

TRIAL EXCAVATIONS IN TARTU, IN THE SECTION BETWEEN TIIGI, PEPLERI, VANEMUISE, AND AKADEEMIA STREETS

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In accordance with the development project of Tartu, the Municipal Government carried out trial excavations on the SW side of the archaeological protection zone in June 1995. The aim of the work was to explore the nature of the cultural layer in the section between Tiigi, Pepleri, Vanemuise, and Akadeemia streets. Five pits were dug, each covering about 1 m² (Fig. 1). Andres Vindi and Riina Vesi from the Archaeological Cabinet of the University of Tartu, aided at the excavations.

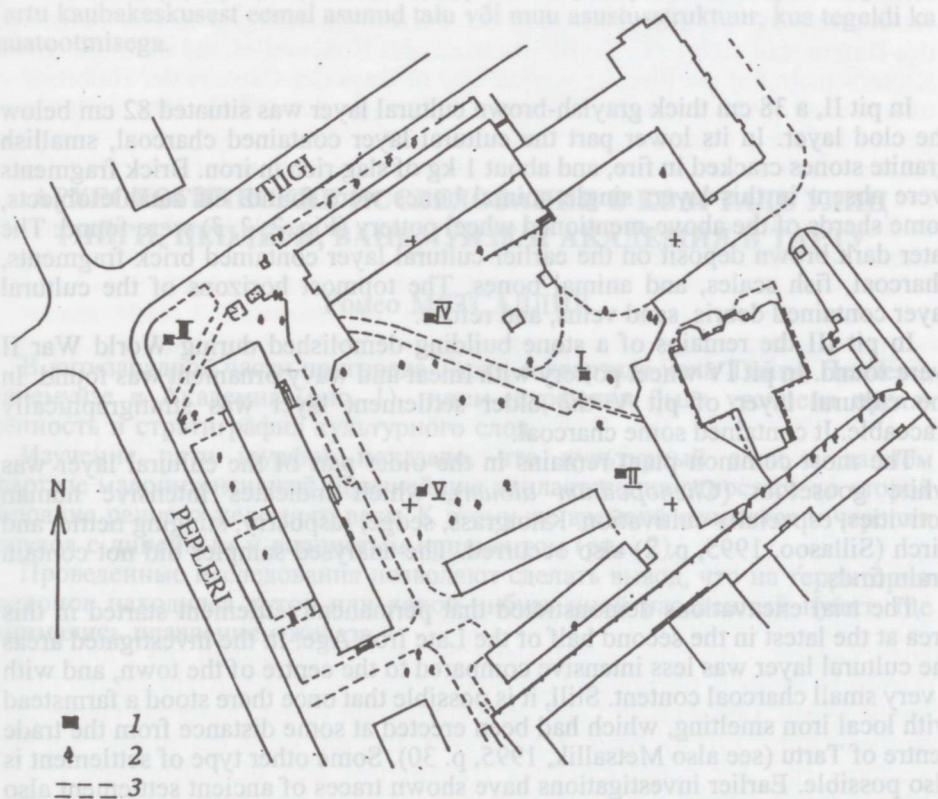


Fig. 1. Tartu. Location plan of test pits in the area of Pepleri and Tiigi streets. 1 test pits, 2 trees, 3 roads and squares.

The geological subsoil of the investigated area was yellow or yellowish-brown Quaternary sand. The thickness of the cultural layer ranged from 92 cm in the middle of the section (pit I) to 157 cm at its western side (pit V).

In pit I a brownish layer with a thickness of 43 cm lay on the original sand. It contained sherds of wheel pottery decorated with linear and wavy ornament (Fig. 2, 1, 4), which was used in the 10th–13th centuries, and animal bones. On the older horizon lay a 25 cm thick deposit with abundant charcoal, burnt stones, and brick fragments.

