



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES IN THE CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD OF PAIDE

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### INTRODUCTION

As a continuation of the fieldwork of 2007–2008 (see Kadakas *et al.* 2008, 202–204; Kadakas 2009, 169–172; 2011), finally the last part of restoration works, which involved archaeology, was undertaken in May 2013. The ground around the church was reshaped, intended to conduct rainwater away from the building. During the fieldwork of 2007–2008 it appeared that the present church has indeed been built in the second half of the 18th century on top of the foundations of the medieval church, as claimed by August Wilhelm Hupel, a local Baltic German publicist (Hupel 1774, 370). In 2007–2008 the extent and form of the medieval church remained rather unclear or the data was even contradictory. The fieldwork of 2013 offered a good possibility to get vital data to reconstruct the general ground plan of the medieval church, as well as to specify the age and function of most of the structures discovered in 2007 and 2008.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE CHURCH

Paide, a small town with medieval origin right in the middle of Estonia, has been out of focus of urban archaeologists. The castle ruin has been excavated and studied a lot during the 1980s (Alttoa *et al.* 1988, 393–394), but no archaeological work has been done in the medieval town area, except some small scale monitoring without clear results. Nothing of the medieval town except the castle ruin now stands above ground and the town's medieval archive has not been preserved. The medieval town Paide (*Weissenstein* in German, *Wittensteen* in Low German of the medieval documents) evolved on the border of the medieval county Järvamaa (*Jerwen*) near the Paide Castle, which was founded by the Livonian branch of the Teutonic Order *ca.* 1265 (Johansen 1938, 202; Tuulse 1942, 82). The town got its privileges already in 1291, but was completely erased during the Russian-Livonian War (1558–1583) and the Polish-Swedish War (1600–1611). The town lost its rights thereafter until restored only under the Russian rule in 1783 (Kaljundi 1997, 69).

According to Hupel, while clearing the site for the new town church during the late 1760s, the remains of the medieval town church, probably the only church of the town's congregation, were first discovered. Considering the circumstances, the old medieval church had been in ruin probably from the Russian-Livonian War. Hupel has made special mention of the pillar foundations (Hupel 1774, 370), although not defining their form. The building history of the present church has been presented by a local amateur historian Jaak Eelnurme, although not referring to any records (Eelnurme



Fig. 1. View of the present church from north-east.  
 Jn 1. Vaade praegusele kirikuhoonele kirdest.  
 Photo / Foto: Villu Kadakas

1936, 11–12). According to Eelnurme, the church was completed in 1786. It consisted of a long quadrangular nave (Fig. 2: 1), a square tower (Fig. 2: 3) positioned in the middle of the nave's southern façade and a sacristy positioned in the middle of the northern façade (Fig. 2: 4), as wide as the tower, but protruding twice less than the tower (Fig. 1). The new church caught fire in 1845: the interior was destroyed, but the limestone walls were preserved during the following restoration. According to Eelnurme the sacristy was extended towards north after the fire. The next and last rebuilding took place during 1909–

10: a new chancel building (Fig. 2: 2), slightly narrower than the nave was added to the east and two entrance rooms (Fig. 2: 5) to the west of the nave (Eelnurme 1936, 11–12; Kodres 1997).

### REMOVING SOIL IN THE CHURCHYARD

An up to 0.5 m deep layer of topsoil and demolition debris of varied content was removed from near the walls of the church until the upper surface of the protruding foundation of the nave. The thickness of the removed soil decreased gently further from the church, because the surface of the churchyard has been sloping. It appeared that all the removed soil has been laid only after the fire of 1845, including various residues of fire, pieces of ceramic roof-tiles of S-type etc. Obviously while building the present church in the second half of the 18th century, the land surface has been planned on the level of the upper surface of the foundation of the nave.

The only medieval deposit was discovered and partly excavated in a very small area between the sacristy and the foundation of a buttress, discovered 1.6 m east of the sacristy. The deposit was rich in pieces of charcoal and organic material, which had been mixed while filling the area and included some coins from the 14th – 16th centuries (see below). In the drainage pit of the south-western part of the churchyard natural ground level with a thin layer of organic soil, trod very tight was discovered in the profile upon natural sand. It was only *ca.* 0.5 m deeper than the street level south of the churchyard, indicating that under the church the original ground level was probably higher than further around it, i.e. the church was built on a sandy knoll which was somewhat higher than the surrounding area. This choice of place for a church that also offered easy and effortless grave digging for the dead was most logical.

