



Photo: Allan Alajaan

Did You know that

the oldest capital city in the Baltic Sea region was in fact mostly inhabited and ruled by foreigners – Danes, Germans, Swedes, Russians – from the 13th to the 19th centuries, and Estonians could only begin to claim Tallinn as their own city from the 1920s?

There were most likely earlier Estonian settlements during the 11th and 12th centuries on the present day location of Tallinn – Estonian clans used the area of what is now the Tallinn as a marketplace, and they utilised the natural harbour and maintained a wooden fortress on Toompea hill. 1154 – Tallinn is first mentioned in historic records by Arab cartographer al-Idrisi (Tallinn as Qlwr, Kolyvan, Koluvan, Kalewen by Lindanäs/Lyndanise)

Tiesitkö, että Itämeren maiden vanhimmassa pääkaupungissa on 13. vuosisadasta 20. vuosisadan alkuun ollut vallassa muut – tanskalaiset, saksalaiset, ruotsalaiset ja venäläiset? Virolaiset voivat Tallinnaa aivan omana kaupunkina pitää vasta 1920-luvulta alkaen.

Tallinnan paikalla sijaitsi todennäköisesti virolaisten muinainen asumapaikka. 11.–12. vuosisadoilla virolaiset heimot käyttivät nykyisen Tallinnan aluetta toripaikkana ja satamana sekä pitivät Toompealla yllä puulinnoitusta. 1154 – arabialainen kartografi al-Idrisi mainitsi ensimmäistä kertaa Tallinnaa maailmankartassaan (kaupungin nimestä on käytetty versioita Qlwr, Kolyvan, Koluvan, Kalewen ja Lindanäs/Lyndanise).

Знаете ли вы, что в старейшей столице стран Балтийского моря с XIII до начала XX века правили чужеземцы: датчане, немцы, шведы и русские? Эстонцы могут считать Таллинн по-настоящему своим городом только с начала 1920-х годов.

На месте Таллинна, по всей видимости, было древнее поселение эстонцев. В XI – XII веках эстонские племена использовали территорию, на которой расположен нынешний Таллинн, как торжище и порт, они же основали деревянную крепость на холме Тоомпеа (Вышгород). Впервые Таллинн был упомянут в исторических документах арабским картографом Аль-Идриси в 1154 году. (Таллинн упоминается в различных источниках Кольвань, Колуван, Калевен, Линданэс/Линданисе.)

Kas teadsid, et Läänemere vanimas pealinnas on 13. kuni 20. sajandi alguseni olnud võimul teised – taanlased, sakslased, rootslased ja venelased? Eestlased võivad Tallinna täitsa oma linnaks pidada alles 1920ndatest.

