

New Light on a Complex Early Modern Site on the Åland Islands

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Abstract

This article is about a maritime archaeological site in the outer archipelago of the Åland Islands, Finland. The site is very complex in nature and consists of two islands: Rödön and Gloskär. The site is part of an ongoing research project at Uleåborg University in Finland. The site has been excavated for three seasons. The 2007 excavation was the first that had participants from Georgia and Sweden. Previous research declared the site as a chapel from the Middle Ages in Scandinavia (thirteenth and fourteenth centuries). The authors discuss that in the light of the new results it is time to reassess the site and its function in society in its own time and context. Based on the results from the 2007 expedition, the authors suggest a new approach to the site and state it as a complex context for an inn that has its roots in the Middle Ages.

ახალი აღმოჩენები ალანდის კუნძულებზე

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ნიკოლოზ ცქვიტინიძე,
თბილისის ივანე ჯავახიშვილის სახელობის სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტი

წინამდებარე სტატია ეძღვნება, როგორც საზღვაო არქეოლოგიურ ძეგლს, რომელიც, ფინეთში, Åland-ის არქიპელაგზე მდებარეობს. ძეგლი ხასიათის მიხედვით საკმოდ რთულია და განლაგებულია ორ კუნძულზე, კერძოდ კუნძულ Rödön-ზე და კუნძულ Gloskär-ზე. ძეგლი სავარაუდოდ თარიღდება სკანდინავიის უახლესი ისტორიის ადრეული ეტაპით. ზემოთ ხსენებული ძეგლის გამოკვლევა შეადგენს Uleåborg-ის უნივერსიტეტის (ფინეთი) პროექტის ნაწილს. ძეგლზე გათხრები წარმოებს 2005 წლიდან. 2007 წელს ექსპედიცია პირველად იყო დაკომპლექტებული როგორც შვედი, ასევე ქართველი წარმომადგენლებით. წინა გამოკვლევების მიხედვით ძეგლი წარმოადგენს სკანდინავიის შუა საუკუნეების სამლოცველოს (ჩ.ვ. წ. 13-14 საუკუნეები). ახალ აღმოჩენებზე დაყრდნობით, ავტორები მსჯელობენ, რომ წინათ გაკეთებული დასკვნები უნდა შეიცვალოს და განისაზღვროს ძეგლის თავდაპირველი დანიშნულება, ახალი მასალებიდან გამომდინარე, ძეგლი არ წარმოადგენდა შუა საუკუნეების სამლოცველოს.



Fig 1. View from Rödön where the first location of the inn was.
Photographer: Alopaeus, Harry.

Introduction

Inns along the coastline of Sweden and Scandinavia are at the present a field of research lagging far behind in the interests of the overall research society, including archaeology and history. In Sweden at Stockholm University and at Södertörns University Collage, some essays have been written about inns. The essays are about what can have been served at the inns, their locations, and the research potential they contain (Kutuonen, 1993; Mattison, 1994; Sebastian, 1996; Virgin, 1998; Södertörns Högskola, 1998; Söderlind, 1999). Söderlind wrote the only book about these inns that exists today in Sweden. The book deals with the inn located at the islet Koffsan in Lake Mälaren, Järfälla parish closed to Stockholm. The focus of the book is what kinds of food and beverages served at the location during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The inn on Koffsan is the only inn that has been excavated by archaeologists in Sweden on land. No underwater excavation at the site was carried out (Söderlind, 2002).

The first written records about these inns in Scandinavia can be found in Olaus Magnus' famous book *Description of the northern peoples*. Olaus Magnus tells us that the first inns in Scandinavia were placed on the ice and the stood there until the ice broke in the spring-time. They were then washed away by the spring floods, as they were built only in wood and were half-timbered buildings. The reason why the inns were located directly on the ice were that it was easier for travellers to travel over the ice than in the woods during the winter. The inns had many visitors since the horses got tired after a while. Over time, the habitants at the locations moved the inns from the ice up on land so that the business and commerce at the inns could go on over the whole year instead of just the wintertime. Olaus Magnus own references dates back to the thirteenth century and Germany. This indicates that the system with inns along the coastline in Germany was well established during the high middle ages and most likely even so around the Baltic Sea area (Olaus, 1555, östervåla, 1975, p. 58).