One drainage pit, on an average 1.3 m deep and 3–4 × 2.5 m wide, was dug into each part of the churchyard except the one in the north-eastern part, dug in 2008 already (Fig. 2: 6; Kadakas 2009, 170–171). The pits were made more shallow but wider than planned to preserve the burials discovered *ca.* 1.3 m deep from the ground level.

### **FOUNDATIONS OF THE CHURCH**

A protruding foundation was discovered on the southern and northern perimeter of the present nave. It protrudes *ca.* 55–60 cm on the northern and *ca.* 40–45 cm on the southern side. Both have been built in a disorderly manner, using randomly both limestone and granite with a small amount of lime mortar and have been clearly planned as an underground structure, which was not meant to be exposed. The conclusion of 2007 that all the above ground parts of the medieval church had been removed before erecting the present church (Kadakas *et al.* 2008, 203; 2011, 213–214) was confirmed.

In a test pit dug in 2008 in the corner directly east of the sacristy (Fig. 2) the foundation of the nave protruded in two steps: *ca.* 40 and *ca.* 50 cm. Then the upper step was interpreted as the only preserved layer of wall stones of the medieval nave (Kadakas 2009, 171; 2011, 214). It is still probable after the fieldwork of 2013; even more: it appeared to be the single highest stone left of the medieval masonry of the medieval nave, i.e. probably the only stone left of the above ground part of the medieval church. Therefore, as it is a single stone, it is impossible to confirm if the stone marks the outer face of the medieval church wall, but it is quite probable.

After exposing the protruding foundation of the southern wall of the nave it was concluded that it probably does not belong to the medieval nave. It appeared that the foundations under the eastern and western walls of the present nave extend *ca.* 5.8 m southwards from the present nave. Therefore, the southern wall of the medieval nave has been located *ca.* 5.8 m southwards compared to the southern wall of the present nave. A clear vertical joint was discovered between the southern and eastern foundations of the present nave (Fig. 2). Probably the eastern wall of the present nave stands on a medieval foundation, while the southern wall stands on a foundation laid for the present church in the second half of the 18th century.

To check the hypothesis, a test pit was made on the spot of the south-western corner of the supposed medieval nave: a massive corner of the foundation of the nave was discovered. An extension of the western foundation of the present nave towards south was discovered already in two spots in the narrow heating pipe trench in 2008. Then it was supposed, inspired by a 17th century engraving, that the discovered walls could have belonged to a tower, standing next to the medieval nave (Kadakas 2009, 171–172; 2011, 218–219). It is an explicit example, how erroneous conclusions can be made relying upon limited data.

The stratigraphic relation of the foundations of the present south tower with the ones of the southern walls both of the medieval and present naves was more complicated to specify. While it is quite clear that the tower itself has been erected only in the second half of the 18th century together with the nave, it cannot be excluded that its foundations, or part of these could theoretically come from the medieval period, as it was speculated after the fieldwork of 2008 (Kadakas 2011, 217).

### **FOUNDATIONS OF BUTTRESSES**

Rectangular protruding parts of the northern foundation of the nave were discovered in two places (*ca.* 135 × 140 and *ca.* 125 × 125 cm), one east and the other west of the sacristy, in equal distance of it (Fig. 2: 7). A similar protrusion was discovered already in 2007 under the floor of the sacristy, exactly in the middle of the two ‘new’ ones. Then

