

Kiltsi Castle Old Wool Sample (March 2014)

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Kiltis Castle is dating back to at least the 13th century. The most famous owner was Admiral Adam Johann von Krusenstern (1770-1846). A.J. Krusenstern was leading the first Russian circumnavigation around the world in 1803-1806. He bought Kiltis castle in 1816. In 1816-1817 there was done some renovations in Kiltis castle and during that time the family Krusenstern lived in Vorsti village close to Kiltis castle. They moved to Kiltis just before Christmas 1817. The main work that Adam Johann von Krusenstern did in Kiltis Castle was to compile the Atlas of the Pacific Ocean and this he did mainly alone. The main part of the Atlas, 34 maps, were ready in 1821, but he continued to work to the middle of 1830-ies and the publication grew to five volumes. (Hein, 2011) Adam Johann von Krusenstern's son, Paul Theodor Krusenstern (1809-1881), was also an explorer, working most with exploring the northern areas of Russia.



The drawing is most likely showing Kara sea where the boat Jermak (built in Turku, Finland) got stuck in the ice close to Jamal peninsular 1862. After 8 days at the ice they whole 22 person crew managed to reach the mainland. They got help by samojed people and managed with their help to survive. Paul Tehodor's son Paul expedition. EAA.4373.1.244.1

When Adam Johann von Krusenstern's wife Julie died in 1849 the castle was inherited by their second oldest son Julius Alexander von Krusenstern, who was living in Poland. In 1867 he ordered the Estonian council building department's to make a building state inventory of Kiltis castle. The young architect Rudolf Otto Knüpffer made an inventory of the state of Kiltis castle in 1867. According to this inventory the main building renovation should start in 1868. In 1869 Paul Theodor Krusenstern moved to live in Kiltis castle. In 1870 Georg Martin Knüpffer visited the castle and from his written memories we get information in detail about the rooms in the castle. When Paul Theodor Krusenstern died in 1881 the castle got empty, and was still in the

ownership of his brother Julius Alexander von Krusenstern. When Julius Alexander died in 1888 his oldest daughter Sophie Rüdiger got the owner of Kiltsi castle (at that time she was 48 years old).

At the end of 1890 the young Reinhold von Harpe visited the castle and write about the amazing rooms filled with items and a library that still was kept as it used to be. In 1893 Sophie Rüdiger rent the castle to Theodor Kreutzberg. At that time the size of the estate was 2880 ha. In 1911 Sophie decided to give the whole library including maps and items collected by Adam Johann and his son Paul Theodor von Krusenstern to the Estonian Knighthood. After that she sold the castle to Alfred Uexküll-Güldenband for 200.000 rubles. Sophie was 71 years old when she sold the castle. There are no proof that she ever visited the castle. In 1912 the castle was thoroughly renovated. The castle got among other things modern central heating and water tubes.

