

ARNE THORSTEINSSON:

# TINGANES - TÓRSHAVN

EN KORT HISTORISK ORIENTERING

A BRIEF HISTORICAL GUIDE



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TÓRSHAVN 1986

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### EN KORT HISTORISK ORIENTERING

Tórshavns centrale placering synes allerede i vikingetiden at have bevirket, at landets hovedting blev afholdt på Tinganes. Tingstedet nævnes i Færeyingasaga. På dette tidspunkt har der ikke været nogen bebyggelse i Tórshavn, formentlig bortset fra den mindre **bondegård**, *Húsagardur*.

**Tinget** antages at have været holdt ude på Tinganeshellen, hvor en mængde ristninger, for størstedelen bomærker, fra 1500 og 1600 tallet observeredes og publiceredes af afdøde landsstyremand *Sámal Petersen*.

Bomærkerne antages at tilhøre lagrettemændene og angive deres plads i tinget. Det vides dog, at tinget allerede omkring midten af 1500 tallet har været afholdt indendøre, i *Rådstuen* eller *Gildeskålen*. Tinget havde til huse på Tinganes indtil 1816, da det blev nedlagt. Ved tingets genrejsning i 1852 blev det nuværende tinghus opført.

Det må antages, at den årlige tingsamling tidligt har medført et årligt **marked**, som senere i middelalderen har udviklet sig til en fast **handelsplads** med pakhuse for eksport- og importvarer. Besejlingen foregik kun om sommeren, og de fleste indbyggere handlede kun een gang om året. De fleste handelshuse blev ødelagt ved en omfattende ildebrand i 1673.

Som **værn** for handelspladsen på Tinganes anlagdes en skanse på den anden side af vågen. Denne første skanse antages at være anlagt omkring 1580. Efter tyrkernes overfald på Hvalba i 1629 bevirkede ønsket om yderligere sikring af handelspladsen anlægget af en ny skanse på Stangarnes omkr. 1630. Den blev radikalt ombygget i 1790 og er stadig intakt. I 1645 anlagdes en skanse tværs over Tinganes lige nord for Reynagarð. Stadige ombygninger af denne skanse gjorde den dels til en plage for Tórshavns indbyggere, dels uanvendelig, og allerede i slutningen af 1600 tallet sløjfes den. I kilder fra 1709 omtales den ikke, og kun en lille skanse uden for handelshusene på Tinganes ses da at have eksisteret, foruden den gamle skanse på Stangarnes. Også den lille skanse sløjfedes i 1749. Skanserne i Tórshavn må antages at have stået i forbindelse med det vidt forgrenede system af vagthuse, som findes ud over landet, og som vides at have været i funktion omkr. 1700.

Den faste handelsplads og senere befæstningen har krævet en stab af arbejdsmænd og soldater, hvilket medfører en **bebyggelse**, som i sen middelalder må formodes at have ligget omkring åens udløb i Eystaruvág, hvor byens ældste bygninger stadig findes. Denne bebyggelse er siden udvidet ud mod handelshusene på Tinganes og op over skrænterne mod vest. Byen vedblev indtil 1800 tallet at være en arbejder- og soldaterby uden noget håndværksmæssigt indslag af betydning.

I hvert fald siden reformationen har præsterne i Suðurstreymoyar Prestagjald boet i Tórshavn, selvom den egentlige præstegård er i Syðradali. Det må følgelig antages, at byen har haft en **kirke** lige så længe, selvom der ikke foreligger nogen oplysninger herom før 1609, da en ny kirke opføres på Tinganes. Denne kirke stod noget nord for Leigubúðin indtil 1788, da den nuværende blev opbygget og den gamle nedrevet. Mellem kirken og Leigubúðin var Tórshavns kirkegård. Præsteboligen var Handan Á, øst for åens udløb i vågen indtil omkring 1630, da en ny præstebolig blev indrettet i Reynagarði, lige ved kirken, hvor også Tórshavns skole blev bygget i 1628.

## Bygninger på Tinganes

**Skansapakkhusið**, den yderste bygning på Tinganes, er opført i 1749 på den lille skanses plads. I sin oprindelige form var huset en lille eenetages træbygning på kælder, muret op af sten og skilp, en kalkmørtel, brændt af strandskaller. Flere udvidelser og påbygninger - den yngste i 1907 - har givet huset sin nuværende fleretages form.