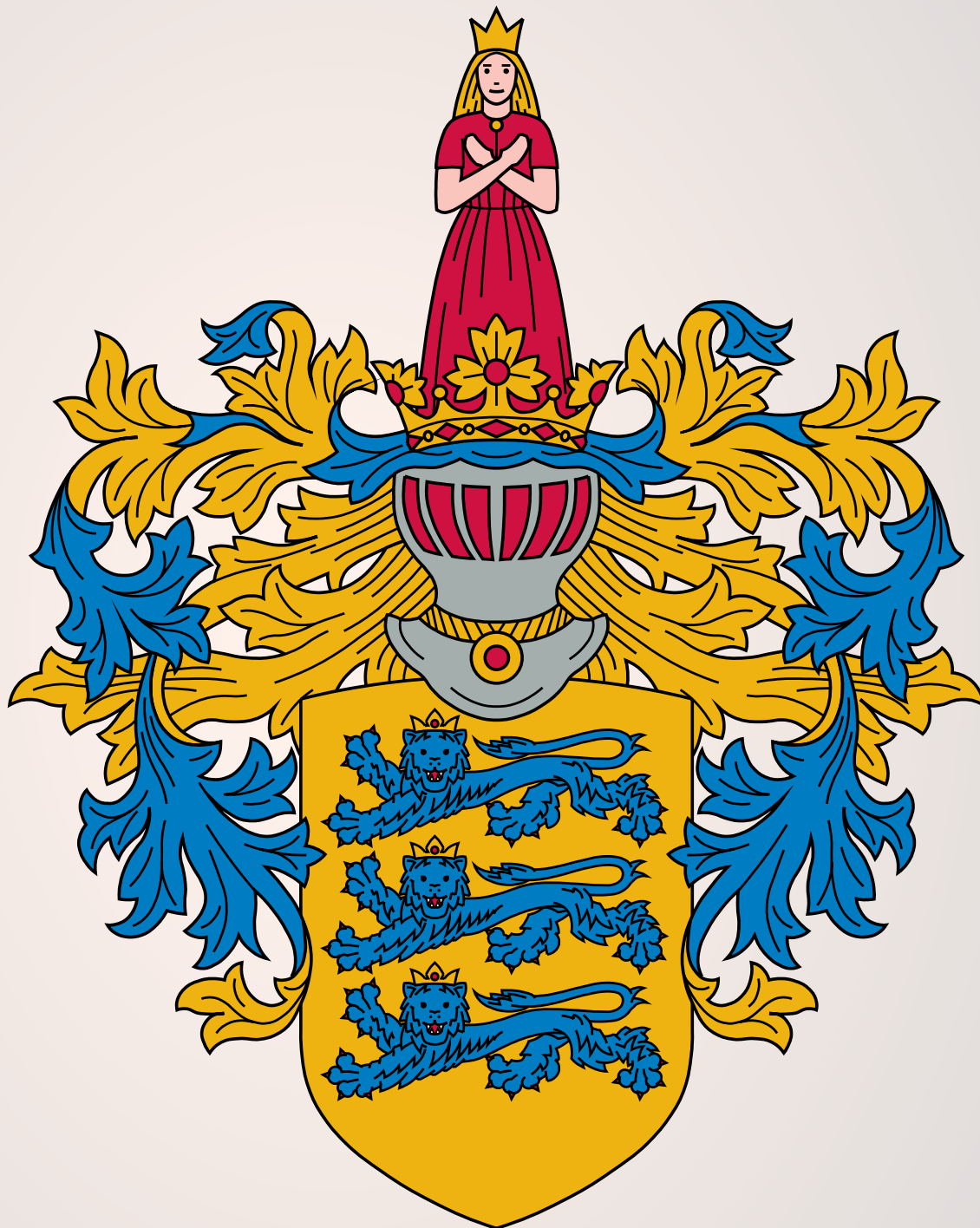
Tallinna kohal oli tõenäoliselt eestlaste muistne asula. 11.–12. sajandil kasutasid eesti hõimud praeguse Tallinna piirkonda turukoha ja sadamana ning pidasid Toompeal ülal puitkindlust. 1154 – Tallinna mainis esmakordselt ajaloolistes ürikutes Araabia kartograaf al-Idrisi (linna nimeks on olnud Qlwr, Kolyvan, Koluvan, Kalewen või Lindanäs/Lyndanise).



Photo: Toomas Volmer

1219 – Danish forces capture Tallinn from the locals (Tallinn as *Castrum Danorum* – the Danish City (“*Taani-linn*”), but could also have been “*Tallide-linn*” (the City of Stables), “*Tali-linna*” (“Winter-castle/town”) or “*Talu-linna*” (“House/farmstead-castle/town”).

1227 - 1238 – German merchant families from Gotland settle at the base of Toompea, sowing the seeds of Tallinn as a Germanic (and eventually Hanseatic) trading town known as *Reval* or *Ревель* until 1917. From 1918 to the 1930s, the name was Tallinna, subsequently Tallinn.



The shapes and colours of Tallinn's large coat of arms come from the coat of arms of the former local landlords, the Kings of Denmark. Of Estonia's symbols, the lions on the coat of arms have been used since the 13th century and are one of the oldest.



