

16TH–17TH CEN. KLAIPĖDA TOWN RESIDENTS' LIFESTYLE (BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL, PALAEOBOTANICAL, AND ZOOARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA OF KURPIŲ STREET PLOTS)

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Abstract

Archaeological excavations at one of Klaipėda Old Town's blocks near Kurpių Street provided valuable and unique materials for investigating the development of urbanism in the 16th-17th centuries, the activities, and way of life of the residents. The article presents the results of these investigations and considers some aspects of the town residents' lifestyle. Mid-16th – second half of the 17th century building construction and interior furnishings, plot layouts, and development of the block's habitation are analysed. Interpretations are offered based on the archaeological material regarding the activities and lifestyle of the plots' owners. Results of the newest palaeobotanical and zooarchaeological research are presented in the article. The latter data, along with published historical sources, suggest certain conclusions regarding 16th-17th century Klaipėda townspeople's diet.

Key words: Klaipėda Old Town, buildings, diet, trade, palaeobotany, zooarchaeology.

Introduction

The distinguishing features regarding the development of Klaipėda town's topography and urbanism through time, based on archaeological research data, written sources, and cartographic and iconographic material, are thoroughly summarized in many articles and monographs.¹ However, Klaipėda's historiography still lacks the work of specialists in which the data of every town residents' plot would be analysed using multidisciplinary methods. The literature usually accents the history of construction on the plot and the actual construction of the buildings, but does not pay enough attention to the archaeological finds, which constitute one of the major sources of information in the research of the townsfolk's trade, crafts, and way of life. Another important and problematic research theme of the city is the residents' diet, which has been little studied due to lack of material. We encounter fragmentary data about food products and drinks in the written sources. Usually the published facts are associated with the town's commerce, lists of imported and exported goods, or various orders regulating the residents' activities. The bone material so valuable to studies of the inhabitants' diet is found in the cultural layers of Old Town, but only a small part of it is identified and published. Yet another important data source regarding the townspeople's diet that is little exploited in Lithuania

is the archaeobotanical material. Palaeobotanical research results of samples taken from cultural layers not only enable us to reach conclusions about the natural environment in various periods, but also provide information about the variety of local vegetation, cultivated or imported cereals, vegetables, fruit, etc..

The aim of this article is to describe the townspeople's lifestyle in the mid-16th – second half of the 17th century.² In this case, "lifestyle" is understood in a broader context; not only are the residents' household, diet, and activities important, but also the kind of environment and type of buildings in which they lived. The layout of the inhabitants' plots, as well as the construction of the buildings and their furnishings are analysed, based on archaeological data from the Kurpių Street block. Meanwhile, the examination of the town residents' diet is based not only on the Kurpių Street block's archaeological, palaeobotanical, and zooarchaeological data, but also on published historical sources associated with Klaipėda's economic-commercial activities. It must be stressed, that this article is oriented toward a micro-level of research of the town, so the discussed data do not necessarily reflect general lifestyle features

¹ The rich historiography of Klaipėda town and castle has been surveyed by V. Žulkus (Žulkus 2002, pp.8-11) and is therefore not reviewed separately in this article.

² For help, consultations, and valuable comments while writing this article, I sincerely thank Prof. Habil. Dr Vldas Žulkus, Ramunė Bračiulienė, Sandra Satkūnaitė, Mindaugas Brazauskas, Vasilijus Safronovas and Eduardas Remecas. For the opportunity to use as of yet unpublished palaeobotanical and zooarchaeological data, I gratefully acknowledge Dr Dalia Kisieliene, Dr Miglė Stančikaitė, and Prof. Dr Linas Daugnora.



Fig. 1. Klaipėda's Old town, Kurpių St. 3 excavation plot, 2007-2008 (drawing by I. Masiulienė).

of all Klaipėda's townsfolk. Moreover, only a portion of materials collected during archaeological excavations are published in this article, thus the work does not claim to be a completed investigation and will be supplemented in the future. Some of the archaeological data of the excavated block near Kurpių Street have been published and analysed in earlier publications (Masiulienė 2008, pp.341-354; Masiulienė 2009). This article aims to touch on problematic and relevant questions regarding the town residents' lifestyle, and to stimulate scientific discussion regarding the presented conclusions and assumptions.

The block's development from the mid-16th – end of the 17th century

The formation of plots. Archaeological excavations were carried out in the current plot of Kurpių Street

3's complex of buildings and yards which apparently formed already in the 18th century, and was reconstructed more than once in the 19th and 20th centuries (Fig. 1). The excavated complex covers three quarters of the historically-formed block, which borders with Kurpių, Mėsininkų, Kalvių, and Pasiuntinių Streets. The habitation of the block that was in the northwestern part of the island began in the middle of the 16th century. Because of the castle's reconstruction, the town of Klaipėda was moved to another location in the beginning of the 16th century – to the current Old Town territory. Having dug out the New Danė River as a defensive ditch at the time, a town island was formed, which encompassed the current territory approximately between the Danė River and Didžiosios Vandens Street, and between the Theatre Square and John's Hill (Fig. 1). We also find traces of economic activity in this territory from the earlier, end of the 15th – beginning

of the 16th century period, but the network of streets and the blocks only began to form successively starting with the beginning to middle of the 16th century. The first plots with buildings were put up in the higher area between the current Tiltų and Turgaus Streets (Žulkus 1991, pp.45-46). Meanwhile, the northwestern part of the town was incorporated later, because that territory was in a wet lowland. Based on current archaeological, palaeobotanical, and cartographic data, as well as evaluation of historical sources, we can assume there was a rather large relict pond with bogged-up shores in the western part of the town (Masiulienė 2009). The eastern part of this pond was recorded in the second and third plots of the excavated block, while a former shore was in the first plot.³

Historical sources write about the filling up of the relict pond in the western part of the town's island and the formation of plots in this territory. In J. Sembritzki's published document, Duke Albrecht's 1538 privilege to the town indicates that the town residents who decided to fill up the pond and build homes here were granted the right to fish and were excused from certain taxes (Sembritzki 1926, pp.75-77). The document also writes that the buildings could be built by the laying of the first stone, which apparently meant that whichever town resident built a home first, also owned the plot (Sembritzki 1926, pp.75-77). Based on archaeological excavation data, the second plot was formed and built on first, where the pond used to be, later – the third and first plots, with the first plot built on the former pond's shore.

Old Town blocks in 16th-17th century Klaipėda usually were divided into four plots, less often into three (Žulkus 2002, p.48). The owners would mark the plot boundaries by variously constructed fences. The remains of two fences were found in the excavated block (Fig. 2). A white fence marked one plot's southwestern boundary: 5-9 cm thick stakes were dug into the ground, and the intervals inbetween were woven with brushwood. The northeastern boundary's fence construction of the same plot was made of rough-hewn stakes or poles hammered into the ground and boards placed horizontally alongside them. The southwest-northeast length was approximately 12.5 m. Usually 16th-17th century Old Town plots were approximately 12 x 12 sq m large (Žulkus 2002, p.48). Based on the data above, it is believed that the block (its present size is about 13 x 49 sq m) was divided into four similarly-sized plots.