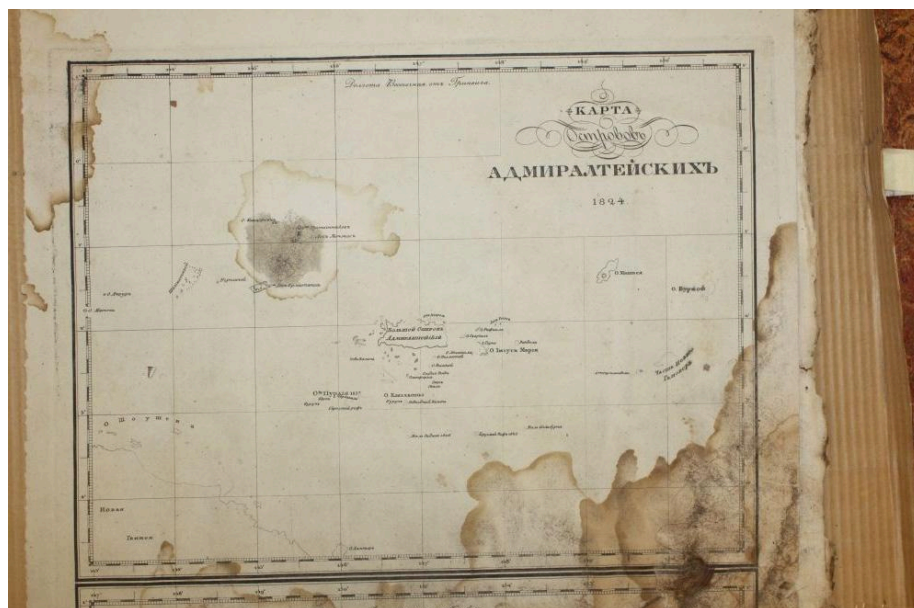
In 2008-2011 there was carried out large renovations at Kiltsi castle. Old maps were found occasionally when the leader of the Kiltsi Castle renovation project Kaupo Krull started to investigate the oak parquet flooring in the right tower room of the castle. *"I removed the first layer and started to clean it from dust and then the next layer was broken"*, describes Krull (Lindua, 2012). Under the panel there was first some wool and under that old maps with hand writings on. The oak parquet and the thick layer of wool had preserved the maps so well that they were little damaged by moisture and mice. The renovators was first thinking that it was dog wool as it was so coarse and reddish to color. Historian and former school director, Lembit Keerus, estimate that the maps are from 1820-is, more precise perhaps from 1824.



Photo: Annika Michleson 15.3.2010

No other places in the manor have been found any maps under the floor, only in this tower room. As the oak parquet was in that good shape it was decided to not open up the whole floor

and leave the rest of the maps under the floor. Only some maps were removed and one has been renovated and is back today in the castle for exhibition.



One of the maps that were taken up from under the floor. Photo: Annika Michelson 15.3.2010

According to the above mentioned sources there have been made three larger renovations:

- in 1816-1817 by Adam Johann von Krusenstern before he moved into the castle (while they themselves lived in Vorsti village)
- in 1832 by Adam Johann von Krusenstern, some renovations during one summer
- in 1868 on behalf of Julius Alexander von Krusenstern renovations were carried out as his brother Paul Theodor was going to move into the castle
- in 1912 large renovations were made by the new owner Alfred Uexküll-Güldenband.

Most likely the renovations carried out summer 1832 were not that large. We know that in 1870 (Knüpfper memories) and 1890 (von Harpe memories) the castle with its room decorations were still kept like before, above all the library was kept intact. The new owner in 1912, Alfred Uexküll-Güldenband, was living in Riga (Weidendam, today Ganibui dam). He ordered the renovation of the castle from a company in Tallinn, the C.Siegel company. Planning of the renovation project work was carried out by W.Lemm. Besides the central heating and water tubes also a bathroom was made at the second floor.

According to Nele Rohtla, specialist in old buildings, the oak parquet floor pattern in Kiltsi is typical for the second half of the 19th century. Her estimation is that the floor was build in connection with the renovations that Paul von Krusenstern made in the period 1865-1869. A similar floor was also put into several other rooms.

The wool sample

In march 2010 I collected some of the wool and made a visual judgement of the wool. The wool was, of course, very dusty and felted. When tearing the fibers separate I found that it was very short, about 2-3 cm long fibers only. It looks like short stomach wool and wool from legs. The wool is not washed as I found sheep manure among the samples as well as some skin part.



After about 100 years under the floor the wool was nearly felted by the pressure of the floor. The wool contained both skin parts as well as sheep manure. 10.3.2010 Photo: Annika Michelson



The wool was very short and unwashed. The wool had coarse hair that may originate from legs. 10.3.2010 Photo: Annika Michelson

I did also a spinning trial. As the fiber was very short I had to make the yarn very hard spun and twisted.



Handspun yarn of the old fiber found at Kiltsi Castle under an oak parquet floor. Photo: Annika Michelson.

Sources:

Hein, Ants: Kiltsi mõis. VR Kirjastus. 2011.

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