartu² compiled by geodesist Uno Hermann.

THE AREA OF GREAT ST MARY'S STREET

Until the beginning of the 19th century, a narrow street ran between the western wall of the St Mary's churchyard and the school building (Fig. 2). During the current investigation approximately 3–4.5 m was measured for the width of the street. The given street can be found on all the plans of Tartu where the 17th–18th century street network has been depicted. The medieval name of the street is not known, for the first time it is mentioned in written sources in 1616 either under the name Street Behind the School (Polish *Ulica Zaszkołna*) or Street Beside the School (Polish *Ulica Przeciwku szkoły*) (RGADA 389-578-1.4-5). In 1734 the street is mentioned in written sources as the Great St Mary's Street (Ger. *Grosse-Marienstrasse*) (Raid 1995, 134).

Up to the depth of approximately 80 cm from the present street level the soil consisted of different layers of sand and gravel – several layers of filling and paving from different periods. The topmost of these, up to the depth of 45 cm, are apparently the layers connected with the present Jakobi street. The earlier pavements have been removed many times, the soil level has been raised and the stones re-laid. The proof for these actions can be seen in the sand layers where the traces of cobbles were still visible. The earlier pavement of cobbles had been preserved only in the paving level in the depth of 40–50 cm.

Before founding the Great St Mary's Street the observed area had been housed with buildings. Namely, the remains of at least three horizontal log buildings were found from the area of the rainwater trench (Fig. 1). The two eastern buildings had been destroyed in fire. Since a very narrow area was investigated archaeologically,



Fig. 15. Two iron arrowheads probably originating from the 9th–14th century Russia.

Jn 15. Kaks arvatavast vene päritoluga nooleotsa 9.–14. sajandist.

(TM A 188: 1861, 1860.)

Photo / Foto: Raido Roog

¹ TM A 188: 1943–1945.

² The calque of the plan is in the archives of OÜ Arc Projekt in Tartu.

the measurements of the mentioned buildings could not be ascertained. The remains of the beams were surrounded by a layer of burnt clay, which allows suggesting that the houses had clay floors.

The remains of wooden buildings were situated below the layers of street paving in the dark grey stratum with abundant sherds of stoneware and simple wheel-thrown pottery typical of the 13th century. The layer also yielded two iron arrowheads (Fig. 15), which were typical on the Russian territory in the 9th–14th century (Medvedev 1966, 64, table 30: 40, type 44, subtype 2). It is known from written sources that the Novgorodians arranged a war expedition to Tartu in 1262 and the town was burnt down (see Tarvel 1980, 27–28). It is possible that the found wooden buildings were destroyed namely in the course of the mentioned attack and the collected arrowheads are proof of this event.

PREHISTORIC LAYER

On the whole investigated territory a 10–50 cm thick dark grey deposit laid on top of natural sand or calcareous travestine. This could be followed when the natural soil was reached and the deeper strata were not destroyed by the later burial or construction activities. The observed layer included abundant shreds of Slavic-type pottery from the first half and the mid-11th century. The stratum is dated to 1030–1061 AD and originates from the settlement adjacent to the fort of Yuryev of the Grand Prince of Kiev. In addition to the pottery sherds an iron awl, a bronze sleigh-bell and a fragment of a ring (Fig. 9: 1) were found.

The prehistoric layer studied on the southern side of the building of Jakobi 2 contained abundant 9th–10th century Rõuge-type hand-made pottery sherds (Tvauri 2011, 180). A layer that would contain the same kind of pottery was absent on the northern side of the building, which allows to conclude that the settlement adjacent to the Tartu hill fort did not reach there.

SUMMARY

The excavation of St Mary's cemetery was one of the most extensive investigations of Tartu cemeteries. In the course of the fieldwork 736 burials and abundant commingled human bones were found. Since the southern part of the cemetery was the most preferred burial area in the churchyard, it was characterized by a considerable burial density. The churchyard yielded a remarkable number of finds connected with burials: grave-goods, accessories of clothing and wood from the coffins. According to the goods from the burials the cemetery has been used from the second half of the 13th century to at least the beginning of the 18th century. The generous osteological material from the churchyard offers abundant information on the medieval and early modern town dwellers.