Buildings. Based on the conclusions of M. Brazauskas's dendrochronological research, the residential house in the second plot (Fig. 2) was built c. 1542 (Masiulienė

2008, p.351). The specific environmental surroundings had an influence not only on the buildings' construction, but also on the plots' preparation for construction. First of all, in draining and raising the place of the building, the gravel and sand layers were poured separately. So that the building would not settle, its lower part was formed from birch poles pounded into the ground as well as from the placement of variously-sized cuttings of secondary use timbers. Oak blocks (40 x 40 x 70 cm³) were placed above them, and the entire building's perimeter was covered with a layer of imported argil used for waterproofing. The house's 20 x 20 sq cm framework beams were laid on top of the oak blocks which served as the foundation (Plate IV:1). The width of the house near Kurpių Street was about 8 m, while the length might have been about 9-10 m.⁴ The building's walls were formed from struts jointed to the frame every 70-80 cm, while the intervals were filled with bricks mortared with clay. The house's northeastern and southwestern walls had stained-glass windows, as indicated by the huge amount of glass debris found near them. A large amount of window glass also was found under the annex's construction. Apparently the breakage was heaped after ripping out the residential house's non-functioning southwestern wall's window. Several fragments unique to Klaipėda's archaeological material were found in this place, two of them decorated with ornaments and the painted letters "SH," and "S" and "SP" on the other (Plate III:2). The other two glass fragments were decorated with a painted, colored botanical ornament (Plate III:4-5). Yet another stained-glass window part was round (Plate III:3). Judging from all the collected glass fragments, house stained-glass windows were made from rhomboid and triangular greenish glass parts, connected by little lead frames. Some windows might have been beautified not only with inscriptions or drawings, but also with differently-shaped glass.

We have no archaeological data about the roof construction of the house, but we can judge about the roof cover from other archaeological material found. Many lamellate tiles were found near the building and above it, in a layer formed during a fire. This type of tile spread in Klaipėda starting the 15th century and was used till the 17th century (Žulkus 1979, p.40). Various materials were used for roof coverings in the 16th-17th centuries. The poorer town residents' houses were covered with straw, reeds, and the richer ones' – with tiles (Žulkus 2002, p.61).

⁴ The exact sizes of the residential house and its annex have not been determined since the house's and annex's northwestern walls continue underneath the current building's foundation, while the house's southeastern part continues in the direction of Kurpių Street.

³ This numeration of plots is provisional.

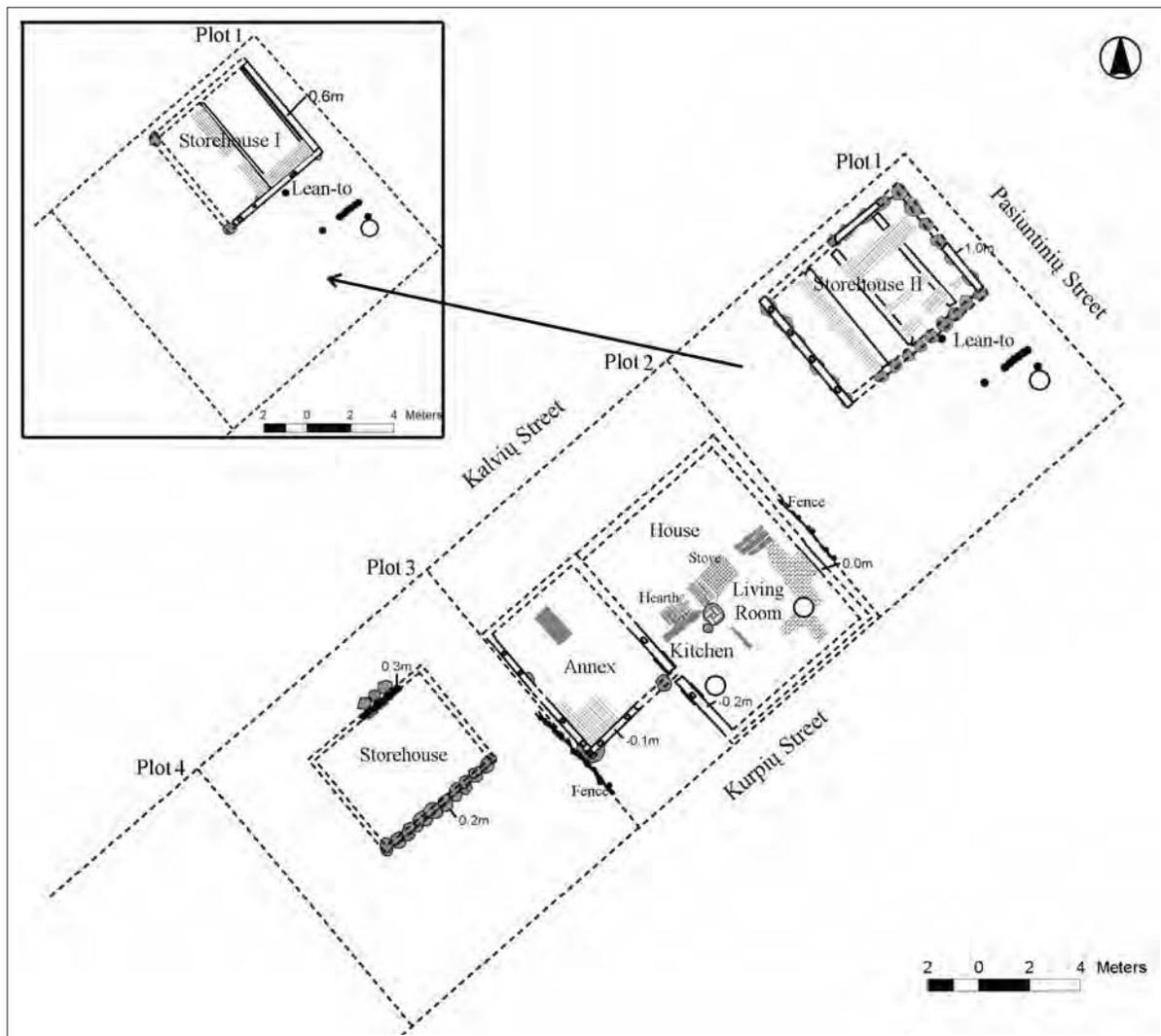


Fig. 2. Buildings put up on the block's plots in the mid-16th – second half of the 17th century. Plot 1 – Storehouse I and lean-to tentatively dated second half of the 16th – beginning of the 17th century, Storehouse II dated beginning of the 17th century – 1678; Plot 2 – Residential house with annex dated 1542/ 1554 – 1678; Plot 3 – Storehouse tentatively dated end of the 16th/ beginning of the 17th century – 1678 (drawing by I. Masiulienė).

The various interior remains of the building that were uncovered during archaeological excavations enable a view only of the first floor's interior, although the houses usually were taller. Residences in Klaipėda in the 16th-17th centuries usually had one or two rooms. The richer inhabitants' houses had even more rooms, some of which were designated workshops or little shops, others – residential. The residents would keep raw materials or goods on the second floor or in the rise (Tatoris 1994, pp.135-136), which might also have been used as a bedroom. The kitchen most often would be situated in the vestibule; remains of one such room were found during archaeological excavations near Tomo St., in a house – storehouse built in 1550 (Žulkus 2002, p.80). That building had six rooms. A kitchen fireplace was furnished in one small, approximately 1.5 x 2 sq m room; its hearth was cobbled with stone, while the other part of the room had wooden flooring. The walls of this room were built differently; two walls were wooden, the others – brick.

