

meantime, the jail cells located in the left wing became a bank, and then a café. Currently found there are an Information Centre for the City Government and Council and a Visitor Centre for tourists. Minor changes have also been made to the first floor; however, in spite of everything, the town hall has largely retained its historical appearance.

The Tartu City Council and the City Government still work in the premises of the town hall. The city has been run from the same rooms for over two hundred years – a clear sign that Tartu is home to dignified traditions.

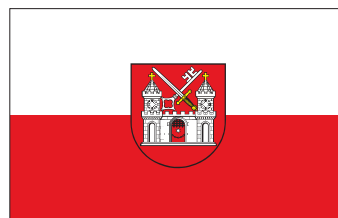
The Carillon of Tartu Town Hall

A carillon was installed in the tower of Tartu Town Hall in 2001, and was heard for the first time on Christmas Eve. The percussion instrument is comprised of 18 bronze bells and was ordered from the Karlsruhe Bell Foundry, in Germany. The carillon was renovated and expanded in 2016 – 18 new bells were ordered from a foundry in the Netherlands, and the German bells were also retuned at that same foundry, to ensure that they would be in harmony with the new bells. The opening celebration for the instrument with 34 bells took place on 28 October 2016. The peeling of the Tartu Town Hall bells has become an important symbol of the town. Its sounds accompany days of mourning and joy, international and national events. The carillon has greeted visiting diplomats to Tartu and also illustrated festivals.

Facts about Tartu Town Hall's bells:

- The Carillon of Tartu Town Hall is the oldest and biggest of the three carillons in Estonia
- the biggest bell weights 96 kg, and the smallest 8 kg
- the total weight of the carillon is 2.6 tonnes
- the bells of the carillon have been cast from bronze, with the alloy being 80% copper and 20% tin
- the Tartu Town Hall tower would be unable to withstand a bigger carillon or the harder ringing of the bells

Tartu's coat of arms has evolved from the city's medieval seal. The key and sword located above the gate are attributes of Peter and Paul, the patron saints of the Tartu bishopric and the city.



At the end of the 16th century, South-Estonia was under Polish rule. In 1584, Tartu was granted a flag by King Stephan Bathory of Poland.



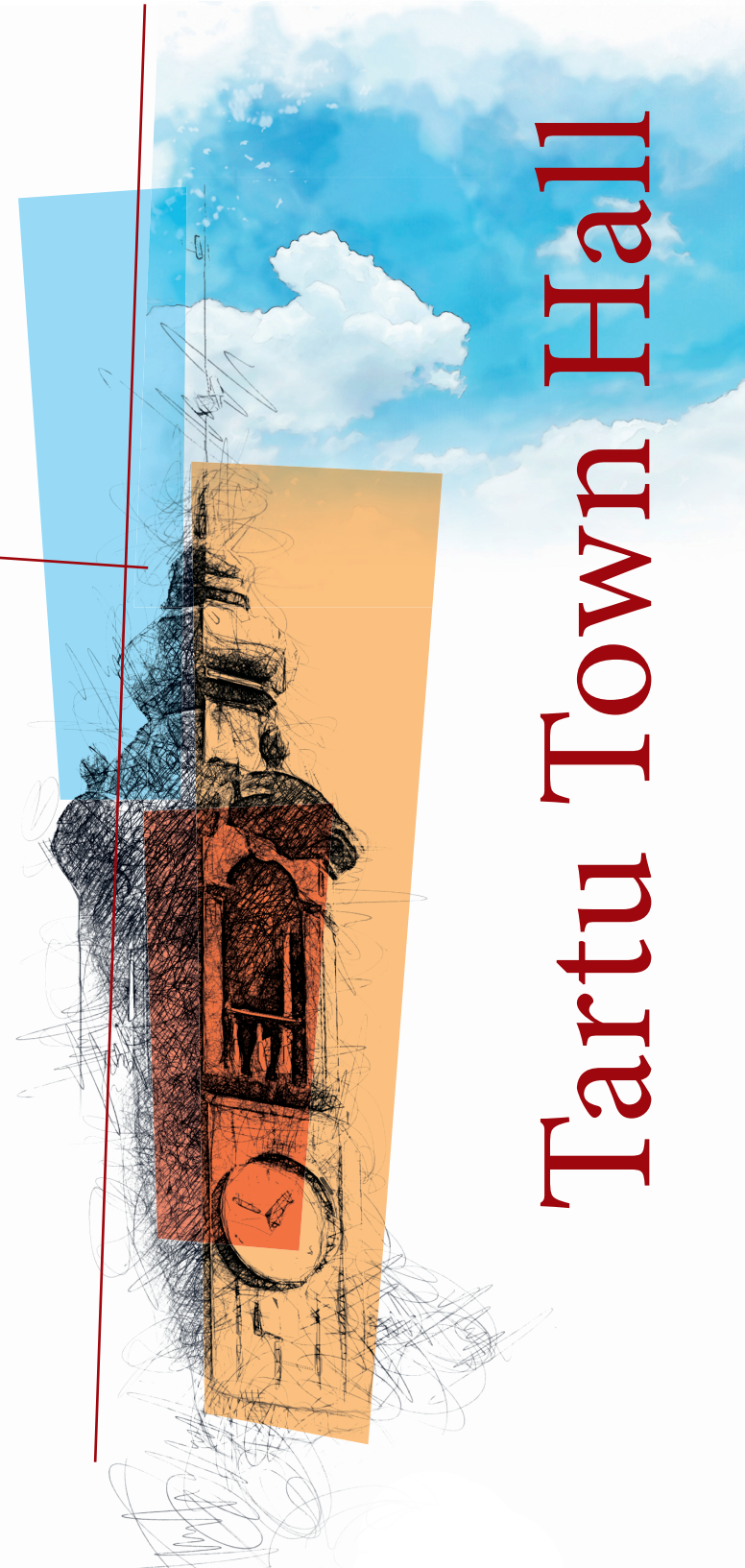
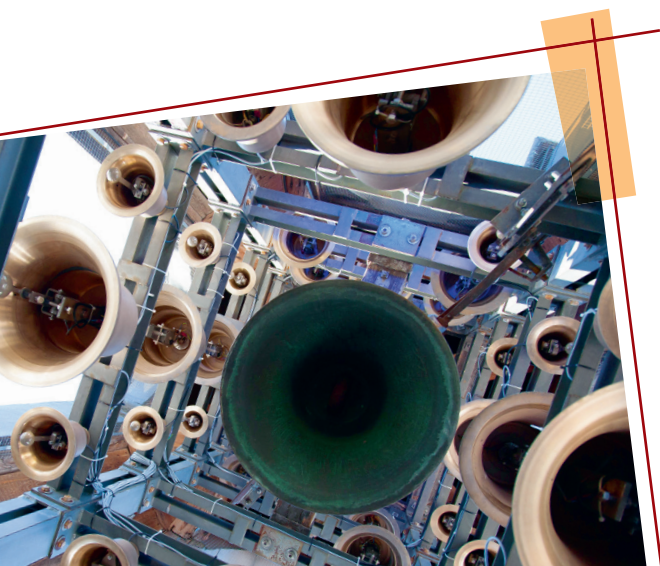
Mayoral Badge of Office
(artist Ene Valter)