The south-eastern corner of the southern row of chapels of St Mary's Church and the western wall of the churchyard together with the possible gate opening were unearthed. In addition, parts of buildings surrounding the church were discovered. For instance, the northern wall of *Academia Gustaviana*, the initial building of the University, was opened in its total length.

In the investigated area the natural soil level is covered by a stratum that originates from the settlement adjacent to the fort of Yuryev belonging to the Grand Princes of Kiev that existed in Tartu from 1030 to 1061. No layers or finds pre-dated

this deposit, which demonstrates that prior to the conquest of 1030 the settlement at the foot of the prehistoric hill fort of Tartu did not reach further north from the Jakobi 2 building.

The amount of material gathered in the course of the rescue excavation is remarkable. The current article only offers a preliminary overview of the find. The cemetery of St Mary and its surrounding definitely deserve a separate and a more thorough treatment.

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PÄÄSTEKAEVAMISED TARTU PÜHA MAARJA KALMISTUL JA SELLE ÜMBRUSES 2010.–2011. AASTAL

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Tartu Ülikooli endise keemia hoone (Jakobi 2) renoveerimise käigus toimusid kesk- ja varauusaegse Püha Maarja kiriku kalmistu alal ulatuslikud uuringud. Arheoloogiliselt uuriti u 700 m², millest kalmistu moodustas u 500 m² (jn 1 ja 2). Lisaks mõõdistati kirikuaia müür ning Tartu Ülikooli eelkäija, 17. saj tegutsenud *Academia Dorpatensis*e hoone idapoolne sein. Kuna kaevamised toimusid kiriku lõunaküljel, mis oli keskajal üks eelistatuim matmiskoht kirikaias, oli matmistihedus suur. Kokku avati Jakobi 2 hoone esisel alal u 736 matust.

Tartu Püha Maarja kiriku täpne rajamisaeg pole teada. Kirikut on esmakordselt mainitud 1319. a. 1585–1625 oli kirik jesuiitide ordu käes; pärast Tartu vallutamist Rootsi vägede poolt muudeti kirik garnisoni pühakojaks ja 1632. a ülikooli kirikuks. Pole teada, kui palju kannatas kirik Põhjasõjas. 1712 toimusid kirikus veel jumalateenistused, kuid 1715 kolis kogudus varisemisohu tõttu. 1749. a plaaniti kirikut tulemusteta taastada. Seoses taasasutatud Tartu Ülikooli peahoone ehitusega 1802. a kirikuvaremed lammutati.

Üheks olulisemaks avastuseks kalmistu alal oli kiriku lõunapoolse kabeliterea kagunurk. Kuna müür oli ehitatud otse matuste peale ja selles oli muuhulgas kasutatud ka õhukesi 7 cm paksuseid telliseid, võib oletada, et avatud müürikatke pärineb varauusaegsest juurdeehitusest (jn 3).

Töödega paljandus ka Püha Maarja kalmistu läänemüür (jn 4). Tegemist oli maakividest ja tellistest (30–31 × 14–15 × 9,5–10 cm) laotud müüriga, mis oli Jakobi tänava all säilinud kohati kuni 60 cm kõrguse ja u 95 cm paksusena. Aia siseküljel oli 1,7 m laiune tellistest sillutis. Kirikaias avastati ka arvatav värava-koht. Näib, et kirikuaia müür on rajatud pärast mingit suuremat kirikus toimunud ehitustööd. Nimelt paikneb otse kirikuaia müüri all umbes 10–30 cm paksune tasanduskiht, mis koosneb kasutamata telliste, profiiltelliste ja katusekivide tükkidest.

Matusepanuste alusel on kalmistut kasutatud 13. saj teisest poolest kuni 18. saj alguseni. Võib oletada, et sarnaselt Tartu Toomkirikule on Maarja kirikuaeda aktiivselt kasutatud kohe pärast kiriku krundi välja- valimist ja pühitsemist.

