

Summaries

The Franciscan Friary of Aalborg – a status

By Christian Vrængmose Jensen and Stig Bergmann Møller, Aalborg Historiske Museum

The Grey Friars reached Aalborg between 1240 and 1250. An unknown founder ensured the creation of the friary by presenting the friars with a piece of land on the south side of the main street Algade, near the town's Østerå harbour. Maybe the friars for some time used a nearby Romanesque church in Aalborg, St. Clemens, while they built the first friary church. The last-mentioned church was in use about 1250. It was 9.20 metres wide and at least 10 metres long, partly brick church situated along Algade. The early friary was undoubtedly comprised of other buildings, probably lighter structures, but so far only a cellar near the path Roldgyde can be assigned to this period. The building in Roldgyde was probably torn down about 1350 at the latest.

About 1300 the first friary church was replaced by an approximately 12.5 x 48 metres large brick church with a single nave of the same width as the choir. The east end of the church was finished with a three or five-sided chancel wall, and at the west end a porch was added, probably in the late Middle Ages. Inside the church a gallery, a so-called "lectorium", separated the nave from the choir. The second friary church became the northern wing of the later friary.

Together with the construction of the second church, the Grey Friars began building the friary's east wing. This wing was built against the choir of the church, and remains of the oldest, northernmost part of the east wing are preserved in the form of a square, brick cellar with a stairway. The cellar was used for storage. The cellar had a vaulted ceiling, and at the centre of the vaults stood a reused Romanesque granite pillar, which most likely originates from the above-mentioned St. Clemens church. The stairway gave access not only to the cellar, but undoubtedly also to the church choir and the friars' dormitory, which very likely was on the first floor of the east wing. When attending hours (prayer) in the choir by night, the friars presumably entered the church by the stairway. It is estimated that construction of the chancel, the friars' choir and the northern part of the east wing was completed in 1337 at the latest. When completed by about 1400, the east wing measured approximately 9 x 32 metres and was comprised of a series of rooms, including a square chapter house with a vaulted ceiling.

There is only limited knowledge of the later friary's south and west wings, but they were presumably built during the 15th and early 16th centuries. Brick cloisters surrounding the cloister garth were probably built during the same period.

It is estimated that the friary precinct in the late Middle Ages covered approximately 5.000 square metres. A wall enclosing the precinct has been excavated at sever-

al places. To the east the boundary consisted of a stone wall, built between 1250 and 1300. On the west side of this wall a small part of the friary's graveyard was found. The stone wall was already torn down about 1350 at the latest, and this section of the graveyard was closed down. Where a new wall to the east was built is uncertain.

To the northwest, along the river Østerå, the boundary consisted of a brick wall, which to the north was connected to a brick cellar. Both structures probably date to the 15th or early 16th centuries. The cellar has probably been part of a brick built house. In the western wall of the cellar a doorway gave access to the river Østerå, and most likely the cellar functioned as a storage room for goods, delivered from small boats to the cellar through this doorway. It is also suggested that the brick house/cellar had a function as a wash house or lavatory (necessarium).

The friary was closed down in 1530, and the wings of the friary were probably torn down before 1540.

The monastic institutions in Ribe

By Morten Søvsø

During the Medieval Period (in Danish terminology AD 1050-1536) six monastic institutions were founded in or near Ribe. The oldest was the Benedictine double monastery in Seem that probably goes back to around AD 1100. On a small promontory, stretching into a small lake called Munkesø, Christian burials were found in 1998 indicating the nearby location of the monastery. In C. 1170, Seem monastery was reformed. The monks became Cistercians, helped found the monastery in Løgum some 30 km away while the nuns moved into the town of Ribe, and settled at the existing parish church of S. Nikolaj.

When the Cathedral chapter was founded in 1145, the priests were organized as a Benedictine convent. Shortly after, they became Augustinians and by 1217, the chapter was secularized. Archaeological excavations south of the Cathedral 2008-12 exposed an early 7x10 m brick building constructed with very small bricks of only 24x12x6 centimeters that probably served as the refectory until 1217. The remains of the building is today a protected monument and one of the very earliest brick buildings in Denmark.

The nuns from Seem settled at S. Nikolaj Parish church, already then on the outskirts of town close to the moat. The area has only seen minor excavation activity, but it seems certain that the buildings were situated south of the church and were probably two-storey houses in brick. When Ribe's fortifications were changed in the later 13th C. the nunnery ended up *extra muros*.

The first of the mendicant orders to arrive in Ribe were the Dominicans who settled in 1228 and probably took over an existing complex situated next to the main road. Both the church and most of the buildings built entirely from brick are still standing and the construction of the complex started out shortly after 1228. In the late medieval period, the friary was more or less rebuilt including a new three aisled church, a so-called pseudo-basilika.