Photo: Martin Jänes

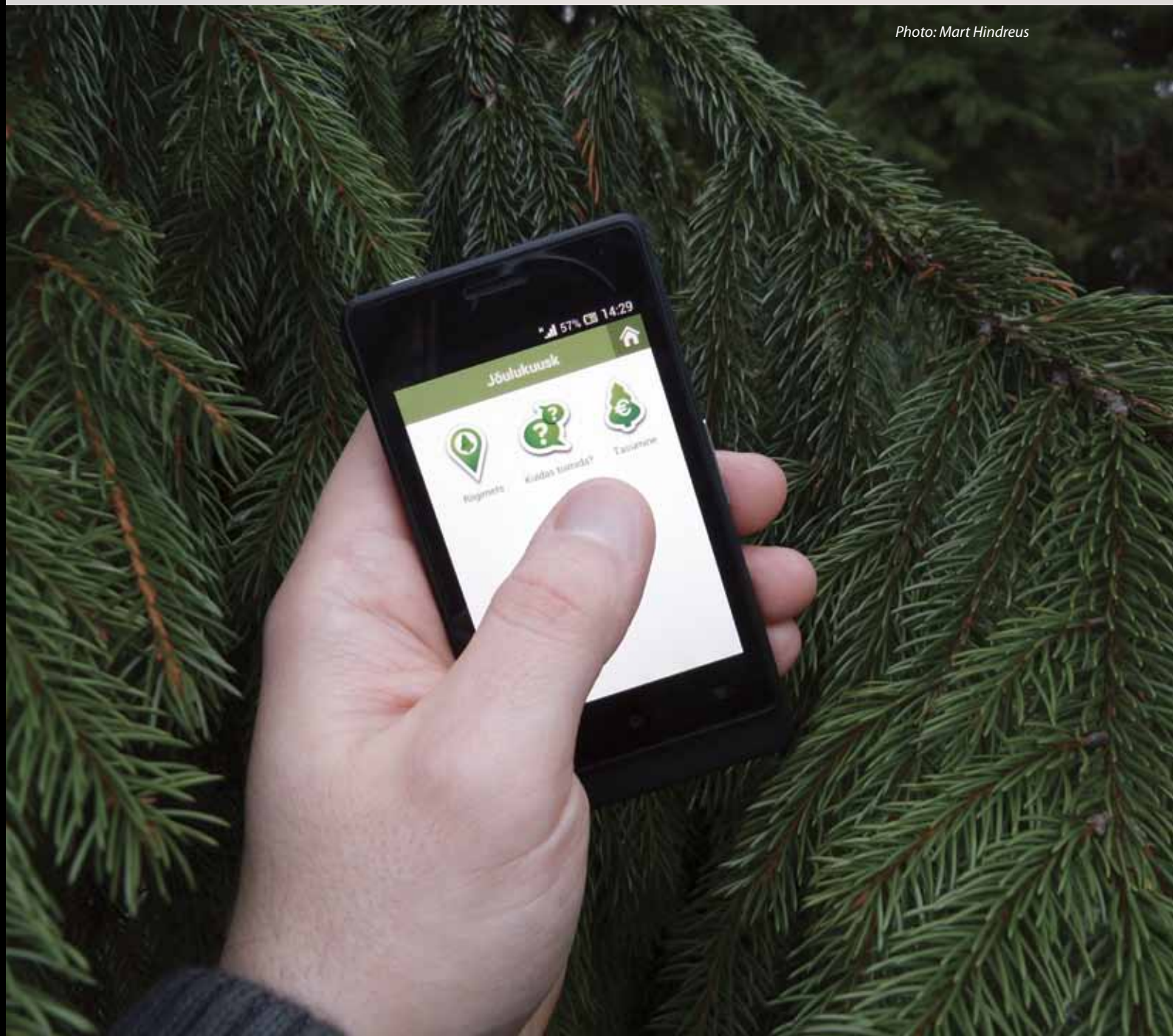
According to legend, the oldest state flag in the world still in use, the national flag of Denmark, Dannebrog, fell from the sky in 1219 during the battle over Tallinn and a voice was heard to say, “When this banner is raised on high, you shall be victorious!” On this very spot, now called the Danish King’s Garden, the sculpture “Fire Flag”, by artists Mari Race and Liina Stratskas / Martin Jänes is located.



Photo: Allan Alajaan

The first public Christmas tree at the Town Hall Square in Tallinn dates back to 1441. Some claim that this was the oldest public Christmas tree in the world. Christmas traditions live on in Tallinn Christmas market, which the CNN news agency has chosen as one of the most beautiful in the world.

Photo: Mart Hindreus



In Estonian homes, having a Christmas tree became a tradition in the years 1860-1870. A common Christmas tree journey is still a tradition in many families. Today, a smartphone app called forest has been developed, which easily shows you the locations of state forests, identifies your location and allows you to pay for a suitable fir Christmas tree that you can bring home from the forest.



Photo: Raecapteek

Raecapteek is known to be the oldest pharmacy in Europe that is still in operation in the same premises; its year of establishment is considered the beginning of 1442. In the Middle Ages, Raecapteek was not just a place to sell medicine. Here gathered the aldermen, merchants and other dignified citizens of the city to drink claret with their guests and make plans.