Kirikaias olid valdavalt laibamatused, kuid avastati ka üks 20 × 45 cm suuruses laudkirstus maetud põletusmatus (matus nr 146). Surnud olid maetud enamasti laud- ja pakk-kirstudesse, kuid oli palju matuseid, mis olid sängitatud ilma kirstuta – võimalik, et surilinas. Erandlikult oli ühe matuse ümber katusekividest ja tellistest laotud hauapiire (jn 5). Matuste juurest leiti ka hulgaliselt kirstunaelu. Lisaks puidule leiti tekstiili ja säilinud oli isegi juukseid.

Enamik matuseid olid üksikhaud, kuid oli ka mitmikmatuseid, kus täiskasvanu oli maetud koos lapsega või oli 2–3 last samas hauas. Kahel juhul oli ühes hauas kolm täiskasvanut vahetult üksteise peal. Leiti ka üks massihaud, kuhu oli asetatud 8 last ja noorukit. Surnud olid maetud selili-siruli asendis peaga lääne suunas. Kuid esines ka üksikuid vastassuunalisi ja kõhuli maetud surnuid.

Arvukalt avastati matusepanuseid ja riietusest pärinevaid leide. Suurima leiugrupi moodustasid mündid, peamiselt Rootsi 17. saj hõbe- ja vasköörid ja Riia vabalinna 16. saj II poole killingid (jn 6). Leiti sõlgi (jn 7), käevõrusid (jn 8), sõrmuseid (jn 9) ja ripatsehteid (jn 10). Kaasa oli pandud ka nuge ja ühel juhul parmu-pill (jn 10: 3). Ühe täiskasvanud mehe rinnakorvist avastati ka pliikuul (jn 10: 4). Leiti ka klaashelmestest ja kauriteokarpidest kaelakeesid (jn 11). Riietuse detailidest leiti nõõpnõelu, aasasid, vööpandlaid ja sõdurisinelite nõõpe jm (jn 12). Kolm matust, mille ümber täheldati pronksspiraalidest mustreid, võeti üles monoliitidena ja puhastatakse lahti labori tingimustes.

Keskajal oli Maarja kalmistu tavaline linnakalmistu, kuhu maeti mehi ja naisi sündimata lastest rauka-deni. Varauusajal tegutses Maarja kirik jesuiitide misjonikirikuna, hiljem Rootsi garnisoni ja Tartu Ülikooli kirikuna, mistõttu võib oletada, et maetute päritolu ja sotsiaalne koosseis muutus ajas.

Luustike säilivus oli väga hea. Esialgseil andmeil esineb luudel märkimisväärt hulk patoloogiaid: skeleti vananemisega kaasnevaid haigusi (osteoartroos jäsemeliigestel ning selgrool), skeleti liigluustumist, nakkushaigusi, metaboolseid haiguseid lastel, paranemisjärgus ja paranenud traumasid, nihestusi, haavu, kasvajaid, mitmeid luu kasvu- ja arenguhäireid ja hambahaigusi. Segatud inimluude seas oli ka fataalse vigastusega kolju (jn 13).

Kalmistu lääneküljel avati peaaegu terves ulatuses u 24 m tellishoone külg (jn 14). Müür paksusega 1,5 m ja säilinud kõrgusega keskmiselt 1 m, oli see rajatud palkidest alusele. Vanimad kirjalikud teated hoonest pärinevad Poola aja algusest, aastast 1585, mil hoone kingiti koos Maarja kirikuga jesuiitide ordule. Enne seda oli ehitis olnud katoliku linnapreestri valduses. Hoones tegutses 1585–1625 jesuiitide gümnaasium.

1630. a taasavati samas gümnaasium, mis 1632 muudeti ülikooliks. 1646 oli maja juba varemetes ja 1675. a olid needki lammutatud.

Müürimaterjaliks kasutatud 9–11 cm paksuste telliste põhjal võib oletada, et maja rajati keskajal. Arvestades, et müüri sissekaeve oli kõigest 40–50 cm allpool tänapäevast tänavapinda ja läbi u 50 cm paksuse tänavasillutiste kihistuste, näib tõenäoline, et hoone ehitati alles 16. saj esimesel poolel. Ka müüri rajamisel tehtud sissekaeve täitepinnasest saadud punase glasuurkeraamika killud kuuluvad 16. sajandisse.

