



*Did You know that
you can come across a bit
of Venice in Tartu?*

In the City of Tartu, more than anywhere else, glass goblets with high-level enamel paintings, so-called Venetian goblets, have been found.

Tiesitkö, että Tartossa voit kohdata palan Venetsiaa?

Tarton kaupungista on löydetty enemmän kuin mistään muusta löytöpaikasta korkealuokkaisia emalimaalattuja lasipikareita, ns. venetsialaispikareita.

Знаете ли вы, что частицу Венеции можно встретить в эстонском городе Тарту?

Именно здесь найдено больше, чем в любом другом месте стеклянных кубков расписанных эмалью, так называемых венецианских кубков.

Kas teadsid, et tükikest Veneetsiat võid kohata Tartus?

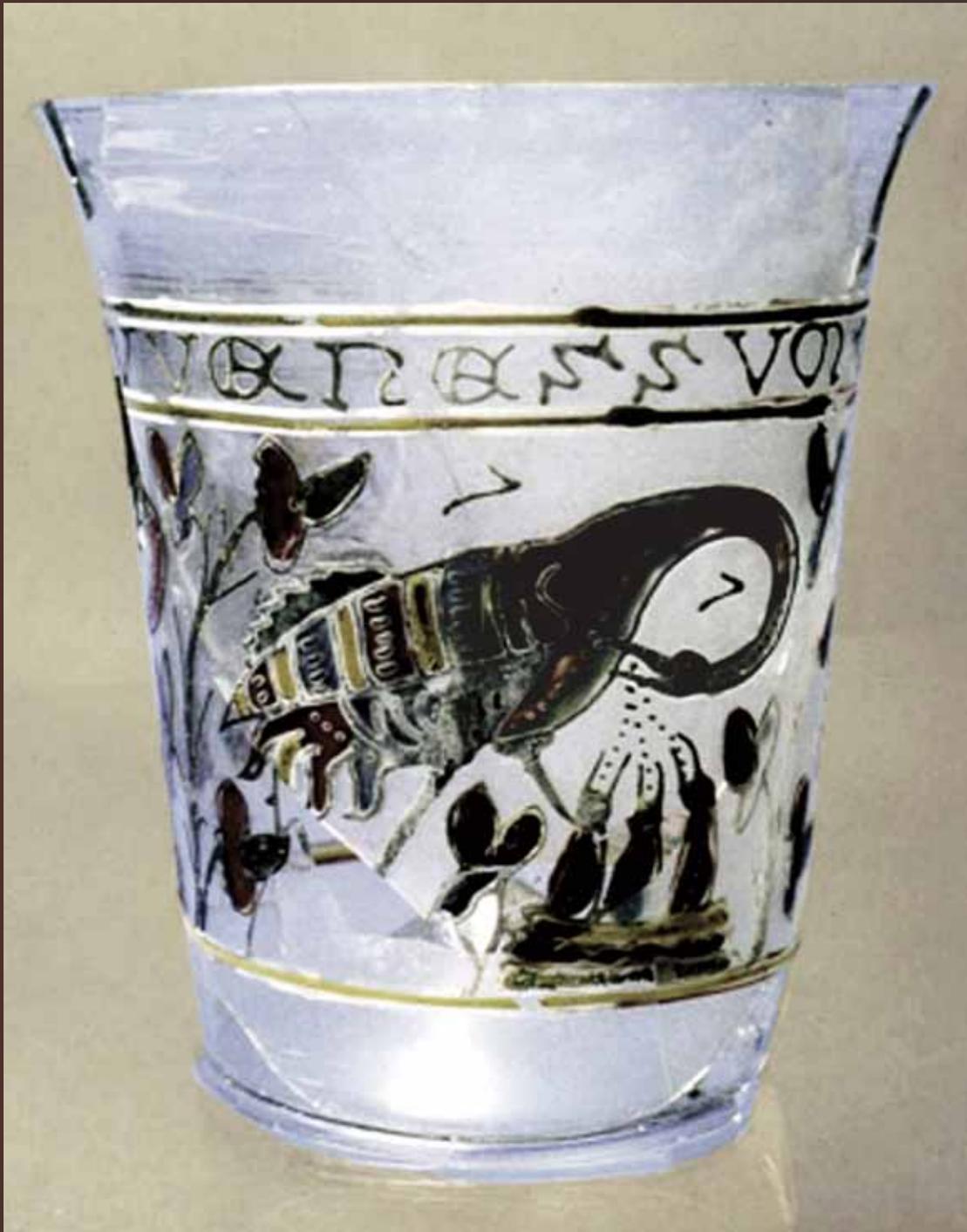
Tartu linnast on leitud rohkem kui ühestki teisest leiukohast kõrgel tasemel emalmaalitud klaaspeekreid, nn veneetsia peekreid.



Rare glass goblets with enamel paintings in the collection of the Tartu City Museum date from the 13th / 14th centuries. The place where the goblets were made is thought to be Venice; for that reason, they are called Venetian goblets. Tartu is where the biggest quantity of them has been found to date.



One Tartu goblet has a representation of a bird of a reddish yellow colour with a bushy tail. Based on other finds, it may be said that it is the depiction of a pelican.



In the Middle Ages, there was a well known legend about the pelican, which pecked a hole in its breast with its bill to feed its young with its blood. The pelican likely symbolised the sacrifice by the humankind-loving Christ on the cross. At least three goblets with pelicans are known in Tartu.



Besides pelicans, other birds, too, are depicted on the goblets. To date, no analogue is known for the goblet with roosters found in Tartu. In mediaeval iconography, roosters are associated with St Peter, and this may also be why these colourful birds were painted on the goblets.



The goblet depicts two women and a man, their heads encircled by halos. Along the upper rim of the drinking vessel runs the lettering, MAGISTER PETRUS ME FECIT INM, which may be translated in two ways: either Master Peter *made me* or *had me made*. The name of a glass painter Petrus also comes up in Venetian written records.



Apart from birds, other animals are also depicted,
with a goblet with lions known from Tartu, for instance.

Reconstruction.

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The theme of courtly love on the goblet was popular in mediaeval art and is one of the few for which the source is known with high probability: a similar scene appears in the Manesse collection of knights' songs (*Codex Manesse*) dating from the early 14th century.

Reconstruction



During the Middle Ages, Tartu was part of the Hanseatic League. In addition to tableware, brisk trade is indicated by barrel bottoms and lids, textile finds and much more.



Mediaeval Tartu, which developed at the base of the ancient stronghold in the 13th century, was the seat of the local bishopric and the residence of the bishop. The self-governing lower town was a trading town that served the operations of Hanseatic merchants in Pskov and Novgorod. In the 16th century, it became one of the main trading places for merchants from the Hanseatic League and from Russia. Pictured: mediaeval Tartu.

Watercolour by Nikolai Stange (from old city plans, 1922).



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Several rare mediaeval finds in Tartu are remarkably well preserved, and more rare finds are being added every year. You can view the Venetian goblets and material from mediaeval finds in Tartu at Tartu City Museum. Museum lesson Venetian goblets.