This article deals with the area surrounding the inn at Rödhamn, Lemland parish in the Åland Islands and its surroundings. The excavation of the area started in the year 2005 and during the excavation season in 2007 students in archaeology from Georgia State University took part.

Regional location of the site

Åland can generally speaking be divided in two parts: one in the east and one in the west, the different parts showing specific characteristic features. In the eastern part, the landscape has a very clear characteristic of the archipelago and consists of a great number of islands. The eastern part on the other hand consists of mixed combined land territories. Land and bridges connect these territories.

In the southern part of the main Åland Island, you find a clearly geographically defined parish, *Lemland*. The industrial and economic life is aimed more towards agriculture then fishing in comparison to the eastern part. Geographically *Lemland* is clearly defined in the east and the north by two bays, *Lumparen* och *Föglö*. The southwestern part of *Lemland* consists of an archipelago of considerable proportions, bordered by the Åland Sea and the largest islands *Järsö* and *Nåtö*. Along the waterways of *Lemland* oral traditions exists regarding seafarers chapels that dates back to the Middle Ages. Further more the Åland Island is located an intersection between different business interests in the Baltic area. As long as trade and commerce has occurred vessels has

past the Åland islands from the east to the west and the other way around. The people on the Åland Island have always taken part in this trade and commerce (Papp, 1977:15 f). *Gloskär* are located in the outer archipelago in *Lemland* parish.

A short history of the known inns at the site

After studying maps of the area, it is clear that an inn was in use in the first part of the seventeenth century. The profit for the owner of the inn during the eighteenth century was large since the previous owner, Per Lindholm, was taxed for approximately 130 litres and the owner of the inn in the parish (situated in Granboda) only for approximately 42 litres. During the nineteenth century, the inn consisted of a number of small islands owned by the government. They were rented out with the right to operate an inn or restaurant for seafarers and travellers. The lease was for 25 years. The main building was located at Gloskär and seven other small islands were also included in the lease. The islands had no vegetation except bushes of juniper berries. The bushes were used as food for a couple of sheep and four goats during the summertime.

After that, the Russians cleaned one of the islands and were paid in food. The previous owner of the inn got approximately 27 kg hay per year. Like the other small islands, Gloskär did not have any forest and it was possible to harvest approximately 66,5 kg of hay. The owner of the inn (Sjöberg) had planted a potato field right next to the inn. He and his comrades also fished for herring. The major income, however, came from the commerce of the inn.

It was stipulated that forage for animals, food and beverages (beer and schnapps), and beds with sheets and covers were supposed to be available for the travellers at the inn. In the year 1866, the government withdrew the permit for serving strong alcoholic beverages, but the inn was still allowed to serve food, beer and coffee. In the year 1915, the government also withdrew the permit to sell beer. The last owner of the inn, Fredrik Herman Ekholm, had approximately ten to fifteen hens, two cows, between seven and fifteen sheep, and a pig. The pasturage for the cows was located on one of the small islets that surrounded Gloskär. Ekholm's wife had to go there to milk the cows on a daily basis. According to the lease, the owner of the inn was stipulated to have (beside his own house) a warm cottage for guests, and a chamber for the nobles. In addition to these buildings there was supposed to be a well, a shed for salt, a building for salting fish, a sauna, a woodshed and another small chamber.