Photo: Toomas Volmer

Medieval traditions are borne out in the summer during the Tallinn Old Town Days when the old town courtyards, plazas, streets and cafes are filled with music, art, theatre, tournaments, markets and master chambers.



Photo: Toomas Vollmer

Kadriorg Park – developed by Peter I in the early 1700s in honour of Catherine I – is the most notable park in Estonia. Its true gems include Kadriorg Palace (a summer residence for the tsar’s family), the Presidential Palace, Swan Pond, Japanese garden, modern Kumu Art Museum and many other museums.

Photo: Karel Koplímets



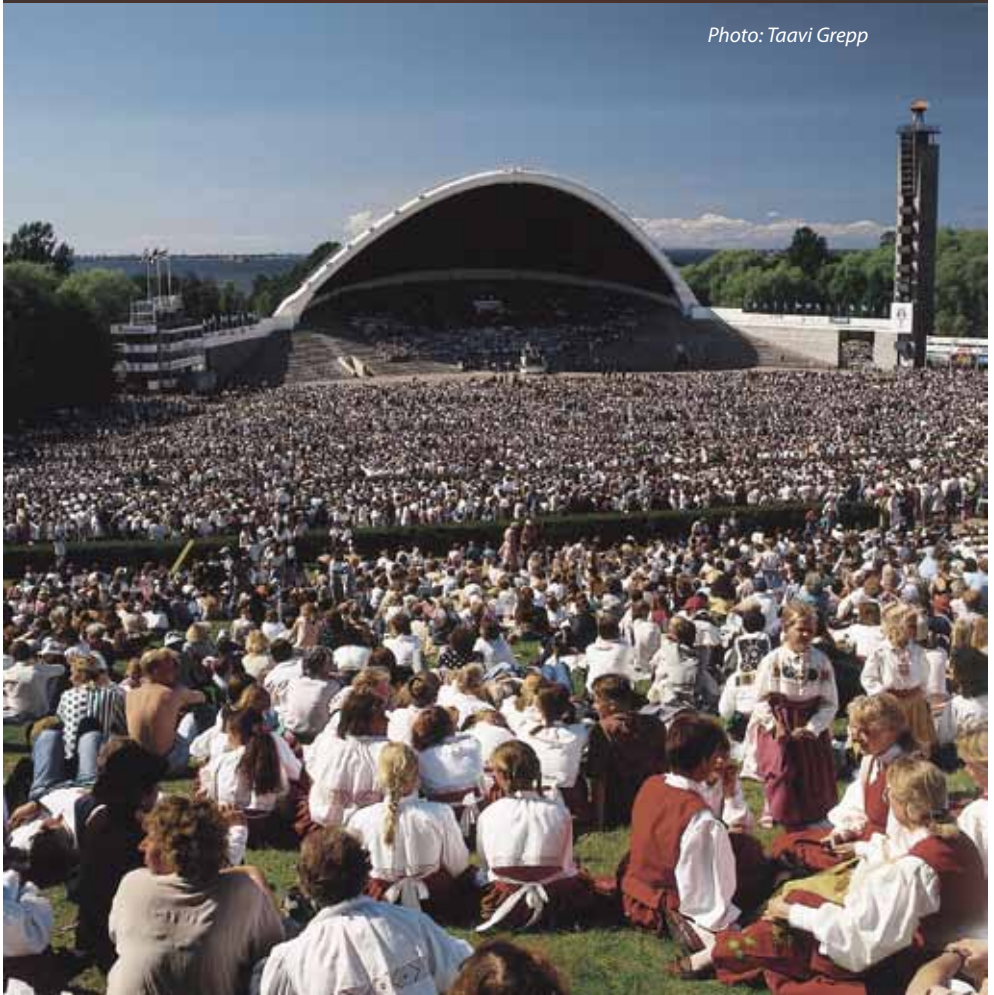
Kumu Art Museum in Kadriorg.



Photo: Mait Jürjato

In addition to Tallinn's Old Town belonging to UNESCO World Heritage List, it is possible to experience yet another representative of UNESCO World Heritage, The Estonian Song and Dance Celebration, whose traditions date back to the 19th century. The spontaneous night song festival – The Singing Revolution – played a major role in the restoration of Estonian independence in 1991.

Photo: Taavi Grepp



The Song Celebration brings together thousands of guests from home and abroad.