Another kind of layout and interior were recorded in the Kurpių Street house. Judging by the remains found, the building's first floor might have had two, maybe three rooms, which were separated by partitions. Two of the rooms were archaeologically investigated; one was a kitchen, the other – a living room. The kitchen and living room were separated by a wooden partition. Near the center of the building, on top of a stone, was a square column made of brick. The main function of this column probably was related with the interior partition and floor constructions, which would suggest that the building also had a second floor. A fragment of systematically laid bricks and half-bricks associated with the hearth was found next to the support, near the center of the building (Plate II:1). The length of the hearth's fragment was approximately 1.1 m, the width – about 0.9 m. A wide board was placed near the hearth, on the argil. The remaining room was cobbled with small field stones and brick chips; the dirt floor closer to the fireplace was tamped with clay. The ani-

mal and fish bones, hazelnuts, and household ceramic fragments collected above the floor confirm that food was prepared in the 2.5 m wide room. The width of the other room –the living room– was 4 m. In one place, the room's floor was covered with oak boards, while in another they were lined with brick. Half-bricks were uncovered, as were 28 x 28 sq cm large fragments of brick floor in some places. A glazed tile stove stood in the room, along the inner wall. We have few data to reconstruct the stove. Only a fragment of its mostly destroyed base survived, as well as a large amount of vessel tile debris that were collected near it. The stove's base was laid from two rows of bricks mortared with clay. Judging by the remains, the shape of the stove's firebox was rectangular – approximately 1.2 m long and about 1 m wide. The shapes of vessel tile stoves in the researched period were various: domed, rectangular prismatic, or truncated cone (Žulkus 2002, p.83). The vessel tiles collected from beside the stove's base, different both in shape and glaze, show that the stove was put together from various tiles. A portion of the tiles were not glazed, others were covered with brown, green, and yellowish glaze, while the bottoms were decorated with clearer or fainter concentric rings. All of these tiles are tentatively dated to the first half – middle of the 16th century.

A similar house interior is usually found in 15th-18th century Western and Central Europe's urban residential buildings. For example, in the 16th-18th century house of a potter in Lüneburg, the kitchen was established in the vestibule, and the 90 x 70 sq cm large hearth was made of brick (Ring 2001, pp.389-390). Based on archaeological data, the fireplace stood near the inner wall, beside which and on the other side of which a living room's glazed tile stove was attached. Such a type of construction, in which the fireplace and stove are connected, had advantages: first of all, only one chimney was used, while the stove, in protecting the room from smoke, would be lit from the kitchen (Ring 2001, p.389). The Kurpių Street house's fireplace and stove, which stood near the same inner wall, might also have been connected to one chimney.

The drainage system inside the residential house was typical of that period's buildings. The oak barrels on the edges of the kitchen and the room were dug in at floor level. Dendrochronological analyses of the barrels showed that the house drainage system that stood for more than a hundred years was repaired; one barrel was dated 1597, the other – 1648 (Masiulienė 2008, p.351).

Indications of a higher quality of life not characteristic of Klaipėda buildings in that period can be discerned in the discussed construction elements of the residential

house, its interior layout and furnishings. The data also suggest that this house's owner was a well-off resident of the town.

Later, in c. 1554, an annex was built onto the house (Fig. 2) (Masiulienė 2008, p.351). This annex was built on separately poured, levelled and waterproofed layers of sand and argil. The construction's oak framework timbers, 15 x 25 sq cm thick, were laid on different stones, placed in the corners and in the middle of the building. The building's walls were formed from uprights (10 x 15 sq cm), and the corners of the construction were reinforced with oblique 15 x 15 sq cm timbers. The wall's intervals between the uprights were built with bricks, and clay was used as mortar. The width of the annex's southeastern wall was approximately 5 meters, and the length of the southwestern wall was about 6 m. In places, the inside of the annex was covered with boards, while in other places it was just strewn with a layer of wood chips and wood debris. The floor in the southern corner of the building was undergoing repair – being raised. An oak floor was laid on top of a conifer wooden floor (Plate IV:2), while later on, wood chips and wood debris were poured on top of that floor. The slabs and boards laid down in the building's northwestern part, closer to Kalvių Street, may be associated with the entrance. Aside from the floor, no other constructions were found in the annex, which suggests that this building served as a storage room.

Two different buildings from two different times were found in the first plot (Fig. 2). The earlier building was constructed on a layer of levelled sand, onto which was poured a cultural layer of brown peaty soil. Many fragments of various artefacts were found in it, having found their way there as household waste. Based on the finds, this layer is dated to the middle – end of the 16th century. The corners of the building's oak frame (approximately 15 x 24 sq cm large) were placed on top of stones. The walls apparently were formed from uprights, because only grooves were observed in the frame. Since the building's walls were ripped off, we have no data about the fill between uprights. The building had a wooden floor, whose boards were placed on untrimmed, approximately 18 cm diameter timbers with cut out quarters. The size of the building was about 5 x 5.5 sq m. The interior arrangement suggests that the construction was designated for storage. The storehouse tentatively could have been built at the end of the 16th century.

At approximately the same time, a lean-to was built beside the building (Fig. 2). The construction of this small building was comprised of 20 cm diameter timbers dug into the corners and the fragment of a wall on the southeastern side, made of nine poles. The size of

the construction was approximately 2.5 x 2 sq m. An intensively trampled layer with organic material (wood chips, moss, straw, etc.) was recorded both surrounding the building and inside it. This is indicative of animals being held in the lean-to. Remains of an approximately 60 cm diameter barrel dug into the sand were found beside the little animal shed, near Pasiuntinių Street.

Later, a new building, a little wider near Kalvių Street, was built on the plot. After ripping down the earlier storehouse's walls, the foundation of this building was placed on the previous frame, which was used as a special grate. The foundation stones were reinforced with mortar and bricks, and 15 x 16 sq cm large oak beams were laid on top of them. The walls were formed from uprights set into the frame every 80 cm, and the intervals were filled in with bricks, bound, possibly, with mortar. The southwestern wall had a stained-glass window, as evidenced by the many glass shards collected in one place beside it. The inside of the building was divided into two rooms of the same size, 3.5 x 5.5 sq m, separated by a partition made of horizontally reinforced boards. The size of the entire building was about 5.5 x 7 sq m. The inside of both rooms was covered with a wooden floor; remains of several barrels were found on the floors (Plate III:1). Later, the building was repaired by pouring sand onto the partially disintegrated floor and covering it with a new, conifer wood flooring. Since the dendrochronological analysis of the wood samples is not yet complete, the building could be dated by the artefacts to from the beginning of the 17th century until 1678. The remains of barrel parts leave no doubt that the building served an economic purpose and stored goods.

The remains of the building found in the third and last plot of the block are rather fragmentary, so it is difficult to draw more precise conclusions. Starting the mid-16th century, economic activity took place in the territory. Palaeobotanical research results testify that household trash was thrown out in this place before construction, although there also might have been small garden plots here (Kisielienė 2008). The owners later poured sand, which was brought over from the shore of the pond, over the wet plot. The sand has many remains of small shells, so maybe the sand was brought from the shores of the New Danė River. The foundation attributed to the building was of unmortared field stones laid in four rows in the sand, and a 16 x 24 sq cm large frame fragment placed on top of the stone foundation. Based on the preserved building remains, its approximate size was 5 x 6 sq m. We have no data regarding how the interior of the building was arranged. By the layers' stratigraphy, the building's remains tentatively could be dated from the end of the 16th or beginning of the 17th century up to 1678. In

samples from the cultural layer that formed in the yard in the same period, pollen of buckwheat, rye, and hemp dominates; the pollen might have found its way here via the stored imported goods (Stančikaitė 2008). The archaeobotanical material suggests that the building was designated for storage.