**Salurin** er opført i 1781 der, hvor den i 1709 omtalte den gamle Krambod stod. Denne var opført efter branden i 1673. Salurin ellersom de fleste andre handelshuse på Tinganes - en træbygning på en muret kælder af sten og skilp. Ligeledes fra tiden efter 1673 stammer oprindelig de i 1950 nedbrændte pakhuse **Vektarbúðin** (i 1709 kaldet Gamle Pakhus) og **Sjóbúðin** (i 1709 kaldet det nye Pakhus). Disse bygninger var dog flere gange fornyede, senest i perioden 1835-39.

**Sethúsini**, handelsforvalterboligen, er ligeledes opført efter branden i 1673. Den er en træbygning på muret kælder.

**Bakkapakkhusið** er opført i 1776 som en tilbygning til Leigubúðin. Den er en træbygning på muret fundament uden kælder.

**Leigubúðin**, hvori kongens indkomster, som betaltes i naturalier, opbevaredes, er en træbygning opført på en muret kælder. Den nævnes første gang i 1619 og hører til de få bygninger, som undslap branden i 1673. Bygningen havde oprindelig kun en etage. Den øvre etage af træ er påført i 1732.

**Munkastovan** antages at være opført i middelalderen, hvilket støttes af karakteren i den anvendte murteknik: svære dobbeltskallede mure af sten og skilp, som har større lighed med middelalderbygningerne i Kirkjubø end med de yngre kældermure på Tinganes. Også denne bygning gik fri af branden i 1673, men bygningens træværk er fornyet i 1705.

**Bryggihúsið** er opført i 1776. Den er en træbygning på muret kælder.

**Portugálið** er opført i 1762 som en toetages, delvis muret, bygning, hvorpå endnu en etage af træ er opført i nyere tid. I muren findes hugget Christian den 5's kronede monogram, årstallet 1693 og lensherrens F. v. Gabels navn. Denne bygning afløste et i 1693 opført grundmuret slutterhus. Bygningen anvendtes til vagthus (navnet er en forvrængning af Corps de Garde) med arrest i underetagen.

Præsteboligen **Reynagarður** er omkring 1630 blevet anlagt som en 4-fløjet gård omkring en åben, brolagt gårdsplads. Anlægsplanen må være dansk inspireret, ligesom den anvendte byggeteknik tildels også er det. Den nyrestaurerede vestfløj er opført i dansk bindingsværksteknik, hvilket den omkring 1820 nedrevne østfløj også var. Nordfløjens, som også blev nedrevet omkring 1820, var et laftebygget tømmerhus med kælder under. Den endnu eksisterende sydfløj er opført i hjemlig færøsk stavteknik med samlinger, som næppe kan være yngre end 1600 tallet. Antageligvis er dette en bygning, som har stået på stedet allerede inden 1630 og er blevet indkorporeret i præstegårdssanlægget.

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Tórshavn's central position appears to have determined, as early as in the Viking period, that the Islands' main ting (Parliament) should be held at Tinganes. The Ting is mentioned in Færeyingasaga. At this time there were presumably no houses in Tórshavn, apart from supposedly the small farm of Húsagarður.

**The Ting** is presumed to have been held on the rocks of Tinganes, where a large number of carvings, mainly from the 16th and 17th centuries, were observed and published by the late Mr. Sámal Petersen, member of Landsstýrið (The Faroese Government).

The carvings are presumed to have belonged to the rightful members of the Ting and to indicate their places in the Ting (Parliament). It is, however, known that the Ting, as early as about the middle of the 16th century, was held indoors in the Council Chamber or the Banqueting Hall. The Ting met at Tinganes until the year 1816, when it was discontinued. At the re-establishment of the Ting in 1852 the present House of Parliament was built.

One must presume that the annual parliamentary assembly, at an early date, led to an annual *market* being held, which in the Middle Ages developed into a permanent trading place with warehouses for the exported and imported goods. The shipping trade with the outside world took place only in the summer time and the majority of the inhabitants did their trading only once a year. The earliest trading-houses were all destroyed by an extensive fire in 1673.

As a *defence* of the trading place at Tinganes a fort was erected on the opposite side of the bay. This first fort was presumably erected about the year 1580. After the Turkish attack on Hvalba in 1629 a request was made for further protection of the trading place and this led to the erection of a new fort on Stangarnes around 1630. This fort was rebuilt in 1790 and is still intact. In 1645 there was built a fort right across Tinganes immediately inside Reynagarð.