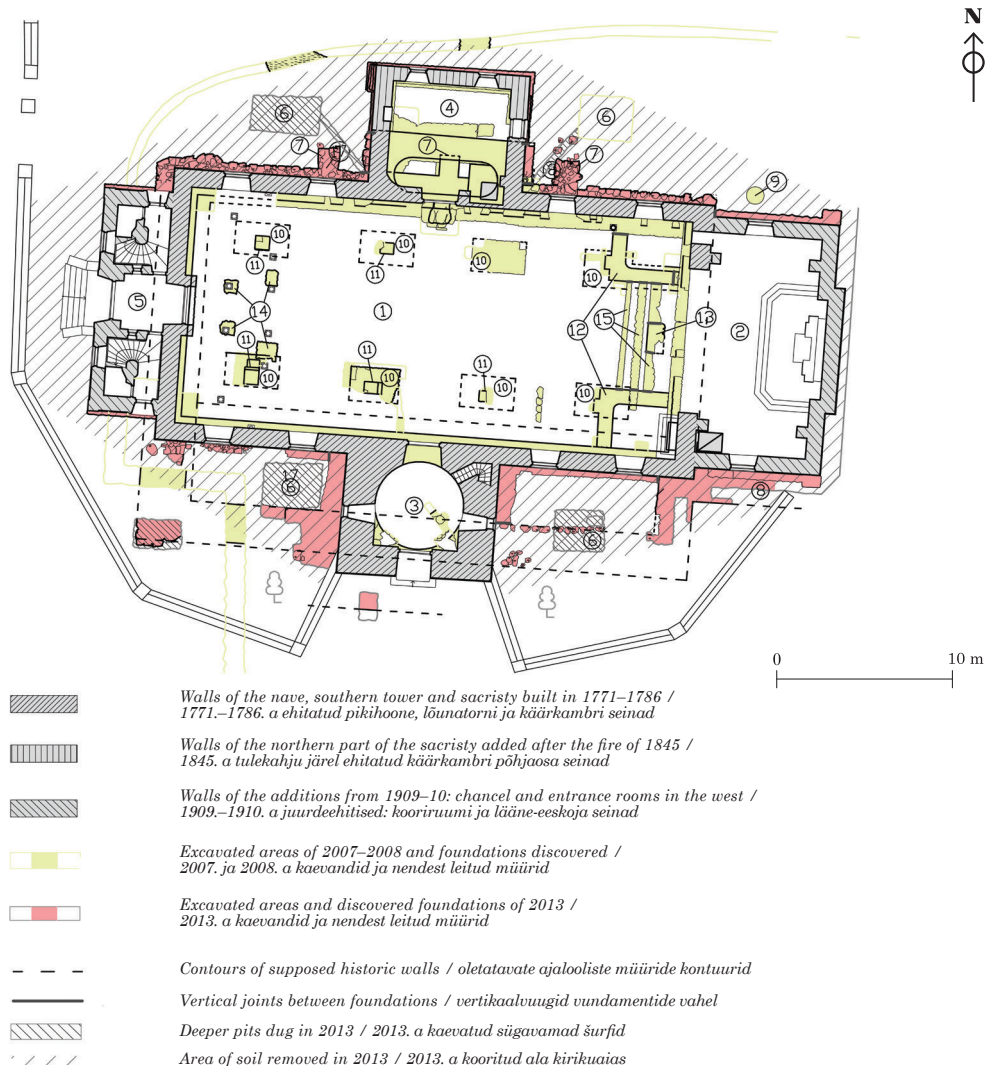


Fig. 2. Plan of the church and churchyard with results of excavations of 2007–2008 and 2013. 1 – church nave from 1771–86, 2 – chancel from 1909–10, 3 – south tower, 4 – sacristy, 5 – entrance rooms, 6 – drainage pits, 7 – foundations of buttresses, 8 – foundation of medieval chancel, 9 – limestone base of a column, 10 – reconstruction of larger pillar foundations, 11 – reconstruction of smaller pillar foundations, 12 – L-shaped foundations, 13 – foundation of baroque altar, 14 – foundations of earlier posts of organ balcony, 15 – foundations of altar rails.

Jn 2. Kiriku ja kirikuaia plaan 2007.–2008. ja 2013. a tulemustega. 1 – kiriku pikihoone 1771–86, 2 – 1909–10 püstitatud kooriruum, 3 – lõunatorn, 4 – käärkamber, 5 – eeskojad, 6 – drenaažikaevud, 7 – tugipiilarite vundamendid, 8 – keskaegse kooriruumi vundament, 9 – samba paekivist baas, 10 – suured piilari-vundamendid (rekonstruktsioon), 11 – väikesed piilari-vundamendid (rekonstruktsioon), 12 – L-tähe kujulised vundamendid, 13 – barokkaltari vundament, 14 – orelirõdu varasemate postide vundamendid, 15 – altari-võre vundamendid.