Hoone sisemust täitis kogu ulatuses rusukiht, millest saadi 17. saj leide. Märkimist väärivad Rootsi kuningas Gustav II Adolphi portreega ahjukahlid, klaaspeekrite ja angoobmaalingutega punase glasuurkeraamika killud, savist mängukuulikesed ning savipiipude katked.

Tänu leitud müüridele õnnestus täpsustada Maarja kiriku, kirikuaia müüri ja *Academia Gustaviana* hoone asukoht. Selgus, et need paiknevad umbes 5 m ida pool võrreldes geodeet Uno Hermannini poolt koostatud keskaegse Tartu rekonstruktsioonplaani esitatuga.

Maarja kirikaia läänemüüri ja koolihoone vahel paiknes kuni 19. saj alguseni kitsas tänav (jn 2), mille laiuseks mõõdeti u 3–4,5 m. Tänav leiab kõigil Tartu 17.–18. saj tänavavõrgustikuga plaanidel. Tänav keskaegne nimetus pole teada, esimest korda mainitakse seda kirjalikes allikates 1616. a. kas kooli taguse tänavana (*Ulica Zaszkolna*) või tänavana kooli vastas (*Ulica Przeciwnu szkoły*). 1734. a mainitakse seda Suur-Maarja tänav (*Grosse-Marienstrasse*) nime all.

Tänapäevasest tänavapinnast kuni u 80 cm sügavuseni koosnes pinnas erinevatest liiva- ja kruusakihtidest, mille näol oli tegemist eriaegsete tänav täite- ja sillutisekihtidega. Neist pealmised, umbes 45 cm sügavuseni, on arvatavasti praeguse Jakobi tänavaga seotud kihid. Varasemaid sillutisi on korduvalt üles võetud, pinnast tõstetud ja kivid uuesti laotud. Varasemat munakividest sillutist oli säilinud vaid 40–50 cm sügavusel paiknenud sillutisenivoos.

Enne Suur-Maarja tänav rajamist oli vaadeldav ala hoonestatud. Nimelt õnnestus leida vähemalt kolme ristpalkhoone jäänused (jn 1), millest kaks idapoolsemat olid hävinud tulekahjus. Kuna arheoloogiliselt uuriti läbi kitsas ala, ei õnnestunud mainitud hoonete mõõtmeid välja selgitada. Palgijäänuseid ümbritses põlenud savi kiht, millest võib oletada, et hoonetel olid savist põrandad.

Puithoonete jäänused paiknesid tänavasillutisekihtidest allpool tumehallis kihis, kus leidis rohkesti 13. saj kivi- ja lihtkedrakeraamiliste nõude kilde. Kihist saadi ka kaks rauast nooleotsa (jn 15), mis olid tüüpilised Vene aladel 9.–14. saj. Kirjalikest allikatest on teada, et novgorodlased korraldasid 1262. a Tartusse sõjaretke, mille käigus põletati linn maha. Nooleotste põhjal on võimalik, et vahest hävisid leitud puithooned just selles sündmuses.

Kohtades, kus kaevati loodusliku pinnaseni ja sügavamad kihistused olid hilisemast matmis- või ehitustegevusest lõhkumata, tuvastati looduslikul liival või allikalubjal 10–50 cm paksune tumehall ladestus. See kiht sisaldas rohkesti 11. saj esimese poole ja keskpaiga slaavipäraste savinõude kilde. Ladestus pärineb ajavahemikus 1030–1061 Kiievi suurvürsti Jurjevi linnuse kõrval asunud asulast. Jakobi 2 hoone lõunaküljel läbi uuritud muinaskiht sisaldas rohkesti 9.–10. saj Rõuge-tüüpi käsikeraamika kilde, kuid hoone põhjaküljel sellist keraamikat sisaldavat kihti ei leitud. Sellest võib järeldada, et Tartu linnuse juures olnud asula sinna ei ulatunud.

Päästekaevamiste käigus kogutud materjali hulk on väga suur. Käesolevas artiklis on antud vaid esialgne ülevaade leitud ning kindlasti vajaks Püha Maarja kalmistu ja seda ümbritsev ala eraldi põhjalikumat käsitlust.