During the time around the First World War, at least 15 ships anchored at the roadstead in the waters outside Gloskär waiting for the right wind. During the wait, the crew and sailors on the vessels visited the inn for something to eat. Commercial activity at the inn did not stop until Ekholm's sudden and unexpected death in 1939. It is very clear that the activity and merchant ship visits to the inn on Gloskär were very lively from the beginning of the eighteenth century up until the death of the last owner in 1939 (Papp, 1977: 317 ff). The question remains: *When was the first inn established at Gloskär/Rödhamn?*

The 2007 expedition and its results

The 2007 years expedition consisted of the Finish maritime archaeologist Harry Alopaeus (who has approximately 40 years of experience), the Swedish maritime archaeologist Ulrica Söderlind (PhD at Stockholm University), and Nikoloz Tskvitinidze from Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (major in archaeology) and Gigi Berdzenishvili (bachelor in archaeology from Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University). Rubi Jaramillo was taken part and made her practice on the field for her maritime biology education at Marina Läroverket, Danderyd (Danderyd's Maritime Center), Stockholm, Sweden. The expeditions contact at the Åland museum was the finish maritime archaeologist Marcus Lindholm. The expedition started on 18 June 2007 and ended on 6 July.

Gloskär island

The former harbour bay of the Gloskär Island are exposed to strong currents at least four times a day. The currents are due to the very large ferries that pass by 1-1.5 kilometres from the islands. The strength of the currents has been measured up to four knots, which is a lot of power. Due to the strong currents, it is difficult to work underwater at the site. The divers are caught in the currents and pulled into the shoreline. This is a big problem since the diving archaeologist lose track on where he or she is working because the visibility under water becomes close to zero and the measurement tapes that are the guidelines for the people in the water move and change location. The water level in the bay raises approximately 1-1.5 meters when the currents comes. These strong currents are also a major problem for the artefacts under water since the movements are so large. There are for example no culture levels underwater at the site due to the large movements and small artefacts such as clay pipes get lost forever. Due to the currents and the movements in the area it is necessary to dive or swim over the area several times a day in order to save the artefacts. Another example

of the strong currents effects on the sediment is this: a diver examined one area in the morning and small artefacts were taken care of. Eight hours later, another diver snorkelled over the same area and without diving or digging could see an unopened wine bottle laying on the seafloor. The bottle was intact and weighs over 1 kg.. An artefact of that size and weight does not move easily. This example shows how important it is that the harbour area continues to be excavated so the artefacts (big and small) can be taken care of since they are important pieces in the overall context of the site.

During the 2007 expedition, it was decided that a trench was to be excavated in a small foundation that was recognized from the previous year's expedition. In the previous inventory, the foundation was described as a place for salting fish. Members of the expedition made profiles of the foundation witch was accorded to the coordination system (x and y lines) and after this began excavation of one quarter of the foundation. The goal was to find the remains of the oven in the foundation.



Fig 2. Members of the expedition working on the foundation on Gloskär 2007. Photographer: Alopaeus, Harry.

The construction was by far more complex than was expected. Due to this fact, it took a lot longer to excavate the trench. After

cleaning the humus, many small stones and pieces of bricks appeared very high up in the construction. Due to that fact, it was very difficult to dig in levels. The first level consisted of four larger bricks and big stones. The level also consisted of a lot of sand and hard, burnt stones and bricks that felt apart into sand during the excavation. Among the burnt and broken pieces of bricks, one piece was found that had melted green glass on it. That indicates that the foundation has been exposed to severe heat. This was strengthening by the fact that a sooty layer appeared in the profile, which indicates a fire.



Fig 3. The foundation with the profile measurement tapes and the first drawn level on the plan sheet. Photographer: Tskvitinidze, Nikoloz.

The digging continued for another three levels and very soon the pattern of the construction emerged. It seems like the oven had a brick wall and the hearth was surrounded by big stones in a circle. The fourth level of the construction consisted of (besides the bricks and stones that followed the same pattern as the others levels) sand. After the fourth level, it was decided to close the trench since we had observed how the oven was constructed. Before closing the trench, a large piece of plastic was placed over the fourth level. This was done in order to know where the excavation was stopped. The next time the

trench is opened the plastic and the bricks and stones of the fourth level need to be removed before the excavation can continue. The foundation was restored into its original shape and form.



Fig 4. The first layer of bricks and debris. Photographer: Tskvitinidze, Nikoloz.