The construction of all the buildings is characteristic of that period's wooden building tradition in Klaipėda, in which the house was constructed with the help of a frame. The building type would be complicated to identify because discussions about their typology are still taking place in historiography. Researchers describe fully-framed constructions and half-timbered (timber framed; *Fachwerk* in German) constructions differently. V. Žulkus maintains that in fully-framed constructions, the squared posts were dug into the ground or set inside a framework, while half-timbered building constructions were placed on top of the foundation and diagonal timbers were used exclusively for the reinforcement of half-timbered building corners. Walls of both types of buildings were filled in with clay or bricks inbetween the struts (Žulkus 2002, p.57). M. Brazauskas, however, thinks that the frame for the fully-framed type buildings was placed on separate stones or oak blocks, and ascribes the half-timbered type to the buildings with foundations of stone or brick bound with mortar or clay; the walls would be filled in with bricks and mortar between struts. Moreover, the first floor might also have been constructed of a stone foundation and brick walls (Brazauskas 2008, p.61).

Plot zones. Both of the first plot's buildings stood near the corner of Kalvių and Pasiuntinių Streets, and a rather large farm yard with a little animal shed stood in the remaining part. The distance between the later storehouse and the second plot's residential house was approximately 4.5 m in the 17th century, the distance to Kurpių St. – about 6 m. A large part of the second plot was taken up by the residential house with the annex, and only small plots remained for little yards near the streets. Beside the annex, set back 5 m from Kurpių Street, layers of an approximately 4.5 m wide area of one little yard were found; there might have been another oblong little yard on the Kalvių Street side. The discussed first and second plots' buildings suggest that the residential house with the annex and the storehouse with the lean-to belonged to the same owner. Doubled plots also have been found on other Old Town blocks. In the middle of the 16th century, both a residential building and a farm building that belonged to one owner stood on Kurpių Street (Žulkus 2002, p.48). Apparently, the owners of such doubled plots were richer town residents. In the third plot, the building used for storage also was built near Kalvių Street, while the ter-

ritory between the building and Kurpių Street was a rather large farm yard.

Construction on the examined block casts doubt on the dominant opinion in historiography till now that in the 16th-17th centuries the more important street to which house facades were oriented was Kurpių (Žulkus 2002, pp.48-49). All the buildings that were found on the block during archaeological excavations except for the residential house that covered almost the entire plot, stood near Kalvių Street, while the farm yards and small shed were near Kurpių Street. A similar building plan was recorded on blocks. On the plot near the corner of Mėsininkų and Kurpių Streets, the residential house that was built in the middle of the 16th century stood near Kepėjų Street, while the yard and storehouse were near Kurpių Street (Žulkus 2002, p.49). The residential house and workshop on another plot, which belonged to a shoemaker in the mid-16th – 18th centuries, were drawn back more than 2.7 m from Kurpių Street (Žulkus 2002, pp.48-49). An auxiliary building's remains uncovered in the plot near the corner of Vežėjų and Kurpių Streets show that from the middle to the end of the 17th century, the farm yard was near Kurpių Street (Sprainaitis 1981a, p.11). A small farm building dated to the second half of the 17th century was recorded in yet another plot, Kurpių St. 1, which also stood closer to Kurpių Street (Sprainaitis 1981b, p.12). Thus, following the layout of Klaipėda's blocks, when economic zones formed near secondary streets and houses were built near the main streets, we can assume that at that time Kalvių Street was more important. One of the factors contributing to the importance of Kalvių Street and this territory's development might have been the development of the port near the New Danė. Several opinions exist about the port's place in Klaipėda in historiography, but based on archaeological research data and written sources, we can assume that the port with the scales building and warehouses in the territory near the New Danė already started to develop from the middle of the 16th century (Masiulienė 2009).

The fire of 1678, which started in the outskirts of Vitė and Krūmamiestis and later spread to Klaipėda's Old Town, had a negative impact on the block's development. All the buildings that stood on that block burned down during that fire. We do not have exact data regarding when the block was fully rebuilt, but can tentatively say that it must have occurred in the beginning of the 18th century.

Activities of the plots' landowners. The function of the buildings found on the plots as well as some palaeobotanical research data suggest that the activities of the plots' owners were connected with trade, something

archaeological finds also could verify. A silver coin was found inside the residential house, inbetween the wood flooring. The coin was a 1510 Sigismund I the Old half-penny, minted in Vilnius; these coins were in circulation until the beginning of the 17th century (Plate III:6).⁵ Two more, copper and silver coins were found in the first plot; these were the Free City of Riga's 1571 and 157(5?) shillings (Plate III:7-8). A fabric roll's lead stamp was found in the same layer; one side of the stamp had the imprint of the maker's mark (so far unidentified), the other side – the letter "F," which meant a defective fabric. The find is dated to the middle – end of the 16th century. A small brass scales plate was found not far from that same period's layers. Several finds associated with that period's luxury wares also need to be mentioned. Three brass pins dated to the middle – end of the 16th century were found in the earliest, brown peaty soil layer near the annex and in the first plot. The pins were for holding a hairstyle or fastening on a cap or hood. Part of a plate of unknown function, but made from horn with an engraved image of a standing woman (Plate IV:4), were found in the same layer, in a corner of the annex. Judging by the engraving's preserved fragment, it is thought that the woman is depicted wearing Renaissance clothing. This is undoubtedly an imported product, only right now it is difficult to say what kind of product this was a part of – perhaps an element of decor of a small box. A book cover's brass binding, whose surface was covered with protuberant geometric and botanical ornaments (Plate IV:3), was found in the same cultural layer in the third plot. Several more brass book cover fastener parts were found in the middle – end of the 16th century's and 17th century's cultural layers of the first plot.

All the named finds are unique to Klaipėda's archaeological material and confirm the assumption that the plots' owners belonged to the richer class of townfolk, while their activities could have been associated with trade.

The town residents' diet in the mid-16th to end of the 17th century

Concrete data regarding the Klaipėda townspeople's dietary habits in the mid-16th to end of the 17th century are not abundant; even more so, the kinds of dishes that were prepared are unknown. For this reason, the problem of the town residents' diet is examined in a multi-disciplinary fashion, analysing various groups of data that enable but an image of the food products consumed at that time: meat, fish, vegetables, fruits, drinks,

⁵ E. Remecas of the Lithuanian National Museum identified the coins.

etc. The zooarchaeological and palaeobotanical data of the Kurpių Street block are directly associated with Klaipėda residents' diet. The second and third plots' bone material or zooarchaeological data (Diagram 1)⁶ are used in this article. Palaeobotanical research results of some of the samples from the third plot's cultural layers also are presented (Table 2)⁷. Published historical sources associated with Klaipėda's economic-commercial activities (Sembritzki 1926; Willoweit 1969; Groth 1995) indirectly testify about the food and drink consumed by Klaipėda's inhabitants. Duke Albrecht's scales right granted in 1538 (Sembritzki 1926, p.75) gave the impulse for Klaipėda's commerce. However, at all times the trade initiative belonged to Western Europe's ports, while Klaipėda usually was the intermediate marketplace in which goods were divided or presented. On the other hand, it is worth noting that by the Stowage right that was granted in 1639 by the King of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Wladislaus IV, merchants from other port towns first would have to offer the local merchants the luxury, widely used, and food goods they brought in to Klaipėda and only after that could they export them elsewhere (Tatoris 1994, p.256). The main 17th-18th century imports consisted of salt and colonial wares, especially tobacco and drinks (Groth 2001, p.15). Various goods are recorded in Klaipėda's port's 1664-1722 customs books, which are conserved in Berlin in the *Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz* (Groth 1995). Data regarding food and drink goods imported into the Klaipėda port in 1664-1678 are systematized and presented in this article (Table 1). That not all the goods recorded in the customs books could have been bought and used by Klaipėda's residents must be considered. On the other hand, the lists show what kind of food and drink products were possible to acquire in Klaipėda at the time.