Continuing alterations rendered this fort partly a nuisance to the inhabitants of Tórshavn and partly useless and it was therefore demolished as early as at the end of the 17th century. In records from the year 1709 it is not mentioned and only a small fort outside the warehouses at Tinganes appears then to have existed besides the old fort on Stangarnes. This fort was also demolished in 1749. The forts in Tórshavn must be presumed to have been in contact with the extensive system of watch-houses which are found all over the islands and are known to have been operational about the year 1700.

The permanent trading-place and later the fort have necessitated a permanent staff of workers and soldiers; the result being the formation of a small *settlement* which in the late Middle Ages must be presumed to have been located near the place where the stream runs out into the east bay (Eystaruvág), where the town's oldest buildings are still found. This settlement was extended towards the warehouses on Tinganes and up the slopes towards the west. Tórshavn remained a town for workers and soldiers up to the year 1800 and there is no significant element of craftsmen.

The South-Streymoy Parish clergymen have, at least since the Reformation, resided in Tórshavn, despite the fact that the rectory (glebe land) was situated in Syðradal. It must consequently be presumed that the town had a *church* during this period although there is no record of its existence prior to 1609, when a new church was built on Tinganes. This church was placed a little to the north of Leigubúðin until 1788, when the present church was built and the old one demolished. The Tórshavn churchyard was located between the church and the Leigubúðin. The vicarage was situated 'handan Á' (on the opposite side of the stream) on the east side of the stream's outfall into the bay, until 1630, when a new

vicarage was built in Reynagarði, just beside the church, where also the Tórshavn school was built in 1628.

### Buildings on Tinganes

**Skansapakkhusið** (The Store) is the outermost building on Tinganes and was erected in 1749 on the site of the earlier small fort. In its original form the building consisted of a small single storey wood-built house on a basement made of stone and lime-mortar, from burned sea shells.

Several extensions and additional floors, the youngest one in 1907, have given the building its present multi-storey form.

**Salurin** (The Hall) was built in 1781 right where, 'Gamla Krumbúð' (The Old Store), which was mentioned in 1709, was situated. It was built after the fire in 1673. The Hall is, like most of the other on Tinganes, a wood building on a basement of stone and lime-mortar.

The warehouses called '**Vektarbúðin**' (The Weighmen's Stores) which were destroyed by a fire in 1950 presumably also originated from 1673 [in 1709 called 'Gámla Pakklids' (Old Warehouse) and '**Sjóbúðin**' (Marine Store), (in 1709 called 'Nýggja Pakkhús' (The New Warehouse)] These buildings were several times rebuilt, latest in the period 1835-39.

**Stokkastovan** (The Log-Building) was erected after the fire in 1673. The building was erected by using the dove-tail method - a most unusual method of construction in the Faroe Islands.

**Sethúsini** (The Dwelling House) the trading-post manager's residence was also built after the fire of 1673. It consists of a wood building on a walled basement.

**Bakkapakkhusið** (The Store Warehouse) was built in 1776 as an extension to the Leigubúðin. It is a wood building on a stone foundation with no basement.

**Leigubúðin** (The Royal Rent Collection Store) where the king's income (rent), paid in kind, was kept, is a timber construction erected on a walled basement. First time mentioned in 1619 and it is one of the few buildings which escaped the fire of 1673. The building originally had only one floor. The upper floor of wood was built in 1732.

**Munkastovan** (The Monk's Dwelling) is presumed to have been built in the Middle Ages, which is substantiated by the characteristics of the method used in the construction of the walls: heavy cavity walls of stone and lime-mortar, which are more like the structures in Kirkjubø, dating from the Middle Ages, than the later basement walls on Tinganes. This building also escaped the fire of 1673, the building's woodwork appears, however, to have been renewed about 1705.

