

EARLIEST MENTIONS

There are mentions of prostitution in Tallinn as early as from the beginning of the 15th century. For example, in 1439, Hans Gerwert's wife complained that her husband had been "gushing beer with women of a generous giving." On the morning of Palm Sunday in 1486, a Swede drank wine with whores and committed immoral acts. The brothel has been mentioned for the first time in 1475. A drunken young man caused a ruckus there, having come for a bit of fun with his father. The perpetrator turned out to be a Dominican monk who had been allowed home from the monastery. The sinful monk was sent back to the convention, escorted by the Town Hall's soldiers.

AFTER REFORMATION

The reformation led to a greater appreciation of marriage, and on the other hand a more severe punishment for pre-marital and non-marital sexual relations. However, the new strict bans failed to completely end the night parties and immoral activities. The documents of Tallinn Town Council contain a note from the 1550s about how Daidt Vegesack partied with "virgins" in the street at two or three o'clock in the night and pounded horribly on seven doors. In 1551, Engel von Versen was fined with 2 marks because he had made "unusual night trips". In 1586, the Town Council banned prostitution in the town, and the courtesans were driven outside the city walls.