Drawing / Joonis: Villu Kadakas

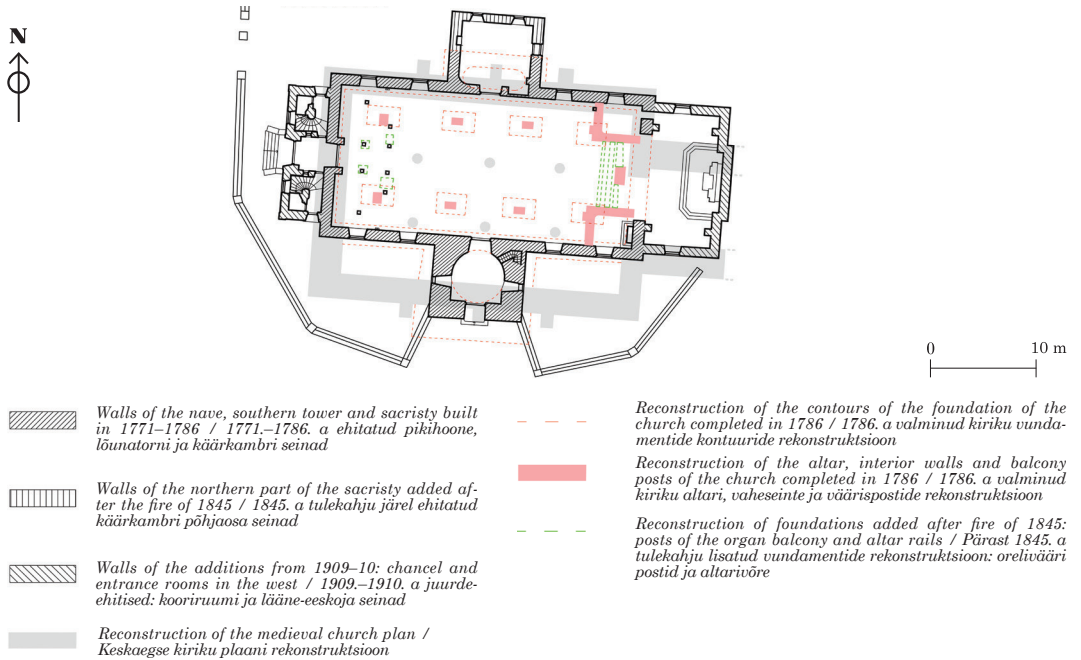


Fig. 3. Reconstruction plan of the building stages of the church.

Jn 3. Kiriku ehitusetappide plaan.

Drawing / Joonis: Villu Kadakas

it was cautiously supposed to have been a buttress (Kadakas *et al.* 2008, 204; Kadakas 2011, 217), although the location was in clear contradiction with the foundations of the pillars discovered in the nave, as buttresses and pillars were normally located on the same line, in order to effectively resist the pressure of the vaults. After the discovery of 2013 that the medieval nave has been wider (see above), this contradiction is irrelevant, because the pillars discovered in 2007 relate to the 18th century nave, not to the medieval one (see below).

Therefore it is possible to conclude that the three protruding foundations have indeed been foundations for a system of buttresses. These have been positioned exactly so that the interior of the nave could be divided into four bays of equal width. It is not possible to say if there have been similar buttresses next to the southern wall of the medieval nave, because the appropriate areas could not be studied. Buttresses on the northern and south-western corners were searched for without success: probably there have been none because in the corners there was less pressure of the vaults and the eastern and western walls of the nave were able to receive the pressure effectively without buttresses. All three discovered foundations of the buttresses have been built together with the foundation of the nave (Fig. 4), i.e. the medieval nave has been planned as a vaulted building from the beginning.



Fig. 4. Foundations discovered under the eastern part of the northern wall of the nave. Foundation of the easternmost buttress in foreground.

Jn 4. Pikihoone põhjaseina idaosa all avastatud vundamendid. Esiplaanil idapoolseima tugipilari vundament.

Photo / Foto: Villu Kadakas



Fig. 5. Foundations of the medieval nave (left) and chancel (right) in the foreground, the south-west corner of the nave and the southern wall of the chancel in top right.

Jn 5. Esiplaanil keskaegse pikihoone (vasakul) ja kooriruumi (paremal) vundamendid, paremal ülal praeguse pikihoone kagunurk ja kooriruumi lõunasein.