Meat and meat products. Zooarchaeological analysis enabled the identification of 501 of the 988 bones and bone fragments, as well as several of the domesticated animal, bird, and wild game species (Diagram 1). The research showed that the inhabitants mostly consumed the meat of cattle; of all the identified bones, 315 of them – much more than half – belonged to cattle, including calves. Significantly less bones of other domesticated animals – pigs, goats, and sheep – were found. Noteworthy is that some of the animal bones had clear chop or cut marks, which appeared upon dividing the meat into smaller pieces. Several domestic

birds also were identified during the analysis: chickens, geese, and ducks. Moreover, remains of bird eggshells were found in the first plot's yard.

For their needs, the townsfolk apparently would breed some of the animals, usually sheep, goats, pigs, and domestic birds, on their own. Small farm sheds are found in the plots' yards. Remains of a small animal shed also were recorded in the excavated plot near Pasiuntinių and Kurpių Streets. The inhabitants would pasture their animals in the nearby meadows. Historical sources of the end of the 16th century mention cattle pastures on the right shore of the New Danė (Sembritzki 1926, p.101).

The animals might have been slaughtered by butchers who founded a guild in 1627 (Sembritzki 1926, p.166). The valuation of butchers' services were recorded in 1681 in the newly ratified statutes regarding Klaipėda town's prices, servants, clothing, weddings, children's baptisms, and funerals; the regulations were prepared according to the country's and town's earlier statutes of 1666. The new document indicated that butchers would receive 15 farthings for slaughtering a pig and making the sausages, while for the slaughter of a calf or sheep, they would receive 6 and 4 farthings, respectively (Sembritzki 1926, p.146).

Small amounts of meat products – sausages, hams, fat/bacon – would be imported from other Baltic Sea port towns. However, more meat was exported than imported. Salted meat, fat, geese, and animal intestines were exported from Klaipėda's port in the 17th century (Willoweit 1969, p.844; Sembritzki 1926, p.159; Groth 1995, pp.11-13).

Some of the wild animal bone fragments that were found in and near the residential house show that a part of the townspeople's rations consists of game meat. Bone parts of red deer, elk, roe deer, hare, and possibly boar were found in the cultural layers (Diagram 1). At that time one of the exported wares consisted of furs. In addition to the animals on the lists of exports in the second half of the 17th century, elk, red deer, and hare hides also are mentioned (Sembritzki 1926, p.159; Groth 1995, pp.11-13). Other wild animal bones were collected during the excavations in Klaipėda's castle area, such as European bison, aurochs, beaver, bear, fox, as well as seal (or porpoises) (Žulkus 2002, p.91).

Fish and fish products. Over a dozen fish bone fragments were found during excavations inside and near the residential house, in the layers that formed in the middle – end of the 16th century. Of all the collected fish bones, only two species of fish were identifiable: several pike bones and a large sea fish's "spine" (Daugnora 2008). Other types of fish remains were

⁶ Analysis of the bone material from the first plot currently is incomplete.

⁷ The table presents some of the macroremain data identified from the third plot. Palaeobotanical analysis of samples from the first and second plots currently is being conducted.

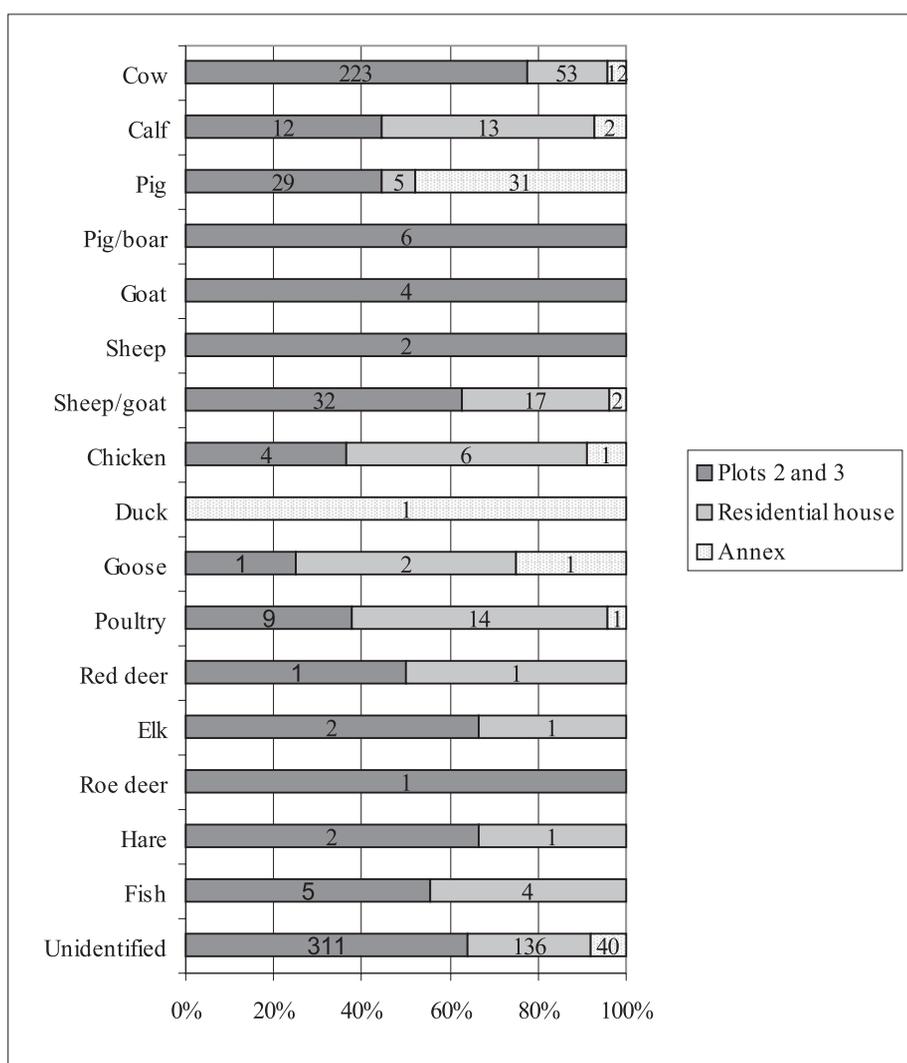


Diagram 1. Zooarchaeological data (number of bones and bone fragments): cultural layers of Plots 2 and 3, dated middle – end of the 16th century; residential house layer, formed before and during the 1678 fire; annex layer, dated mid-16th – second half of the 17th century (analysed by L. Daugnora, prepared by I. Masiulienė).

found in the 14th-16th century cultural layers of Klaipėda's castle area: bones of pike, zander, and a large sturgeon (Žulkus 2002, p.91).

