

TAVERNS IN THE MIDDLE AGES

The centres of “whoring” were the taverns of Kalamaja and Tõnismäe. Already in the Middle Ages, the taverns of Tallinn were concentrated in the suburbs. In 1527, there were 17 pubs per 78 households in Kalamaja. According to 1673, there were 28 taverns in the Great Coastal Gate (Suur-Rannavärav) district of Tallinn, 13 in front of Nunne Gate, 29 in front of Viru Gate and 8 taverns in front of Karja and Harju Gates. A tavern offered shelter and housing to very different people. Mostly, they were various paid workers, maids, sailors, casual workers who moved from place to place in search of a job, as well as travelling students. Prostitutes lived and worked in taverns. Old and sick people, women who had lived as unmarried couples, and secret lovers were also sheltered in taverns.