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## FOUNDATIONS OF THE SACRISTY

Uncovering the foundations of the sacristy on the outside confirmed the suggestion made during the fieldwork of 2007–2008 that the foundations of the sacristy have been built secondarily towards the ones of the nave (Kadakas *et al.* 2008, 204; Kadakas 2011, 216): there are vertical joints between (Fig. 2). This is logical because the southern half of the sacristy has been built with the present nave in the second half of the 18th century, but the foundation of the northern wall of the nave survives from the medieval church. In 2013 it was also confirmed that the northern half of the sacristy is a later addition to the southern half (Kadakas *et al.* 2008, 204; Kadakas 2011, 216): there are vertical joints in the appropriate places (Fig. 2).

## FOUNDATION OF THE MEDIEVAL CHANCEL

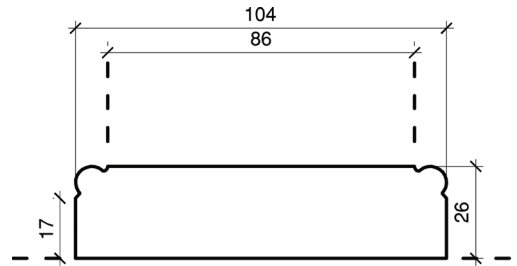
At the end of the fieldwork surprisingly a foundation was discovered under the southern wall of the present chancel (Fig. 2: 8; 5). It was protruding too wide (*ca.* 1.9 m) to have been made for the present chancel, especially as there was no similar foundation under the northern wall of the chancel. After analyzing the map of discovered foundations, a hypothesis was proposed that it might have originally been a foundation of the southern wall of the medieval chancel. As follows, a test pit was made to study the stratigraphic relation of the discovered foundation and the foundation of the eastern wall of the medieval nave, which should settle the problem (Fig. 5). It appeared that the supposed foundation of the medieval chancel had been built together with the foundation of the eastern wall of the medieval nave, proving that it must have been part of the medieval church.



Fig. 6. Base stone of a column.

Jn 6. Samba baas.

Photo and section / Foto ja lõikejoonis: Villu Kadakas



As the symmetry axis of the medieval church was located further south than of the present church, the northern wall of the medieval chancel must have been located in the middle of the present chancel, where no excavations have taken place. Based on the principle of symmetry the chancel was probably *ca.* 13 m wide (Fig. 3). The eastern part of the medieval chancel extended towards east of the present chancel, under the area of a square, which is also unstudied. Therefore the plan of the eastern part of the medieval chancel should be specified during a GPR survey or excavations in this area. The chancel probably had either a straight eastern wall or a polygonal apse.

#### **BASE STONE OF A COLUMN**

A limestone disc, lying right north of the chancel at least from the 1930s, partly sunk into the topsoil was turned upside down for study in 2013 (Fig. 2: 9; 6). Already in 2007 it was supposed that it might have been a piece of a column which has supported the vaults of the medieval church (Kadakas 2011, 216). As a positive surprise, it appeared to be an intact base of a column, with a nicely worked rib surrounding the top edge. There is no reason to connect the base with anything else than a pillar of the medieval church. Similar bases of columns have been used in some other buildings not very far: e.g. the church of Väike-Maarja and a tower of a fortified manor of Vao, both situated in the south-western edge of the historic county of Virumaa, *ca.* 40 km towards north-east from Paide, and both built probably approximately in the last quarter of the 15th century, supposedly by the same master builder (Tuulse 1942, 116–117).

#### **RECONSTRUCTION OF THE GROUND PLAN OF THE CHURCH**

Based on the slender column (86–87 cm) it can be supposed that the medieval nave rather had a form of a hall church with aisles of equal height than a basilica. A hall church fits very well into the local context: most of the medieval churches of the historic county of Järvamaa have been three-aisled hall churches, except in Madise and Jaani. Among these the churches of Ambla and Peetri have had four bays like in Paide. The reconstructed ground plan of the medieval nave of Paide church (Fig. 3) with its four bays was most probably divided into three aisles as all known hall churches of Old-Livonia. In the case of three aisles and four bays there must have been six columns and 12 vaults altogether.