The Franciscans arrived in 1232 and were granted a plot at the other end of town by one of the highest ranking priests, the schoolmaster. After the reformation, all remains of the friary disappeared. Since 1993, archaeological excavations have gradually gained more and more knowledge of this large and interesting complex. The overall development of the friary is parallel to the Dominican's with an initial phase in the 13th C. followed by extensive building in

the late middle ages. However, the Franciscan friary became notably larger and new buildings were added straight up to the reformation.

The Order of St. John started out as a *Kommende* mentioned 1311 and the first notice of a church dates from 1465. After the reformation, the complex housed different local aristocrats and today serves as the bishop's residence. In one of the existing buildings, there are medieval remains. Our knowledge of the complex largely comes from archaeological excavations. When combining these with written sources mentioning the size of the plot an overall layout can be reconstructed.

The monastic institutions of Ribe were an important and integrated part of the townscape from the middle of the 12th C. With the arrival of the Dominicans and Franciscans who built quite large complexes during the 13th C. this presence became even clearer. In the late middle ages, all monastic institutions were rebuilt or had new buildings added. This general phenomenon and the underlying strong economy of the monastic institutions is a reflection of the heartfelt spirituality of the town dwellers. However, the reformation put an end to it and today the Dominican Friary is the only preserved memory of the many monks and nuns who were such an important part of Ribe's Medieval past.

The Franciscan Friary of Viborg

Introduction and history

By Hans Krongaard Kristensen

By the end of the Middle Ages, the friary in Viborg consisted of a great complex of buildings. After the Reformation, the buildings were divided. Some were reduced in size and some were during the last couple of centuries demolished. The investigation of the friary

is therefore carried out in different ways. The church is mainly known from pictorial (drawings) and written sources. The main buildings around the cloister were demolished rather early and is primarily known from archaeological investigations. The buildings surrounding the outer cloister are still standing although heavily rebuilt, however the building archaeological surveys have successfully been done here. The investigation of the friary building have been carried out over a long time span and involving several scholars.

The Franciscans settled in Viborg in 1235 as the third friary in Denmark. We do not know much about the inner life in the friary. Most sources are concerned with donations from the nobility and others. In the late medieval dispute between the two branches, the Observances and the Conventuals, the friaries in Viborg for a long time sided the Conventuals and first joined the hard-liners in 1518.

The Reformation began early in Viborg with the preachings of Hans Tausen, who used the Franciscan church that was opened by force by the citizens in 1518. In the middle of 1530's some of the monastic buildings were rebuilt for an apartment for the King. It was only in use for a short period, and in 1541, the complex was divided in a parish church, a hospital and a private house.

The medieval Franciscan church of Viborg

By Hans Krongaard Kristensen

The church was still in use until 1812 and thereafter slowly demolished. Our knowledge of the church is primarily based on drawings, measurements and written sources – with a very small contribution from archaeological excavations.

The friars probably got a small parish church of granite ashlars when they came to the town in 1235. The chancel was replaced in the middle of the 13th century by a new brick building terminating in an apse. The chancel was built in a very delicate, early Gothic style with a vast use of different moulded bricks.

The church was later extended towards the west in several phases. Since the point of origin was the small Romanesque church, the nave continued the narrow form. There might have been an extension towards west dating from the high Gothic period based on the occurrence of moulded bricks. The western end with a decorated gable probably belongs to the first decades of the 16th century.

The monastic buildings were situated to the north, and on the south side of the nave, a private chapel for the family of Løvenbalk to Avnsbjerg was built in the later Middle Ages.

After the Reformation, the church was enlarged to the north in the 17th century and a tower by the west front was erected in 1760-61.

*The Franciscan Friary of Viborg. The central cloister
Archaeological Excavations in 2004 and 2008-2012*

By Jesper Hjermind & Lars Agersnap Larsen

The Franciscan Friary of Viborg was partly demolished after the Reformation, and the majority of the claustral buildings surrounding the central cloister is

thus mostly known from archaeological excavations. In 2004 and 2008-2012 a series of small-scale excavations combined with a geomagnetic survey were conducted on the site to verify and elaborate on the results of earlier investigations from the 1930's. The recent excavation campaigns have shed some light on the friary's physical properties, its buildings history, as well as the use of the site in the years prior to the Franciscan settlement.

The Franciscan Friary of Viborg

The buildings of the outer cloister

By Hans Krongaard Kristensen, Bianca Breum, Martin Risvig & Morten Larsen

The article gives a presentation of the preserved remnants of the monastic buildings surrounding the northern cloister in the Franciscan friary of Viborg, and presents a building archaeological outline of the complex. The source material consists of building archaeological surveys of the site conducted in the 1970's alongside a series of smaller excavations in the vicinity, as well as renewed investigations carried out in the 2010's as part of a teaching course and a research project at Aarhus University. The article presents a concise description of the complex as well as a more detailed analysis of the buildings history from the 13th century until the time of Reformation.