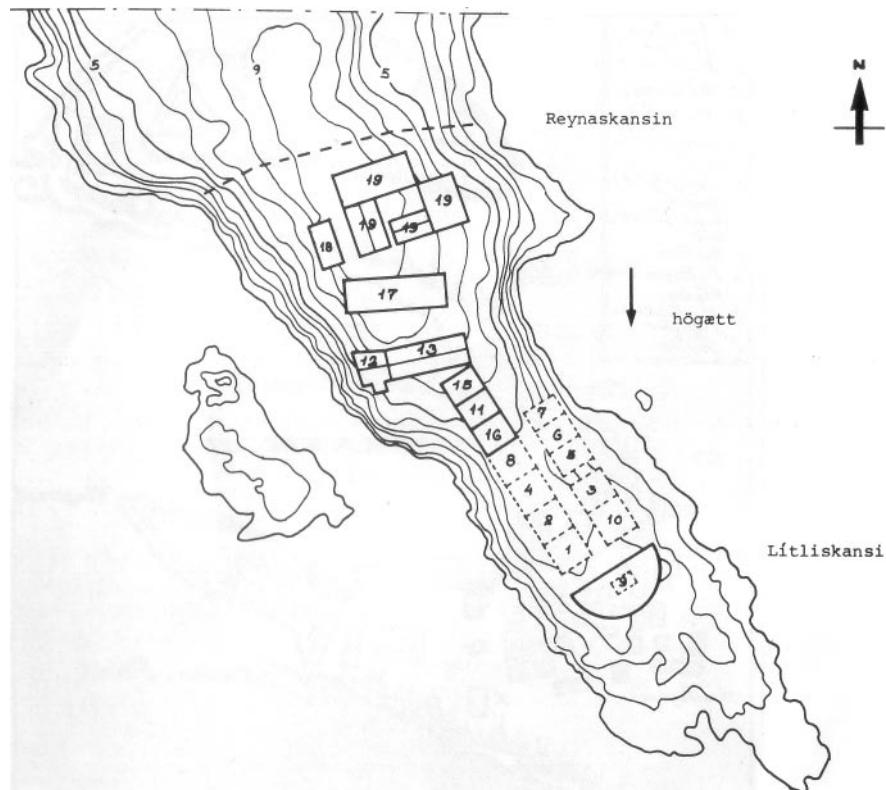
**Bryggihúsið** (The Brewery) was erected in 1776. It is a wood building on a walled basement.

**Portugálið** was erected in 1762 as a two storey, partly stone walled building upon which an additional storey was constructed of wood at a more recent date. The crowned monogram of Christian V, and the date 1693 together with the name of the then feudal overlord F. v. Gabel are to be found carved into the wall. This building replaced a brick-built jail-house, erected in 1693. The building was used as a guard-house (the name is a distortion of Corps de Garde) with cells in the basement.

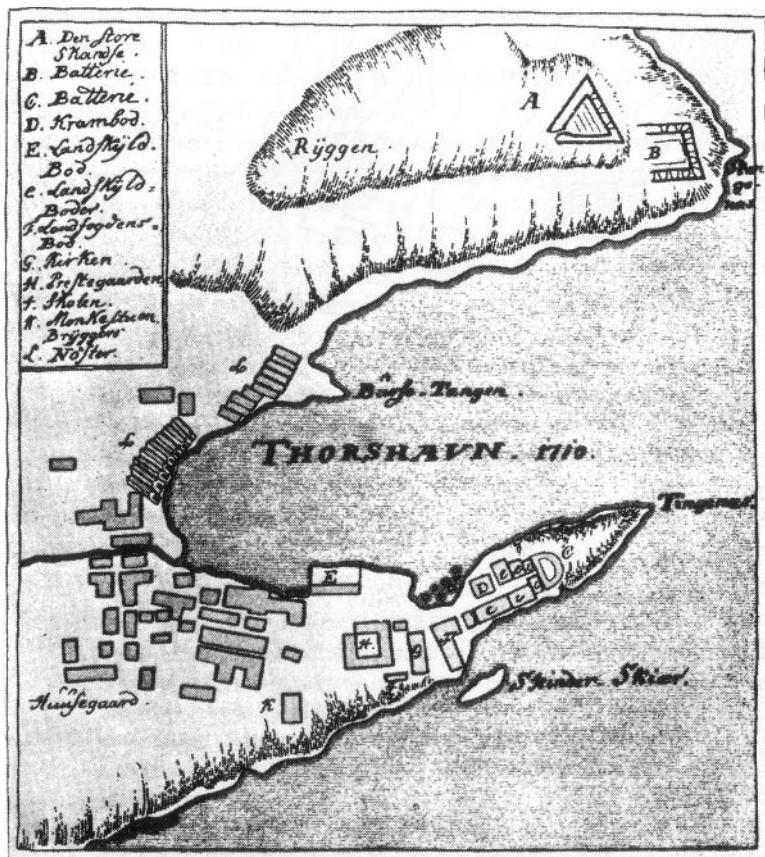
The vicarage **Reynagarður** was made about 1630 as a 4-winged farmhouse built round an open paved court-yard. The lay-out must have been Danish inspired, partly like the construction method used. The recently restored west-wing was constructed in the Danish half-timbered style. The east-wing, which was demolished about 1820, was also built in this style. The north-wing was also demolished about 1820. This was a dove-tail constructed wood house with a basement. The existing south-wing was constructed in the local Faroese stave-technique with joints, not later than the 17th century. This building was most probably standing on this site before 1630 and has been incorporated in the vicarage buildings.