While the trench was excavated, other members of the expedition took measurements in order to reconstruct the former seashore line in the harbour area to make a map of the area. Such a map is very important since it will help date the bridges in the harbour as well as the foundation were the trench was excavated. In order to do that, the rock carvings of the water level in the years 1840, 1900, and 1907 made by the Russians in a big rock at the harbour site with were helpful. During the work with the measurements, a well that was still filled with water and some kind of construction for a possible house foundation were discovered. The well is most likely the well mentioned in the lease for the owner of the inn. The location of the well indicates that it was dug and constructed in the beginning of the nineteenth



Fig 5. The SW-NE profile at the foundation on Gloskär.
Photographer: Tskvitinidze, Nikoloz.



Fig 6. Burned bird bones from the SW-NE profile on Gloskär.
Photographer: Tskvitinidze, Nikoloz.

century. Even so, the well is located in an area of the island that is rich on fresh ground water and has always been that. The ground is still much waterlogged and in times of high tide and high water level the groundwater rises about 1-1.5 meters. Water is essential for an inn and its business, both for cooking and for beverages.



Fig 7. The well on Gloskär that still upon today contains fresh water.
Photographer: Alopaeus, Harry.

The Rödön Island

After the work was done on the Gloskär Island the members of the expedition moved to the close by Rödön Island. During the previous year's expedition, a visual inventory had been made of the Rödön Island and some test trenches had been done underwater. In the previous inventory from Rödön made in 1979 it is said that there was a medieval located on the north side of the island, close to the harbour. The foundation lies close to a field of stones. The foundation is described as a one-meter thick wall without plaster 11 meters long in the north-south direction and 16 meters in the east-west direction. In the southeastern corner, there is a one-meter opening in the wall. In the western direction of the foundation, the builders have used a natural rock and continued to build the wall on top of it. It is also stat-

ed in the inventory that there is an area with rock carvings on the northeast side of the island alongside the shoreline and the anchorage. It is not stated how many carvings the area contains, only that one is a compass card course, courts of amour, years, names and initials. One court of armour belongs to Olof Göstavson. He was the bailiff over Kastelholm and the Åland Islands during the years 1610-1612. Close to the area with the rock carvings, there is a mooring ring (Planeringsrådet, 1980: 57 f).



Fig 8. Expedition members working with the level machine in order to get the coordinates for the rock carvings. Photographer: Alopæus, Harry.



Fig 9. The map made in the field over the area according to the coordinates received from the level machine. Photographer: Alopaeus, Harry.



Fig 10. An overview photo of the area with the foundation and the closest rock carvings. Photographer: Alopaeus, Harry.

The rock carving area was covered with many juniper berries bushes that needed to be cut down in order to locate the carvings. This was tiring and hard work since the members was exposed to the hot sun that was reflected by both the water and the rocks. While cutting down the bushes, an presumed walking path from the anchorage to the building emerged and in total 21 carvings were found. The rock carvings are very hard to find in daylight. The best and easiest way to find and locate them is in darkness with help from a flashlight. This created some problems since it never gets dark on the Ålands Islands during the excavation period which fell in the so called “white nights”. This means that there is some kind of twilight zone between two and four a.m. when the sun rises again.



Fig 11. One of the expedition members working to fill in the rock carvings. Photographer: Alopaeus, Harry.

The rock carving area starts two meter from the foundation’s north-west corner and continues down to the mooring ring. The foundation was measured this year and the length of the north-south wall closest to the rock carvings is 8.35 meters long, the east-western wall length is 10.45 m, the north-east wall is 8.15 meters and the southwestern wall measure 9.75 meters. There is an opening in the eastern corner

of the foundation that measure approximately 80 cm. The foundation also has a collapsed wall close to the middle of it, inside. This indicates that the building use to have two rooms and not one. The measurements of the walls indicates that the building never have been rectangular as it is stated in the previous inventory.



Fig 12. An overview photo of the foundation. Photographer: Tskvitinidze, Nikoloz.

A test pit was dug in the opening in the foundation. The test pit was empty of artefacts but approximately 30 cm down there was a big stone which appears to have made a part of the staircase for the building. In the immediate nearness to the presumed staircase a large rectangular stone was found. The stone had tipped over but the shape of it indicates that its function has been as a roof stone over the staircase. If so it means that the building had an entrance hall. The presumed walking path from the anchorage leads up to this entrance in the building and while one walks the path one passes all the carvings in the rocks. The carvings are made in such a way it is readable walking along the path.