Aisles of more or less equal width, perhaps with a slightly wider middle nave would fit well with the reconstructed width of the chancel, enabling to design a proportional chancel arch, e.g. quite like in the church of Peetri. The real locations of the medieval pillars remain a research question which can be solved only in a distant future, during replacement of the new floor laid in 2007. As expectable in the case of an urban church, the plan of the nave of the church of Paide (*ca.* 22 × 31.5 m) has been slightly larger than of Peetri (*ca.* 20 × 28 m), which is the largest one among the rural churches of historic Järvamaa County (Raam 1997). Comparing the two cases, the ratio of width and length of the nave is quite the same, but it has to be kept in mind that in case of Paide we know only the measures of the foundations, not of the walls.

There is almost no data to make conclusions about the absolute age of the medieval church of Paide. It would be risky to draw on the dates of the Väike-Maarja church and the manor of Vao, relying upon the similar base stones, because these have a rather universal form, which could have been used during a long period. Also, the base stones of an older smaller church could have been effectively reused while building columns in a new church. The whole set of the base stones of columns in the hall churches of Estonia has to be reanalyzed, because a new case has entered the set. It would be also risky to automatically carry over the date of Peetri church from the first quarter of the 14th century, which has a ground plan closest to Paide church.

#### **THE EARLY MODERN CHURCH: RESULTS OF 2007–2008 REVISED**

Several corrections have to be made into the interpretation of the many foundations discovered in 2007 under the nave floor (Kadakas *et al.* 2008, 203–204; Kadakas 2011, 214–216). Most of these, except the lowest step of the western, northern and eastern foundations of the nave, interpreted in the light of data obtained in 2013, do not belong to the medieval church. The system of 8 large rectangular foundations (*ca.* 2.8 × 2.0 m; Fig. 2: 10) and smaller foundations (*ca.* 0.8 × 0.65 m) on top of these (Fig. 2: 11), as well as two L-shaped foundations (Fig. 2: 12) and a rectangular foundation of an altar (*ca.* 1 × 1.8 m; Fig. 2: 13) in the eastern part of the nave are positioned according to the symmetry axis of the church completed in 1786. Obviously these belong to the baroque interior which was totally destroyed during the fire of 1845, and provide valuable data of it, because no images or written sources about the interior have been preserved at all.

Four foundations preserved under the present organ balcony in the western end of the nave (Fig. 2: 14), and which do not fit neither the baroque foundation system described above, nor the present balcony, can probably be connected with rebuilding or relocating the timber posts of the present organ balcony, which must have been built after the fire of 1845. Long narrow foundations in front of the foundation of the baroque altar probably carried the altar rails (Fig. 2: 15), built also after the fire of 1845. Both the rails and the altar have been preserved: these were transferred to the new chancel in 1909–1910.

In 2008 while digging in the southern tower it was supposed that the layer of huge loose granite boulders under the floor of the tower represents a platform of granite boulders built under the whole tower (Kadakas 2011, 217). Now it can be supposed that these boulders are rather a part of the southern foundation of the medieval nave.



## FINDS

A lead bullet (ø 12 mm) and a lead cannonball (ø 47 mm) probably represent the Early Modern wars which affected Paide: the Russian-Livonian War (1558–1583), the Polish-Swedish War (1600–1611) or the Great Northern War (1700–1721).

From the patch of soil, deposited in the Middle Ages between the sacristy and the eastern buttress (see above), nine medieval coins were collected. These had not been deposited together but were scattered in the area. These are mostly coins minted by the local minting lords of Old Livonia. The bishopric of Tartu is represented by two coins, one of which (Fig. 7: 1) is the oldest of all finds: a *pfennig* from the period of rule of the bishop Johann I Vyffhusen (1343–1373). Most are *pfennigs* and *schers* of the Order of the Teutonic knights in Livonia, from the 15th and the first half of the 16th centuries (Fig. 7). The single foreign coin – a *pfennig* from Wendic towns, possibly from Hamburg, left circulation already in the 1370s. This small assemblage of coins is rather similar to the assemblage collected in 2007 from inside the sacristy, only some metres westwards (Kadakas *et al.* 2008, 204). Possibly these deposits with the corresponding coin assemblages have once, before erecting the sacristy in the second half of the 18th century, formed one whole.



Fig. 7. Finds from Paide churchyard.

Jn 7. Leide Paide kirikuaiaist.

(PM A 95: 1, 4, 8, 5, 7.)