Based on the earlier mentioned document of 1538, the owners of those plots that formed in the area of the pond were granted permission to fish (Sembritzki 1926, pp.75-77). This would be confirmed by two fishhooks found in the excavated block, inside the annex and in the first plot's yard. One of the fishhooks was exceptionally large and might have been intended for sea fishing. J. Sembritzki also explains other ways of fishing, for example, sturgeon and salmon were caught by nets in the sea, cod – by traps (Sembritzki 1926, p.78). Fragments of clay net sinkers were found near the residential house in the former yards' layers.

The residents sold a portion of the fish they caught in the open market, straight from the boats, or by exporting them. According to the lists or inventories of 1644, 1666-1673, and 1675-1678, a large percent of

the exported fish consisted of cod; lampreys also are mentioned (Groth 1995, pp.11-13; Willoweit 1969, pp.847-848). A large amount of various fish was brought to Klaipėda from neighbouring and Western European port towns. A fish import from Bergen is recorded in lists dated 1602-1612 (Willoweit 1969, p.844), and cod and herring – in 1644 (Willoweit 1969, pp.845-846). Based on Klaipėda's customs books, rather many variously prepared herring were imported. Other fish mentioned on lists would be caught in the Curonian Bay and Baltic Sea as well – cod, salmon, crucian carp, flounder, sheatfish. In the second half of the 17th century, crabs were brought in several times to Klaipėda from Lübeck and Amsterdam.

Crops, grain, and flour products. No macroremains of crops were identified in the analysed samples from the cultural layers, but the spore-pollen analysis showed that in the third plot, in the layers formed beside the storehouse, pollen of rye, hemp, and buckwheat dominated (Stančikaitė 2008). Historical sources indicate

Table 1. Inventory of food and drink products imported to Klaipėda's port in 1664-1678 (according to A. Groth, prepared by I. Masiulienė).

Item	Gdańsk	Gotland	Heiligenaa	Kalmar	Kolobrzeg	Liepaja	Lübek	Sackenhusen	Sackenstrand	Amsterdam	Harlingen	Wames	Vlieland	Terscheling	St. Martin	Kopenhag	Sondenborg	Edam	Niederlandy	France	Hamburg	Palanga	Kurlandia	Enkhuizen	Rotterdam	Oldenburg	Windava	Königsberg	Sweden	Ostende	Baye de Bognueuf	Pilawa			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33			
<i>Meat and meat products</i>																																			
Sausage							x																												
Ham							x																												
Fat/Bacon					x			x																											
Meat						x		x																											
Intestines (animal)						x																													
<i>Fish and fish products, Crustacea</i>																																			
Crucian carp (Polish "karas")							x																												
Salmon								x																											
Cod			x		x	x		x																											
Cod (jerked)				x			x																												
Flounder			x			x	x																				x								
Herring	x	x			x	x	x			x				x	x	x									x	x	x							x	
Herring (jerked)																						x													
Herring (smoked)			x			x																													
Sheatfish										x																									
Fish (Bergen)							x																												
Crab							x																												
<i>Crops, grain, and flour products</i>																																			
Oats						x		x																											
Oatmeal					x																														
Buckwheat					x																														
Buckwheat groats								x																											
Barley	x					x		x																											
Barley (Spanish)														x								x													
Barley flour																								x											
Flour	x					x																													
Rape	x																																		
Rice							x			x	x	x	x	x								x													
Rye			x			x																												x	
Rye flour	x				x				x																										
Millet groats	x																																		
Bread					x																														
Honey cakes										x	x	x		x																					
Cookies										x		x					x																		
<i>Vegetables</i>																																			
Cucumbers							x																												
Cabbage										x																									

Table 2. Some palaeobotanical sample data from Plot 3's cultural layers (analysed by D. Kisielienė)

Cultivated and collected plants		E13 (12)	E12(15)	E12(16)
<i>Ficus carica</i> L.	common fig		2	
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. (fragments)	European hazel	9 fr	5 fr	1 fr
<i>Rubus idaeus</i> L.	garden raspberry	4	1	1
<i>Fragaria vesca</i> L.	wild strawberry	2	6	1
Crop and flax field weeds				
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.) A.Love	climbing buckwheat	4	1	
<i>Viola</i> cf. <i>arvensis</i> Murr.	field pansy			1
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i> L.	cornflower		1	
Millet field and garden weeds, ruderal plants				
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L.	common nettle	3	4	4+1 fr
<i>Urtica urens</i> L.	small nettle		1	2+1 fr
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.	common knotweed	2	1	5
<i>Persicaria minor</i> (Huds.) Opiz	small persicaria	1		
<i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i> (L.) Gray	dock-leaved smartweed	41+6fr	15	1
<i>Persicaria hidropiper</i> (L.) Spach	smartweed	1	1	
<i>Rumex acetosella</i> L.	common sorrel	10+3fr	18	14
<i>Rumex crispus</i> L.	curled dock		6	
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	white goosefoot	21	>500	39
<i>Chenopodium</i> cf. <i>polyspermum</i> L.	many-seeded goosefoot	7	331	25
<i>Stellaria media</i> (L.) Vill	common chickweed	2		3
<i>Ranunculus repens</i> L.	creeping buttercup	4		2
<i>Potentilla anserina</i> L.	silverweed	1	1	
<i>Mentha arvensis</i> L.	field mint	1		
<i>Lapsana communis</i> L.	common nipplewort	1		
<i>Thlaspi arvense</i> L.	common pennycress	2 fr		

and imported goods in the second half of the 17th century (Groth 1995, pp.11-13). Other vegetables would be brought in to Klaipėda in that period – sources mention cucumbers, brought in from Lübeck, and onions, usually from the Netherlands. Klaipėda's inventory of exported goods in 1671 mentions turnips (Sembritzki 1926, p.159).

Fruits and berries. Fig-tree seeds (*Ficus carica*) were found in the samples from layers dated to the middle – end of the 16th century near the annex (sample E12(15)) as well as in the annex itself (D11(17)) (Kisielienė 2008). The fig can undoubtedly be associated with the commerce of the time; this is confirmed by the later 1664-1678 inventories of goods imported to Klaipėda. Most figs would be imported from other ports in Prussia and the Netherlands. Earlier, seeds of this plant had been found in the territory of Vilnius's presidential mansion, in 14th century cultural layers (Stančikaitė et al 2008, p.249). Raspberry (*Rubus idaeus* L.) and strawberry (*Fragaria vesca* L.) macroremains were found in samples E13(12) and E12(15). These plants are associated with wooded plots and glades, but they also could have grown successfully near ponds or alongside houses (Kisielienė 2008). We find informa-

tion in the written sources about other species of fruit that the townsfolk consumed: pears and apples. Their mention is connected with the regulation of Klaipėda's commerce. In 1613, the town's magistrate, Transaction Court, and Merchants' Guild permitted the artisans to engage only in small trade in apples, pears, and nuts (Sembritzki 1926, p.96). The merchants would deliver some of the fruits and berries to Klaipėda from Western European ports. Oranges mostly were brought in from ports in the Netherlands and Lübeck. Lemons (A. Groth indicates the Polish *cytryny* and *limony*) would be brought in from other towns in Prussia and the Netherlands. Apples, pears, plums, and cherries usually were delivered from Northern Germany and some Prussian ports.

Spices. Herbal spices which could have grown nearby in meadows and along the edges of the forests undoubtedly were used to flavour dishes. Macroremains of field mint (*Mentha arvensis*) and sorrels (*Rumex acetosella*, *Rumex crispus*) were identified in some of the third plot's samples (Kisielienė 2008).