Fig 13. Photo of the last test pit with the soil that is a product of organic material compost over time. Photographer: Tskvitinidze, Nikoloz.

Very close to the foundations in its southern corner a new test pit was dug because a small foundation had been observed during the previous year visual inventory. The foundation is very small (approx 1.80 by 2.2 meters) and consist of small round stones. The pit was done close to one of the corners in the construction. The test pit measured 50 by 50 cm and had a depth of approximate 30 cm. After cleaning away the humus, dark topsoil emerged and as deeper down we came in the test pit the thicker and more compact the soil became. Several soil samples were taken and they have been turned in for analysis. However, it is very clear that the soil is a product of organic material that has been composting over a longer period.

The rock carving with the earliest year dates from 1607. However that is most likely not the oldest one in the area. The carving that has been described as a compass card course is more likely a sun clock with five crosses on it. The carvings have very little similarities to a compass card course. It is divided into the hours of the day with numbers and sections with a hole in the middle. The crosses marks the hours for eating during the catholic era when the prayer of Angus



Fig 14. The sun clock filled in with crayon in different colours.
Photographer: Alopaeus, Harry.

was read in order to say grace for the food and beverage (Patrica). After the reformation in the early 1520's no sun clocks are known that have crosses on them. That gives an indication that this clock is from the medieval era on the Åland Islands. If so that also indicates that the foundation can be from the same time period. There are no signs of burials in the larger foundation.

All the known medieval chapels on the Åland Islands have one square room and all of those that have been excavated had burials. Another common feature that these chapels have in common is that all of them have a wall of stone surrounding them, dividing the sacred ground from the profane, and no rock carvings are known in the area around them. There is no stonewall surrounding the foundation on Rödön and if somebody wanted to build one that would have been an easy task since the foundation is located near to two stone fields.



Fig 15. Overview photo of the stone field on Rödön located close to the presumed inn. Photographer: Söderlind, Ulrica.



Fig 16. One of the expedition members standing besides one of the stonepiles in the stone field. Photographer: Söderlind, Ulrica.



Fig 17. The well preserved medieval chapel in Lemböte with its wall.
Photographer: Söderlind, Ulrica.



Fig 18. The restored chapel on Singridsskär in the very outer archipelago of the Åland Islands. Photographer: Söderlind, Ulrica.

Closing discussion

Previous years excavations and inventories (2005 and 2006) has given us approximately 170 artefacts (Söderlind, 2006, 2006), both from the Gloskär and Rödön Islands. The artefacts are of such character that they can be linked to the commerce at an inn more

than to the activities surrounding a chapel and church life. The artefacts represent in general pieces of bottles, plates and drinking vessels both in glass and a variety of ceramics. The domestic ceramic glazed goods are of very good and high quality. That can also be sad about the imported goods. Pieces of wine bottles from the seventeenth century have come into light. Even if it pieces and no whole bottle there is no mistake in the dating of this artefacts since the wine bottles in northern Europe produced during this time had a very unique shape. Scandinavia have never been able to produce wine so all the wine consumed had to be imported from countries in Northern Europe such as Germany and France.

Several parts of clay pipes as also been found and they are also of high quality and are datable from their design. Worth mentioning is that we have found nice specimen of the Swedish King Gustavo's III revolutionary pipe from 1772 and shell pipes that dates to the 1740s. The first pipe was only produced under a very short period and was given to the followers of the Kings revolution when he seized power on August 19, 1772. We also have plain pipes without decorations.

Many bones been classified as those from seals, sea birds, beef, goats/sheep, pigs and other cloven-hoofed animals have been found. What is interesting is that the major parts of the bones are from young animals. This is a very strong indicator that the community to which the Gloskär and the Rödön Islands belonged to in the past was a wealthy community. Only wealthy communities slaughter young animals. A poor community would have let the animals grow up and used them for breeding and to get milk in order to produce butter and cheese and so on.