Photo / Foto: Villu Kadakas

Unfortunately the stratigraphic relation of the two deposits and the coin assemblages with the foundation of the medieval church is not clear. Therefore the dates of coins cannot be brought into direct relation with the date of the medieval church. Provenance of the oldest coins from the 14th century, at least from a later part of it, probably indicates that some kind of a church where coins have been bestowed or sacrificed has been situated in the area in this period already.

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**ARHEOLOOGILISED UURINGUD PAIDE KIRIKUS JA KIRIKUAIAS***Villu Kadakas*

2007. a kirikupõranda vahetuse jätkutööna kooriti 2013. a Paide Püha Risti kiriku (jn 1) lähiümbruses vertikaalplaneeringu ettevalmistuseks ära kuni 50 cm paksune täiterusu, mis oli kogunenud viimase 150 aasta jooksul, ning kaevati kolm süvendit дренаaži imbkaevude jaoks (jn 2). 2007.–2008. aasta välitööde käigus selgus, et praegune kirikuhoone on tõepoolest ehitatud 18. sajandi teisel poolel keskaegse kiriku alusmüüridele, nagu väitis juba August Wilhelm Hupel. 2013. aasta tööde käigus õnnestus täielikult välja puhastada praeguse kiriku pikihoone ja osaliselt samal kohal asunud keskaegse eelkäija vundamendid. Kui 2007. a kirikupõranda vahetuse käigus paljandunud vundamentide puhul tekkis mitmeid tõlgendusvõimalusi, siis nüüd õnnestus oluliselt täpsustada praeguse hoone kohal asunud keskaegse eelkäija põhiplaani skeemi ja mahtusid.

Pinnas kooriti kõigepealt vahetult seinte ääres u 1,5 m laiuse kraavina kuni vundamendiastme sügavuseni. Kooritav kiht vähenes sujuvalt kirikust kaugemal, sest maapind oli kirikust eemale kaldu. Selgus, et kogu kooritav kiht on arvatavasti ladestunud alles pärast 1845. a tulekahju, üksikutes osades veelgi hiljem. Sellele osutavad mitmesugused põlenguäänused, S-tüüpi katusekivide tükid ja üksikud muud pinnasest leitavad esemed. Ilmselt on pikihoone ja altariruumi, samuti käärkambri varasema lõunapoolse osa ehitamisel 18. sajandi II poolel kavandatud maapind u sokli alaserva, st vundamendi astme kõrgusele.

Ainus keskaegne pinnaseladestus leiti väga väiksel alal, vaid mõnel ruutmeetril käärkambri ja sellest mõne meetri kaugusel ida pool avastatud tugipiilari vundamendi vahel. Pinnasekiht sisaldas palju huumust ja söetükke, mis oli segatud ala täitmisel ning sellest leiti mõned 14.–16. sajandi mündid.

Kirikuaia igasse osasse kaevati üks keskmiselt 1,3 m sügavune ja 3–4 × 2,5 m laiune šurf дренаaži imbkaevu jaoks, välja arvatud kirdeosas, kus see oli valminud juba 2008. aastal (jn 2: 6). Šurfid kaevati madalamad ja laiemad kui projekt ette nägi, et säilitada u 1,3 m sügavusel paljandunud luustikke.

Kogu praeguse kirikuhoone põhja- ja lõunapoolisel perimeetril puhastati välja eenduv vundamendiaste. Pikihoone vundament eendub põhjaküljel u 55–60 cm, lõunaküljel u 40–45 cm võrra. Aste on laotud kõigil külgedel korratult, segamini maa- ja paekividest, vähese lubiseguga ning sellisena selgelt maa alla kavandatud. Kinnitust leidis 2007. aastal tehtud järeldus, et keskaegse kiriku kõik maapealsed ehitusosad on vahetult enne praeguse kiriku ehitamist eemaldatud.