Particularly various spices would be imported to Klaipėda from other ports. Lists of goods from the second half of the 17th century record ginger, peppers,

crocus, cloves, anise, cinnamon, caraway, etc.. Most varieties of spices were delivered from Amsterdam and Lübeck. Pharmacists with permits and some town residents traded in the spices imported to Klaipėda. At the end of the 17th century, four inhabitants in the town sold spices (Sembritzki 1926, p.170). In the privilege granted Jacob Jung in 1677, he was permitted to sell not only medicine in the pharmacy, but also spices (Sembritzki 1926, pp.142-143).

Other foodstuffs. One of the most important products used in cooking food – salt – was the main imported good in the 16th-17th centuries. Several varieties of salt (Hamburgian, Kołobrzegian, Lüneburgian, French, Spanish) were imported in large quantities from many Western and Central European ports of the time.

Sugar, powdered sugar, honey, and syrup were used to sweeten drinks and dishes. These products usually were brought in from ports in Northern Germany and the Netherlands.

Regarding dairy products, it must be mentioned that Klaipėda's residents only exported butter in the 17th century (Willoweit 1969, p.844; Groth 1995, pp.11-13), while the main imported product consisted of cheeses, usually brought in by boat from ports in the Netherlands.

During the course of archaeological excavations, many shells of hazelnuts and walnuts were collected from all the plots' yards as well as from some of the buildings. Hazelnuts were one of the exported goods in the second half of the 17th century (Sembritzki 1926, p.159; Groth 1995, pp.11-13). Walnuts would be brought into Klaipėda by way of the sea; they usually were imported from certain ports in Prussia, Northern Germany, the Netherlands, and France. Acorn shells also were found in some of the earliest excavated plot's cultural layers. Inventories of imported goods dated to the end of the 17th century record black walnuts, still called *oak tubercles* (*ažuolo gumbeliai*), brought in from Amsterdam. An abundance of goodies and delicacies were imported from Western Europe in the second half of the 17th century: marmelades, candied (crystallized) fruit, orange and lemon peels, almonds, chestnuts, raisins, olives, capers. Imported rapeseed oil and linseed oil could have been used in food preparation.

Drinks. Based on historical sources, Klaipėda's residents consumed many and various alcoholic drinks. Klaipėda's government would even issue decrees that regulated how many drinks the residents were allowed to consume and when. For example, in 1613 it was decreed that long-lasting weddings with immoderate eating and drinking and other disorder were limited to one day (Sembritzki 1926, p.107), while according

to the 1666 regulations, one could drink only one or two barrels of beer during an engagement or wedding (Sembritzki 1926, p.148). The townspeople would themselves make alcoholic drinks like ale, vodka, or mead, but limits and prohibitions on selling and buying these drinks would be decreed often enough. A decision to prohibit artisans to resell ale and mead was accepted in 1603 (Sembritzki 1926, p.91). The hops and dried malt that were used in the production of ale would be delivered by merchants from other port towns. Klaipėda's townsfolk would export a portion of the ale. The inventories of exported goods that date to the second half of the 17th century mention locally brewed Klaipėda ale (Groth 1995, pp.11-13). It must be noted that the larger part of alcoholic drinks were brought in from elsewhere. Various kinds of wine would be delivered to Klaipėda's port in the 17th century: sparkling, vermouth, Rhine, Spanish, French. Some ale would be brought in from Gdansk, Liepaja, and some German towns, but the quantities were not large. Meanwhile, vodka would be delivered from many of that time's Western European towns.

In summarizing the dietary data, it can be said that a ration of the Klaipėda townspeople's food was made up not only of locally grown products, but also of imported goods. In the 16th-17th centuries, the residents were able to purchase the imported goods in the market which operated in the center of the town, on today's Turgaus (Market) Street. Even little shops with petty wares are mentioned within the market in 1613; the shops could be set up only during the annual market (Sembritzki 1926, p.94). Often inhabitants would sell food products or drink from their homes, while some goods also could be bought in the pharmacies. Separate little shops also could be set up in the residents' homes. A collection of articles called *Wett-Articull der Churfurstl. Stadt Memmel* was published in Königsberg in 1667. In one of the articles, article 48, the activity of the merchants is clearly defined: if the merchant makes ale, then he cannot undertake petty trading; if the merchant has a petty wares shop, then he cannot make ale; and finally, the seller of petty wares or small goods merchant can make ale, but cannot deal in wholesale (Sembritzki 1926, pp.151-152). The same rules also regulated foreigners' trade. They indicated that during the annual market, merchants from other towns were allowed to sell ale, mead, wine, and vodka for eight days, but when the market was not open, they could sell only apples, pears, nuts, onions, and other vegetables, and deal in petty trade for eight days, as well as sell the goods by delivering them to homes once the term ended (Sembritzki 1926, p.151). Thus, Klaipėda's trade was strictly regulated by constantly issued or supplemented statutes.

Dishes and table utensils. Research into the town residents' diet is closely connected with dishware used in the household, as its function can show not only what kind of dishes were used to prepare, store, and eat food, but also how those foods were prepared. Initial analysis of the excavated territory's artefacts enables a general discussion of the dishes the residents used, distinguishing their variety. Food would be braised or cooked in ceramic pots, in three-legged pots, and in three-legged pans. In the tradition of their manufacture and in their forms, these dishes are undistinguished from other ceramic materials in Klaipėda in the 16th-17th centuries. Items that were baked in an oxidated environment and covered in clear or green glaze dominate. Worth discussing separately are the pot cover fragments collected from the middle – end of the 16th century's cultural layers of the first plot; these fragments are distinguished by their decor. The surfaces and knobs of ten different pot covers were decorated with a various stamp ornament (Plate IV:5). Several similarly decorated pot lid fragments also were found in other Klaipėda Old Town plots near Turgaus, Didžiosios Vandens, and Tomo Streets (Masiulienė 2001, p.33). Wooden barrels and vats were used to store drinks and other food products. The latter's parts and cover were found in the mid-16th–17th century's cultural layers. Remains of eight barrel bottoms were found in the first plot's building dated to the 17th century, in which wares were stored. Barrels were one of the main containers in which various goods were transported. Symbols were impressed into some of the barrel bottoms – apparently the manufacturer's trade mark. The drinks would be poured out from the barrels via taps. An ale barrel's little brass tap was found near the house. The tap was similar to one found in a house's basement in a plot near Tiltų Street (Žulkus 2002, pp.78-79).

The main table utensil in European countries in the Middle Ages was the knife, with which the food only was initially cut; the people would eat with their hands (Steponavičienė 2007, p.195). Meanwhile, spoons and forks spread somewhat later. In the 16th-17th century cultural layers on Klaipėda's Old Town, wooden spoons are found more often than metal ones (Žulkus 2002, p.92). A copper and lead alloy spoon with a decorated handle tip was found in the drainage system of the excavated residential house on Kurpių Street; another spoon's decorated handle was found in the yard (Fig. 3). Fragments of several knives and their blades or handles were found in the investigated territory (Fig. 4). Some of the iron knives' handles were made of wood, others were bone, and the tip of one knife was decorated with a zoomorphic ornament cast from brass. Based on the customs books, in the second half of the 17th century, most knives would be imported to



Fig. 3. Leaden spoon, covered with copper alloy, mid-16th century – 1678; and spoon's handle, decorated with crown at tip, middle – end of the 16th century (photograph by R. Bračiulienė).



Fig. 4. Knives along with their blades and handles, middle – end of the 16th century (photograph by R. Bračiulienė).