The 2007 expedition yielded approximate 70 artefacts, most of them came from the harbour area and the artefacts followed the same pattern as the previous years. About 15 artefacts came from the foundation that was partly excavated. They consisted of construction parts such as different sized nails and fragments from a cauldron. Among the artefacts there were also burned bones, most likely from seabirds. The bones have been handed in for analysis. Even if the foundation only was partly excavated, it is very clear that the building had a very large oven, almost in the centre. There is very little space between that oven and the walls of the building, at most approximately one meter. That is just enough for one person to walk between the oven and the walls of the building. The oven strongly indicates that the building is not a place for salting fish. For salting fish, you need salt, spices, barrels and the fish itself. Since we have experience of salting fish at a fishery in modern times, the foundation with the large oven is completely inappropriate for salting fish. In order to clean the fish from its head and guts a larger working area is required than the one that is in the foundation. There is not enough space between the oven and the walls to place the big wooden barrels. In addition, a big oven is not necessary for salting fish. The oven indicates an activity that needs heat.

The burned artefacts and the black soot in the profile indicate that the building burned down. The location of the building indicates that it was built in the nineteenth century, which means that it was not burned down by the Russians during their ravaging of the Åland Islands in the beginning of the eighteenth century. There is a possibility that the building burned down during the First World War or it just could have burned down in an accidental fire. The location of the building in the harbour area is very good if you are working with fire on a daily basis. It is close to water in case of a fire and if the building burns down it is far away from the other houses and cottages so the fire hazard had been limited. It was better to lose one building than all of them.

For the moment we are working with two different theories what the building could have been used for: one is for smoking fish and the other is that it is a smithy. Both of these activities need fire and a large oven. However, smithies are not known to be in close connection to inns in the outer archipelago. One reason for that is that the guest came by boats and not by horses. Smithies are usually linked to inns along the roads in the inlands since the horses needed new shoes etcetera. There is a possibility that the ships and vessels needed a smithy in order to repair some iron details in the ship or vessel, but that seems a bit far-fetched. The crew and people aboard the ships and vessels where skills artisans themselves and were used to do that kind of things themselves.

The other activity of smoking fish fits better with the overall context of the site, not the least because the last owner of the inn fished herring along with other fishermen. The location of the building in the harbour fits also very well in to the context. When the fishing boats came in to the harbour with their catch it was a very short walk with the fish to the smoker. Smoking the fish was an alternative to the salted fish, which was very common on the tables in this time. The fish stayed preserved for a long period and smoked food was popular among the people in the outer archipelago. Just outside the building in the harbour, we have found sinkers for fishing nets in barque. It is difficult to say how conservative the fishermen had been when making the sinkers, but they are very similar to the sinkers found on the Swedish royal ship *Vasa* which sank in the year 1628. During the excavation sample was taken from the soil inside the oven. The soil samples have been handed in for analysis. It is going to be very interesting to see what the soil consist of. If it has traces of fat from fishes, fragments from wood and trace of the juniper bush and/or from it seeds that are strong indicators that the building was used for smoking fish, so we are awaiting the results of the analysis with great interest.

The reason for the smaller amount of artefacts this year in comparison to the previous year's excavation is that the group cleared a large area from bushes on Rödön in order to document the rock carving area that was reported in the previous inventory. It took a lot of time to clear the area and rock carvings are very hard to find in daylight. The best time to try to find

and locate them is when the sun is setting. This was one reason for the long working days. In total 21 carvings were found and documented. The carvings mark the pathway from the anchorage to the building that in previous inventory has been classified as a medieval chapel. The building and the context with the rock carvings has no similarities with what we know about the medieval chapels on the Åland Islands. It has two rooms and the walls are of different length and have an opening in the east with a staircase. No burial had been performed at the site. There is no stone wall surrounding the building in order to separate the sacred ground from the profane. Every medieval chapel on the Åland Islands has that and it would have been an easy task to build one since the building is very close to two stone fields. One can always argue that the building has had a wall made of wood from smaller trees and that the wall has disappeared over time. If so, that would be unique for the Ålands Island. However this seems far-fetched since the trees are small and tiny on the island and has always been due to its location in the outer archipelago. The trees are marked by the strong and harsh winds and have adapted to the geographical conditions of the site. If a wooden wall had been constructed, the wood must have been taken from somewhere else and transported to the island. This seems unlikely in the event that the stone fields are so close the foundation and a wall could easily have been constructed out of those stones.