Pikihoone põhjaseina vundamendil leiti kahes kohas, ühel ja teisel pool käärkambrit neljakandilised vundamendieendid (u 135 × 140 cm ja u 125 × 125 cm), üks ida ja teine lääne pool käärkambrit võrdsel kaugusel (jn 2: 7). Kolmas sarnane neljakandiline eend avastati juba 2007. a kahe vahelt, käärkambri põranda alt ning seda tõlgendati juba tookord oletamisi tugipiilari vundamendina. Arvatavasti on tegemist keskaegse pikihoone põhjaseina vastas seisnud tugipiilarite ehk kontraforsside vundamentidega. Keskaegse pikihoone lõunaseina vastas oletatavasti olnud analoogsete tugipiilarite kunagise olemasolu kohta mingeid andmeid ei saadud, sest nende eeldatavaid asukohti ei kaevatud.

Käärkambri vundamendi väliskülje avamine kinnitas varasemat oletust, et selle vundamendid on laotud sekundaarselt pikihoone omade vastu. 2013. aastal sai kinnitust ka varasem oletus, et käärkambri põhjaosa on juurdeehitisena püstitatud lõunaosa vastu alles pärast 1845. aasta tulekahju.

Välitööde lõpus selgus, et praeguse kooriruumi lõunaseina all paikneb lai ligikaudu 1,9 m võrra eenduv vundament (jn 2: 8; 5). Selgus, et laiend on ehituslikult seotud vahetult lääne pool paikneva keskaegse pikihoone idaseina vundamendiga. Arvatavasti on tegemist keskaegse kooriruumi lõunaseina jäänusegaga. Eeldades sümmeetrilist paigutust pikihoone suhtes paiknes selle põhjasein 1909.–1910. aastal püstitatud praeguse kooriruumi all.

Keskaegsest pinnasekihist käärkambri ja idapoolse tugipiilari vundamendi vahel leiti üheksa keskaegset münti. Tartu piiskopkonda esindavad kaks tükki, millest üks on leitute hulgas vanim: piiskop Johann I Vyffhuseni (1343–1373) penn (jn 7: 1). Enamik on Liivi Ordu pennid ja šerfid 15. sajandist ja 16. sajandi algusest (jn 7). Ainus välismaa päritolu münt: mõne Vendi linna, võib-olla Hamburgi penn, kadus käibelt juba 1370. aastatel.

2013. a uurimistöö põhjal saab väita, et praeguse, 1770.–1780. aastatel valminud kiriku pikihoone on tõepoolest püstitatud tunduvalt paksemate müüridega (u 22 × 31,5 m) keskaegse kiriku pikihoone alusmüüridele (jn 1, 2). Kahjuks on kogu keskaegsest kirikust säilinud vaid juba tookord maa alla kavandatud vundamendid, aga üldjoontes on kiriku plaaniline kuju siiski rekonstrueeritav. Üllatuseks oli avastus, et keskaegne pikihoone on ulatunud tunduvalt kaugemale lõuna poole praegusest hoonest, s.t olnud u 6 m ehk 1/3 võrra laiem, kuid ida-lääne teljel sama pikk. See on olnud pikkuse ja laiuse suhtega peaaegu 2/3. Teiseks

ootamatuks avastuseks oli kiriku kooriruum (jn 5), mis on olnud ligikaudu 13 m lai, kuid selle ulatuse ida suunas ja koorilõpmiku kuju saab tulevikus välja selgitada, kaevates tänava all. Kahjuks jäi selgitamata, kas kirikul on olnud ka läänetorn.

Kolmest põhjaseina äärest leitud tugipiilari jäänusest, mis on laotud koos kirikuseinaga (jn 4), saab järeldada, et kirik oli jaotatud neljaks traveeks ning et see oli ilmselt võlvitud. Tõenäoliselt oli kirik kolmelõviline, nagu ka enamik Järvamaa keskaegseid maakirikuid. Nelja travee puhul pidi järelikult kokku olema 12 võlvi, mida kandsid lisaks seintele neli piilarit.

Kirikuaia kirdeosas juba vähemalt 1930. aastatel vedelenud paekivist ketas osutus ümberpööramisele ümarsamba baasiks (jn 6). Selle ja tugipiilarite paigutuse põhjal võib järeldada, et võlve kandsid arvatavasti kuus ümarsammast. 2007. aastal põranda all avastatud piilarite vundamendid, mida tookord kahtlustati keskaegses päritolus, osutusid 1770.–1780. aastatel püstitatud kiriku juurde kuuluvaks. Keskaegsete piilarite tegeliku asukoha väljaselgitamine jääb üheks järgmise põrandavahetuse aegseks uurimisküsimuseks.