Klaipėda from Lübeck, and one time each from Kallmar and Liepāja; meanwhile, the lists do not mention either spoons nor forks (Groth 1995, pp.17-116). Food would be set on the table in plates or bowls; several dozen fragments of these dishes were found during excavations. A portion of them were manufactured by local artisans, while some earthenware plates were imported. Based on 1664-1678 lists of wares, ceramic plates were brought in from Gdansk a couple times (Groth 1995, pp.17-116). Klaipėda's archaeological ceramic material testifies that in the 16th-17th centuries, plates would be imported from towns in the Netherlands, Holland, and Northern Germany (Šakinytė 1998, pp.74-75). A few fragments of wooden bowls were found in the cultural layers. In the second half of the 17th century, ceramic and wooden bowls would be supplied from ports in Gdansk, Harlingen, Amsterdam, and Hamburg (Groth 1995, pp.17-116). Drinks would be poured into jugs. A stone paste jug fragment with a decorative, embossed man's head was found in the second plot's yard and dated to the second half of the 16th

century. Several wineglass fragments were found in the first plot's yard beside the 17th century storehouse. The fragments belonged to Romer type wineglasses, whose distinguishing feature is small, adhered glass bubbles. Glasses would be brought into Klaipėda's port from Gdansk, Kołobrzeg, and Lübeck (Groth 1995, pp.17-116).

The discussed data show that the excavated plot's townsfolk prepared food in dishes made by local potters, while some of the table utensils and dishes they used were imported from port towns in Western and Central Europe.

Conclusions

Archaeological, palaeobotanical, and zooarchaeological research of the block near Kurpių Street, along with historical data, enable a generalization regarding the main aspects of Klaipėda residents' way of life in the mid-16th – second half of the 17th century.

Specific environmental surroundings and economic factors had an influence on the development of construction on the block. The second plot was built on in the first stage, in the middle of the 16th century, while the other two plots were built on in the second stage, at approximately the end of the 16th – beginning of the 17th century.

The construction of the buildings is characteristic of the tradition of wooden building construction that dominated in Klaipėda town at the time. Some of the residential house's exterior elements suggest an architecturally exceptional building to Klaipėda at that time. The two story house had at least three rooms on the first floor. The residential house's kitchen hearth and living room's stove were connected to one chimney. Such an interior is characteristic of buildings in 16th-18th century Western and Central European towns. On the other hand, the data suggest a higher quality of life in Klaipėda at that time.

The orientation of the buildings and layout of the plots suggest that in the 16th-17th centuries, the more important street was present day Kalvių Street and not Kurpių. The formation of a port near the New Danė River starting the mid-16th century was important to the development of the block; the port needed an infrastructure in order to function. Buildings whose function was to store goods stood on all the investigated block's plots.

The archaeological and palaeobotanical material confirm the plots' owners' links with trade. The archaeological finds also suggest that the proprietors who lived

on the second plot belonged to a wealthier group of town residents.

Both locally produced and imported food products and drinks were used in the townspeople's diet. The inhabitants kept various animals and fowl on their plots, and grew vegetables in their gardens. Many townsfolk also made alcoholic drinks in their homes. It was possible to purchase drinks, vegetables, fruits, baked goods, and other food products in the town's market or in the residents' houses and little shops. A wide assortment of goods would reach Klaipėda from Prussia, Northern Germany, and other Western European towns. Klaipėda's commercial ties in the 16th-17th centuries undoubtedly had an influence on the townspeople's way of life.

Translated by Indre Antanaitis-Jacobs

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Received: 1 August 2009; Revised 3 September 2009;
Accepted: 5 October 2009

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XVI–XVII A. KLAIPĖDOS MIESTIEČIŲ GYVEN- SENSA (KURPIŲ GATVĖS SKLYPŲ ARCHEOLOGINIŲ, PALEBOTANINIŲ IR ZOOARCHEOLOGINIŲ TYRIMŲ DUOMENIMIS)

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Santrauka

Vertingos ir unikalios medžiagos miestiečių gyvenimui XVI a. viduryje – XVII a. pabaigoje tirti suteikė pastarųjų metų archeologiniai tyrinėjimai kvartale prie Kurpių gatvės. Šiame straipsnyje gyvenimosios sąvoka suprantama platesniame kontekste, todėl apibendrinami kvartalo sklypų formavimosi, užstatymo ir pastatų

konstrukcijų bei įrengimo duomenys. Kompleksiškai analizuojami Kurpių gatvės zooarcheologinė, paleobotaninė, archeologinė medžiaga ir publikuoti istoriniai šaltiniai, susiję su Klaipėdos ūkine-ekonomine veikla, leidžia daryti tam tikras išvadas apie miestiečių mitybą.

Kvartalo sklypų formavimuisi ir užstatymui įtakos turėjo gamtinė aplinka ir ekonominiai veiksniai. Pirmame etape, XVI a. viduryje, vyksta antrojo sklypo išsivėrimas, antrame etape, apie XVI a. pabaigą – XVII a. pradžią, užstatomi pirmasis ir trečiasis sklypai.

Pastatų konstrukcijos būdingos tuo metu Klaipėdos mieste vyravusiai medinių pastatų statybos tradicijai. Kai kurie gyvenamojo namo eksterjero elementai leidžia kalbėti apie architektūriškai išskirtinį pastatą to laikotarpio Klaipėdoje. Dviaukščio namo pirmame aukšte buvo mažiausiai trys patalpos. Gyvenamojo namo virtuvės židinyje ir kambario krosnis buvo prijungti prie vieno kamino. Toks namo interjeras būdingas XVI–XVIII a. Vakarų ir Vidurio Europos miestų pastatams. Antra vertus, iš gyvenamojo namo konstrukcijų, vidaus suplanavimo bei įrengimo galima spręsti apie aukštesnės gyvenimo kokybės požymius, nebūdingus to meto Klaipėdos pastatams.

Pastatų orientavimas ir sklypų suplanavimas liudija, kad XVI–XVII a. svarbesnė buvo dabartinė Kalvių gatvė, o ne Kurpių. Didelę reikšmę kvartalo vystymuisi turėjo nuo XVI a. vidurio prie Naujosios Danės besikuriantis uostas, kuriam funkcionuoti buvo reikalinga infrastruktūra. Prekėms sandėliuoti skirti pastatai stovėjo visuose tyrinėtose kvartalo sklypuose.

Archeologinė ir paleobotaninė medžiaga patvirtina sklypų savininkų sąsajas su prekyba. Taip pat archeologiniai radiniai rodo, kad antrajame sklype gyvenę savininkai priklausė turtingesnių miestiečių grupei.

Miestiečių mitybai buvo vartojami vietinių gamintojų ir importuoti maisto produktai bei gėrimai. Gyventojai savo sklypuose laikė įvairius gyvulius, paukščius, o daržuose užsiaugindavo daržovių. Dažnas miestietis savo namuose pasigamindavo ir alkoholinių gėrimų. Miesto turguje arba miestiečių namuose ir parduotuvėse buvo galima įsigyti gėrimų, daržovių, vaisių, kepinų ir kitų maisto produktų. Platus prekių asortimentas Klaipėdą pasiekdavo iš Prūsijos, Šiaurės Vokietijos ir kitų Vakarų Europos miestų. Neabejotinai Klaipėdos prekybiniai ryšiai XVI–XVII a. turėjo įtakos miestiečių gyvenimui.