Furthermore is it not known that rock carvings were ever made close to the medieval chapels; that would have been a form of sacrilege towards the church and its values. The rock carvings can be compared to modern graffiti and its very clear on Rödön that the carvings were done so it has been readable along the pathway towards the entrance of the building. The closest one to the building is only two meters from it. If the foundation were a medieval chapel with rock carvings it would make it further unique on the Åland Islands. However, rock carvings are closely linked to harbour sites and inns along the coastline of Scandinavia. The test trench which was made in the small foundation close to the bigger one consisted of dark soil from organic material. It is too soon to say what that building has been used for; it can either be a storage room for foodstuff, the garbage place for leftovers or maybe an outhouse. Up until today it is not known that the medieval chapels have any of these buildings close to them.

We are of the opinion that it is time to reassess what the big foundation on Rödön was used for. From all the new facts that have become known during the 2007 expedition, we would like to classify the building as an inn instead of a medieval chapel. The rock carving that is a sun clock with crosses indicates that it has roots in the pre-reformation area and most likely that is the oldest carving of the area. Therefore, it is important to find out when the first inn was established and began operation on Rödhamn. One question among others is also why did the inn move from Rödön to Gloskär?

After making a visual inventory of Rödön, we believe that that reason for the move of the establishment was the lack of fresh water. We found

only two smaller accumulations of fresh water on Rödön, one contained approximately 500 litres and the other 1,500 litres of fresh water. That amount is not sufficient by far for an inn with guests that require warm food and beverages. As mentioned earlier in the text, the freshwater assemblage on Gloskär has always been larger and still is.

The future

Even if the site has been under excavation for three seasons it stands very clear that it still has a lot to offer in new knowledge in the field of inns in the outer archipelago on the Åland Islands and in Scandinavia as a whole. The results from 2007 expedition are very promising and raise new questions and thoughts about the complexity of the site and there is no doubt that the site needs further investigation and that it was very meritorious that the expedition members came from Sweden and Georgia.

The strength among the members and the dynamic of the group lay in that the Swedish members knew the site from previous year's excavations and that the Georgian members saw and encountered the site for the first time. The site and its location is very different from the sites in Georgia and that meant that the Georgian members of the group saw it in a different way than the Swedish members and had new ideas and questions to the site than the Swedish members. From that point of view interesting and fruitful discussions emerged. We can only hope that this was the first time the expedition group consisted of these members and by far not the last time.

The big foundation on Rödön that we classify as an inn instead of a mediaeval chapel needs further investigation. It would be very useful if the foundation was measured and drawn in 1:100 scale. A plan like that would be very usefully when the foundation is excavated in full. It would also be very useful to search for a building/foundation that would have been used as the kitchen. Since the research about inns still is in its infancy, we do not have any knowledge of where the kitchen was placed. From the visual inventory of the big foundation it does not seem like that the kitchen has been placed in the same building. However the building had a cellar of some kind. Taking the fire hazard into account, it is likely that the kitchen was a separate building placed a bit from the inn. If so, the kitchen should be looked for in the bushes that cover the area east of the building, close to the water.

Summary

This article has been about the complexity of a maritime archaeological site in the outer archipelago on the Åland Islands, Finland. The site is very complex in nature and consists of two islands, Rödön and Gloskär islands. The site can be dated to the early modern times in Scandinavia. The site is part of an ongoing research project at Uleåborg University in Finland.

The site has been the subject for excavations since 2005. The 2007 expedition was the first one when the members of the group came from both

Sweden and Georgia. The cooperation between the two countries became a reality due to generous funding from Ålands kulturstiftelse, Stiftelsen Hilda och Gustaf Eriksons samt Gustaf Adolf Eriksons understödsfond, Stiftelsen för åländsk historisk forskning. All of the foundations are located on the Ålands Island. The expedition is in great debt to the sponsors for making the expedition come true with members from both Sweden and Georgia. The expedition is also in debt to Marcus Lindholm's father for lending us the boat without charge.