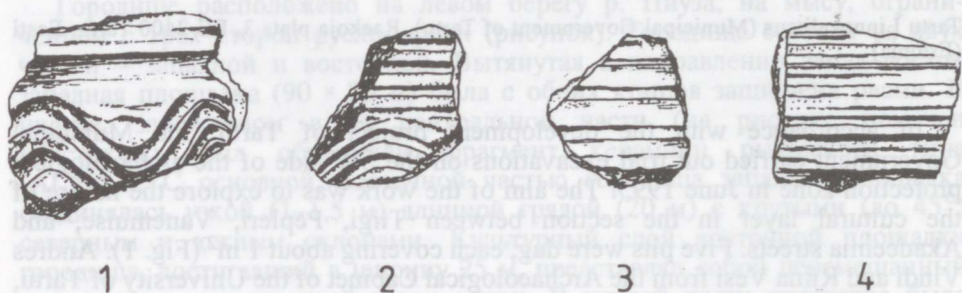


Fig. 2. Tartu. Ornamented pottery from test pits (TM 2293 A83: 4, 19, 16, 2): All 1 : 1.

In pit II, a 38 cm thick grayish-brown cultural layer was situated 82 cm below the clod layer. In its lower part the cultural layer contained charcoal, smallish granite stones cracked in fire, and about 1 kg of slag rich in iron. Brick fragments were absent in this layer; single animal bones were found. Of datable objects, some sherds of the above-mentioned wheel pottery (Fig. 2, 2, 3) were found. The later dark brown deposit on the earlier cultural layer contained brick fragments, charcoal, fish scales, and animal bones. The topmost horizons of the cultural layer contained debris, sand veins, and refuse.

In pit III the remains of a stone building demolished during World War II were found. In pit IV wheel pottery with linear and wavy ornament was found. In the cultural layer of pit V the older settlement layer was stratigraphically traceable. It contained some charcoal.

The most common plant remains in the older part of the cultural layer was white goosefoot (*Chenopodium album*), which indicates intensive human activities, especially cultivation. Knotgrass, sedge, raspberry, stinging nettle, and birch (Sillasoo, 1995, p. 2) also occurred. The analysed samples did not contain grain finds.

The trial excavations demonstrated that permanent settlement started in this area at the latest in the second half of the Late Iron Age. In the investigated areas the cultural layer was less intensive compared to the centre of the town, and with a very small charcoal content. Still, it is possible that once there stood a farmstead with local iron smelting, which had been erected at some distance from the trade centre of Tartu (see also Metsallik, 1995, p. 30). Some other type of settlement is also possible. Earlier investigations have shown traces of ancient settlement also near the Tähtvere estate and at Raadi (Metsallik, 1991, p. 388).

The trial excavations did not yield much information about the medieval settlement of the area.

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- Metsallik, R. 1995. Tartu arheoloogilisest uurimisest. – Tartu arheoloogias ja vanemast ehitusloost. Tartu Ülikooli Arheoloogia Kabineti Toimetised, **8**, 15–35.
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PROOVIKAEVAMISED TARTUS TIIGI-PEPLERI-VANEMUISE- AKADEEMIA TÄNAVA VAHELISES KVARTALIS

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Kooskõlas Tartu linna arengukavaga tegi Tartu Linnavalitsuse linnaplaneerimise osakond proovikaevamisi kultuurkihi iseloomu määramiseks vanalinna arheoloogilise kaitsevööndi edelaküljel. Kokku tehti viis ruutmetersuurust prooviauku (joon. 1).

Proovikaevamised näitasid, et kõnesolev piirkond asustati püsivamalt noorema rauaaja teisel poolel. Samast ajast pärinevad joon- ja laineornamendiga savinõude killud (joon. 2). Võrreldes linna südamega on kultuurkiht väheintensiivne ja minimaalse söesisaldusega. Pole välistatud, et siin paiknes mõni Tartu kaubakeskusest eemal asunud talu või muu asustusstruktuur, kus tegeldi ka rauatootmisega.

АРХЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИЕ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯ В КВАРТАЛЕ УЛИЦ ТИЙГИ, ПЕПЛЕРИ, ВАНЕМУЙЗЕ И АКАДЕМИЯ В ТАРТУ

Ромео МЕТСАЛЛИК

В юго-западной части пригорода Тарту, в квартале улиц Тийги, Пеплери, ВанемуIZE и Академия (рис. 1), путем шурфовки была уточнена протяженность и стратиграфия культурного слоя.

Изучение пяти шурфов показало, что культурный слой в данном квартале малоинтенсивный. Древнейшие напластования относятся ко второй половине раннего железного века. К этому же времени относятся и черепки сосудов с линейным и волнистым орнаментом (рис. 2).

Проведенные исследования позволяют сделать вывод, что на территории раскопов находился хутор или какой-нибудь иной населенный пункт, где занимались плавлением железа.