## Further Information:

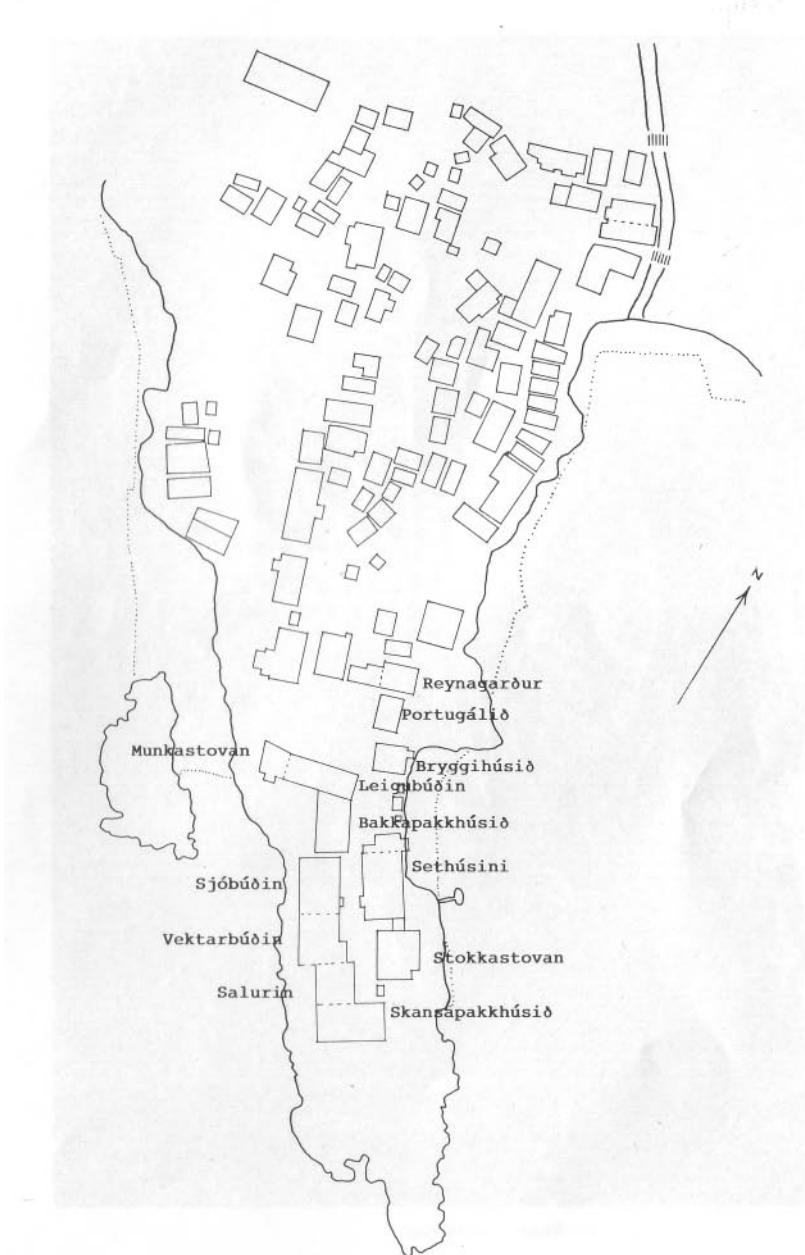
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TINGANES 1673		uppskot
1	Leigubúð keypmansins	Teknlýsing
2	Gomul stokkastova	[dashed box] Brend hús
3	Stokkastova	[solid box] Bjargað hús
4	Avgomul stokkastova	[solid box with horizontal line] Bjargað hús sum enn standa
5	Krambúðin	
6	Stovur keypmansins	
7	Bökjarahús keypmansins	
8	Kongsins stova	
9	Krúthúsið	
10	Landssins tinghús	
11	Bryggihús keypmansins	
12	Munkastovan	
13	Leigubúðin	
14	Varastovan	
15	Bryggihús fútans	
16	Ognarstova fútans	
17	Kirkjan	
18	Skúlin	
19	Reynaqarður	



Tórshavn 1710, eftir Rasmus Juel.





*Vindrose l wind rose*



Mynd: Føroya Fornminnissavn

Udgiver: Publisher: Føroya Landsstýri.



Einars Offsett, Tórshavn.