Tartu City Government 2020

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Tartu Town Hall





Tartu can be proud of its long history. This may not be easy to see in today's cityscape, since wars and destruction have done their part. Thus, only the ruins of the Tartu Cathedral, St. John's Church and small sections of the city wall are left to recall the glory of medieval Tartu. The real catastrophe, however, was the fire of 1775, which destroyed nearly all of the city centre.

Traditionally, the centre of a historic city is its market square and town hall – as is the case with Tartu. The shape of Town Hall Square dates back to the Middle Ages. At first glance it may appear a bit strange, since it resembles a very wide street instead of a proper square. This is actually the case, as it served as both a trading spot and a connecting road between the Episcopal Cathedral and the Emajõgi River. On the riverside of the square there has always been a bridge, with the town hall located on the opposite side of the square. During the Middle Ages it was a two-storey building with a tower, in front of which stood a vaulted gallery with six pillars. From 1688–1693, a new building with pilasters, a triangular pediment and a baroque tower was built in place of the Town Hall, which had burned down at the beginning of the 17th century. The building, which was severely damaged in 1708, during the Great Northern War, was repaired only enough to allow for its use, as the city was unable to do more. The building was destroyed completely by the great fire of 1775.

The catastrophe was followed by intensive urban development. Tartu began to take its current shape and soon received the nickname Emajõgi Athens. The first major undertaking was the construction of a new and grand town hall. It was designed by Johann Heinrich Bartholomäus Walter, the city's master builder at the time, who originally hailed from Rostock and had studied his profession in Dresden. He has left a noticeable mark on the cityscape of Tartu: he designed and built the corner house at the address Raekoja plats 8, the city museum building along Narva Highway, and the cemetery chapel for the family of Mr. J. F. Teller at Vana-Jaani Cemetery. The original design for the town hall was completed in 1778, and the cornerstone was laid in 1782. The building was inaugurated in 1786, although finishing works continued until 1789.

Tartu Town Hall was built during a time when early classicism had begun to reach the Nordic Countries, including Estonia, supplanting the previous Baroque and Rococo forms. This struggle between styles can also be seen in Tartu Town Hall. The three-storey building with a high sloping roof and a spire continues the tradition of the city palace, which developed in the Baroque period in the Netherlands. The latter also inspired the Narva Town Hall, which was built in the 17th century. In 1784 a baroque tower inspired by the so-called Court Church of Dresden was completed, followed by a Rococo-style cartouche on the gable of the main façade. On the other hand, the design of the walls, especially the interiors, is dominated by the ultra-fashionable early classicism of the time. The same world of form is represented by the main door.

The town hall performed several functions at the same time. As a result, the layout of the building is extremely compressed and in many cases economy won out over

grandiosity. For example, in the representative architecture of that time (including manor houses) there is a spacious vestibule on the ground floor, with a magnificent staircase leading to the main rooms on the second floor. In Tartu, the vestibule has been completely abandoned and the narrow staircase starts right at the front door.

The vaulted basement contained a jail. In the interests of security, the cells were separated from the outer wall by a corridor. An underground sewer ran along the length of the building, into which the shafts of toilets on different floors entered. Jail cells could also be found on the ground floor of the left wing. However, in the right wing – where a pharmacy has been operating since 1922 – there were public scales. In order to be able to drive to the scale with loads, there were gates on the rear and side facades, the traces.

The chambers of the town hall were located on the two upper floors. On the first floor were the courtrooms and the mayor's reception room, which branched off from the longitudinal corridor. The grandest room is the council chamber, located in the right wing of the second floor of the town hall, the rich but rough stucco decor of which was completed in Walter's workshop. An Empire style tiled stove with an urn was added in 1835. The multi-coloured marbling of the hall's walls was restored in 1980.

Over time, the town hall building has undergone many changes. The ground floor has been completely redesigned, and a pharmacy has been operating for almost a hundred years in the room that once housed the public scales. In the

