BARBARA BACZYŃSKA

MAJOR RESULTS OF 1977 EXCAVATIONS OF EARLY MEDIEVAL SITES IN POLAND

Materials from the earliest phases of the Early Middle Ages with pottery of the Prague type were discovered during investigations of habitation features at Chwałków (20), Wałbrzych province, site 1 (J. Łodowski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Wrocław) where 14 huts in nest-like arrangement came to light in an area of about 1 hectare. Features from the beginning of the Early Middle Ages were also uncovered at Krapkowice (23), Opole province, site A (K. Maciwiec, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Opole); these were traces of 2 houses, 5.85 × 2.35 and 3.00 × 1.85 m in size, with hearths inside. The pottery found there was hand-made and slightly turned at the rim. Excavations at Tumiany (6), Olsztyn province, site 2 (T. Baranowski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa) revealed 11 features, of which 3 were dwellings. The inventory included numerous potsherds, fragment of a cross-bow fibula of bronze, an ornamented bronze plate, fragment of a bronze bracelet, an iron knife and a glass bead. Investigations conducted at Czekanów (14), Siedlce province, site 1 (B. Zawadzka-Antosiak, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) uncovered an early medieval hut and 7 pits of the 12th-13th cent. The cultural layer yielded an iron spur with in-turned hooks form the close of the 7th cent. At Barkowice Mokre (18), Piotrków Trybunalski province, site 1 (M. Góra, Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne, Łódź) investigations were conducted of a fortified settlement of the 6th-9th cent. The area examined, surrounded by 2 defensive ditches, yielded 10 dwelling features.

From the later stages of the Early Medieval period date settlements at Wyłazłów (11), Sieradz province, sites 7 a and 7 b (M. Cwetsch, Pracownia Badawcza Archeologiczno-Konserwatorska PKZ, Poznań) which yielded 145 archaeological features such as hearths, storage pits, ovens, smoking pits and a well, dated to phases B and C this period. The discoveries at Krupice (13), Białystok province, site 5 (D. Jaskanis, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Białystok) included 30 pits and remains of 3 huts in the form of rectangular stone pavements. In the corner of one hut was a regular, rectangular stone hearth. In Warszawa-Wilanów (16) (H. Młynarczyk, U. Perlikowska, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Warszawa) investigations were continued of a settlement of the 11th/12th to 13th cent., which yielded a further 7 features — remains of burnt huts. They were oval in outline and from 1 to 5 m in size. Site 1 at Pleszew (10), Kalisz province (E. Pudelko, Muzeum Okręgowe Ziemi Kaliskiej, Kalisz) yielded early medieval pits containing wheel-turned pottery with convex potter’s marks in the shape of crosses.

Excavations were also carried out of earthworks from various phases of the Early Middle Ages. At Myślióbörz (2), Gorzów province (B. Bojanowski, Myślióborskie Towarzystwo Kulturalne, Myślióbórz) layers of a timber-earth rampart, repeatedly burnt down and rebuilt, have come to light. Portable finds uncovered there, such as potsherds, objects of metal, bone and horn, suggest a date in the 8th to 10th cent. The excavations continued of the earthwork of the 18th-11th cent at Tuligłowy (20), Przemyśl province (M. Cabalska, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków) were concentrated within the stronghold proper and revealed 5 huts situated.
Map showing important archaeological sites of the Early Medieval Age, investigated in 1977. Number of the point on the map correspond to the number after the place-names in text.

in the central space. In addition to pottery the material included knives with tang for the handle-parts of horse harness, spear- and arrow-heads. Investigations were commenced of an early medieval earthwork of the 9th-10th cent. at Dolholęcka (15), Biała Podlaska province (S. Jastrzębski, Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin). The investigations comprised the enclosed space, the rampart and the area beyond the rampart. The core of the rampart consisted of a layer of strongly burnt clay, 175 cm wide, originally delimited by a timber construction. The investigations at Wydrzno (5), Toruń province (W. Kochanowski, R. Boguwolski, Muzeum, Grudziądz) have shown that the build-up within the stronghold (10th-12th cent.) was confined to the parts near the rampart. A section through the rampart revealed that the rampart core was 4.2 m wide and 0.65 m high. It was strengthened by a crossed logs construction. At Koluda Wielka (8), Bydgoszcz province, site 1 (A. Cofta-Broniewska and team, Uniwersytet, Poznań) the trenches located near the assumed stronghold gate revealed remains of two constructions: one was of timber and stone, overlying the lower part of the rampart slope and the adjacent belt of the enclosed space, and the other of stone, being erected on the ruins of the former and representing probably part of the structure which
RESULTS OF 1977 EXCAVATIONS OF EARLY MEDIEVAL SITES

had protected the entrance to the stronghold. Both date from the end of the 10th
to the 2nd half of the 11th cent. Excavations were conducted of the ring earth-
works at Mietlica (9), Bydgoszcz province, site 1 (A. Dymaczewski, S. Jernigen,
Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań, University in Louisville, Ken-
tucky, USA) where early medieval layers were revealed near the rampart, and
remains of larger buildings of the 6th-7th cent. came to light in the central part
of the enclosure. Excavations were continued of the dwelling feature in the
eastern part of the stronghold of the 11th-13th cent, at Raciąż (4), Bydgoszcz pro-
vince (J. Kmieciński and team, Uniwersytet, Łódź). The section revealed two pha-
ses: phase 1 — from before 1256 — an earthen rampart; a fire in 1256 documented
by a burnt layer; phase 2 — after 1256 — a rampart with timber constructions
which were destroyed during the fire of 1300.