The 2007 expedition partly excavated a foundation in the former harbour area on Gloskär and the building had a large oven more or less in the centre of it and very little space between the oven and its walls, at its best approximately one meter, just enough for one person to walk around the oven and stand in the building. The foundation has earlier been classified as a place for salting fish, but for that activity an oven is not necessary. All the finding of the 2007 expedition indicates that the building instead was used for smoking fish, which was highly appreciated on the Åland Island as food. The samples taking from inside the oven have been handed in for analysis and we await the results with great interest. The former seashore line was also measured on Gloskär. This is of great importance since a map with the former seashore line is going to help us date the remains of the bridges and other buildings and the well on the island.

On Rödön, a larger area was cleaned from juniper bushes in order to locate and document an area of rock carvings, of which 21 were found. On Rödön, there is a larger foundation that in previous inventory has been classified as a medieval chapel. However, the foundation and its surroundings have very little in common with the other known medieval chapels on the Åland Islands. No funerals had been performed at the site and the foundation has two rooms. Known medieval chapels have only one square room. All the known medieval chapels on the Åland Islands have a stone wall surrounding them in order to separate the sacred ground from the profane. The foundation on Rödön has no such wall and if someone wanted to built one it would have been an easy task since the foundation is located very close to two stone fields. No rock carving areas are known close to the medieval chapels either. On Rödön, the closest rock carving is only two meter from the foundation. We strongly believe that it is time to reassess the foundation on Rödön, all the indications from the 2007 expedition indicate that the foundation has been an inn instead of a medieval chapel. We still need to answer the question when the first inn was established in the Rödhamn area. The rock carvings on Rödön indicate that the inn cannot have been established during the catholic era.

Some point in history the inn has moved from Rödön to Gloskär. The question is why? We strongly believe that one important reason has been the small quantities of fresh water on Rödön. The assemblages on Rödön have been very small and by far not enough for the activities connected to an inn with hungry and thirsty guests. On Gloskär the freshwater assemblage have

been larger and still is today, the ground next to the well is still waterlogged. During high water, the water level rises 1-1.5 meters. Another reason for the move of the inn can be that the harbour on Gloskär always has been a natural harbour that always has been in lee of the wind in comparison to the anchorage outside Rödön. This two reasons combined can have been the reasons to move the establishment from Rödön to Gloskär. The last owner of the inn died in 1939 and after that, all the activities stopped. It stands clear that the activities on the Rödön Island and the ones on the Gloskär Island are closely linked together.

It is very important that the foundation that we classify as an inn on Rödön will be measured and drawn in a scale 1:100. A diagram like that is very useful when the foundation is totally excavated.

Even if the site has been excavated for three seasons, it stands very clear that the site has a lot more to offer to the research field that is in its infancy. The results from the 2007 expedition raise new questions that need to be answered and we can only hope that the excavations in the area are allowed to continue in the future.

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Tbilisi According to the Foreign Sources

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Abstract

In the second part of the fifth century King of Georgia Vakhtang Gorgasali reconstructed and extended Tbilisi alongside some other cities and made it the capital of the country. From that time, the significance of the city considerably increased and together with some other distinguished cities of the world, it was frequently mentioned in the works of foreign travelers and scholars visiting Georgia.

The present paper introduces the evidence of foreign sources about Tbilisi from the fourth century until the twentieth century in Greek, Armenian, Arabic, Persian, Turkish and European languages.

Attention is drawn to the location, the architecture, the population, its occupation, the conquerors of the city, and the fights against them.

One can see that regardless of the ethnic composition of Tbilisi, which changed over time - the city managed to preserve its face and peculiarities: aspiration towards freedom, tolerance, and hospitality. All visitors were delighted by the sulfur baths, the architecture, the educated people, their taste, and the beauty of the women.

Since Tbilisi preserved its position as the main city of the country for a long time, the paper also includes a brief history of Georgia presented from a special perspective.