Investigations were also continued of strongholds associated with the centres
of authority of the early Polish state. The investigations conducted in Kraków-
Stare Miasto (25) (E. Zaitz, T. Radwańska, K. Radwański, Muzeum Archeologi-
czne, Kraków) revealed early medieval layers associated with the old habitation
horizon of Okoł (town before the "locatio"), dated to the 9th-10th cent., an early
medieval rampart of the 10th/11th to 13th cent., with traces of timber construction,
and a defensive wall of medieval date.

Long-term studies on the formation of an urban centre in the Early Middle
Ages were concluded at Opole-Ostrówiec (22) (B. Gediga, Instytut Historii Kultury
Materialnej PAN, Wrocław). The investigations of 1977 uncovered construction
level of one building and construction of a passage — a street from the 2nd half
of the 11th cent. The inventory included fragments of a leather shoe, objects of
wood, float of bark, a knife and an awl of iron, a temple- or finger-ring of plait-
ed wire, a fragmentary finger-ring and a glass bead.

Excavations whose main purpose was the study of early medieval architecture
were conducted at Jędrzejów (24), Kielce province (Z. Lechowicz, Pracownie Kon-
serwacji Zabytków, Łódź) inside the Cistercian cloister church of the 13th cent.
Relics of a church of the 12th cent. with two aspes and a tower over the gallery
apse have come to light.

Defensive sites dating from the late phase of the Early Medieval period and
from the Middle Ages were investigated at Szczecin (1) (E. Cnotliwy, T. Nawrol-
ski, Pracownia Archeologiczno-Konserwatorska, Szczecin) where relics of the old-
est construction of the castle of the 13th-14th cent. were uncovered. This was
a defensive wall raised on foundation posts linked by constructional arches. The
presence of three levels of an early medieval stone-paved road, running along the
internal slope of the rampart was recorded at the castle at Przemyśl (27) (K. Szu-
warowski, Pracownia Archeologiczno-Konserwatorska, Rzeszów). Remains of a wood-
en entrance gate and fragments of timbre-earth fortifications of the 14th cent.
were revealed a Czersk (17), Warszawa province (J. Rauhut, Instytut Historii Kultu-
ry Materialnej PAN, Warszawa). Nearby was a pit which contained a foundation
offering made when the defensive constructions of the stronghold were finished.
Remains of two block structures of 11th cent. have also come to light.

Early medieval cemeteries were also examined in this season. At Będkowice
(21), Wrocław province, site 15 (H. Sledzik-Kamińska, Wojewódzki Ośrodek Archeo-
logiczno-Konserwatorski, Wrocław) two barrows were explored. Their bases were
near-circular (8 × 9 and 6.5 × 7.5 m), and their present height was about 1 m.
At the depth of 0.5 m (from the top) appeared a four-sided construction of char-
red beams, over which concentrations of charred bones occurred. On the basis of
potsherds the barrows have been dated as the 7th-8th cent. Four barrows of the
7th-10th cent. were explored at Białogóra (19), Jelenia Góra province, site 2 (H. Sledzik-Kamińska, Wojewódzki Ośrodek Archeologiczno-Konserwatorski, Wrocław).
They lie in a cemetery where 167 barrows have been recorded. The bases of the barrows consisted of a circle of small field stones. In one barrow a charred agate bead was found. Small amount of osseous material suggests that the burials may have been of surface type. A barrow explored at Krupice (13), Białystok province, site 3 (K. Chilmon, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Białystok) contained a cremation burial. Cremated bones occurred at various levels and in various parts of the mound. The barrow dates from phase 2 of the Early Medieval period.

Another type is represented by the cemetery at Czarna Wielka (12), Białystok province, site 1 (M. Czarnecki, Pracownia Archeologiczno-Konserwatorska, Warszawa). This was an inhumation cemetery with graves set by stones. Four graves explored in this season yielded several glass beads and iron objects. A clay vessel of the 12th-13th cent. (sacrificial offering) and a socketed spearhead of iron were found in the neighbourhood of the graves. Investigations of the "Old Magyar" cemetery of the 10th cent. were continued at Przemyśl (27) (A. Koperski, Muzeum Okręgowe, Przemyśl). The discoveries consisted of 5 inhumation graves which seem to have been arranged in 4 regular rows along the N-S line. The rectangular grave pits with rounded corners were timbre-lined at the bottom. Apart from human skeletons the graves contained animal bones. Grave goods included ornaments of silver (ear-rings, bracelets) and bronze (purse mounts), glass beads, weapons (iron hammer-axe, arrow-heads), parts of horse harness and iron tools (knife, axe). At Sobiejuchy (7), Bydgoszcz province (J. Ostoja-Zagórska, J. Strzałko, W. Szyman dera, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań) part of an open settlement of the 12th cent. has come to light. The discoveries consisted of 3 domestic and 2 dwelling pits.

Underwater investigations were conducted at Bobęcino (3), Słupsk province (A. Kola, G. Wilke, Uniwersytet, Toruń) where relics of bridge pillars were discovered. The bridge had connected the eastern shore of Great Bobęcinskie Lake with the isle on which an earthwork of the 9th-12th cent. is situated. The pillars, which consisted of 6 to 8 vertical posts each, suggest that the bridge was of an exceptionally solid construction of a type not encountered in this area.