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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE RELICS OF EARLY MODERN MANOR COMPLEXES IN KOZŁÓW, IN THE REGION OF UPPER SILESIA

Abstract: Archaeological surveys of the relics of the motte-and-bailey manor in Kozłów in Upper Silesia (Poland) have yielded a great deal of interesting information regarding the life of nobility around that area in early modern times. Apart from relics of manor houses dating back to various periods, a number of artefacts has been found as well. Particularly noteworthy is a set of Renaissance tiles as well as tools and other iron items comprising the furnishings of the 16th/17th-century manor house. These are indicative of the social and material status of its inhabitants.

Keywords: Upper Silesia, Kozłów, Medieval motte and bailey manor, early Modern times manor


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The history of the surveys

The village of Kozłów is situated in the region of Upper Silesia, in the eastern part of the Silesian Voivodeship, in the county of Gliwice (Fig. 1). The history of the surveys at this archaeological site termed a 'stronghold' or 'Slavic burgwall' goes back as early as pre-war times. The gord was first mentioned in German literature of the 1930s.¹ At that time surface prospecting was carried out, during which mostly ceramic materials were found. Site measurements and a first layout were made as well (Fig. 2). The site was not added to the register of Polish heritage until the end of the 1960s, when it was termed relics of a stronghold' from the turn of the early and late Middle Ages. In autumn 1970, as part of an attempt to verify the fortified settlements in the Gliwice county, two test excavations were carried out around the stronghold in Kozłów in order to verify the structure and establish

its chronology. In the course of archaeological work a 30 cm-thick cultural stratum was observed, as well as ceramic material, gothic brick fragments, and daub lumps.² A small amount of ceramic material caused the stronghold to be classified as a refugial site, dated to the 14th century. A similar chronology was adopted in a study devoted to medieval strongholds of Gliwice county published in 1971.³ The findings concerning the chronology of the site were not verified until the rescue archaeological survey carried out in 1994. At that time relics of 15th-17th-century residential structures and a cultural stratum linked to the functioning of a 14th-century tower house were found. However, the small scale of those surveys did not allow for a more precise identification of the spatial layout of the uncovered manor complex and the 14th-century motte-and-bailey manor house. Some of the 1994 survey findings were not completed until the surveys carried out in 2010, when a significant part of the site was examined.⁴

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¹ Scheitza 1931, Mention of the findings made by P. Scheitza: AB 5 (1930), nr 6, 90; AB 5 (1930), nr 7, 117.

² Bagniewski and Tomczak 1972, 207-208.

³ Galasińska-Hrebenda 1971, 63-64.

⁴ Michnik and Zdaniewicz 2012, 152-166; Zdaniewicz 2021, 374-376.

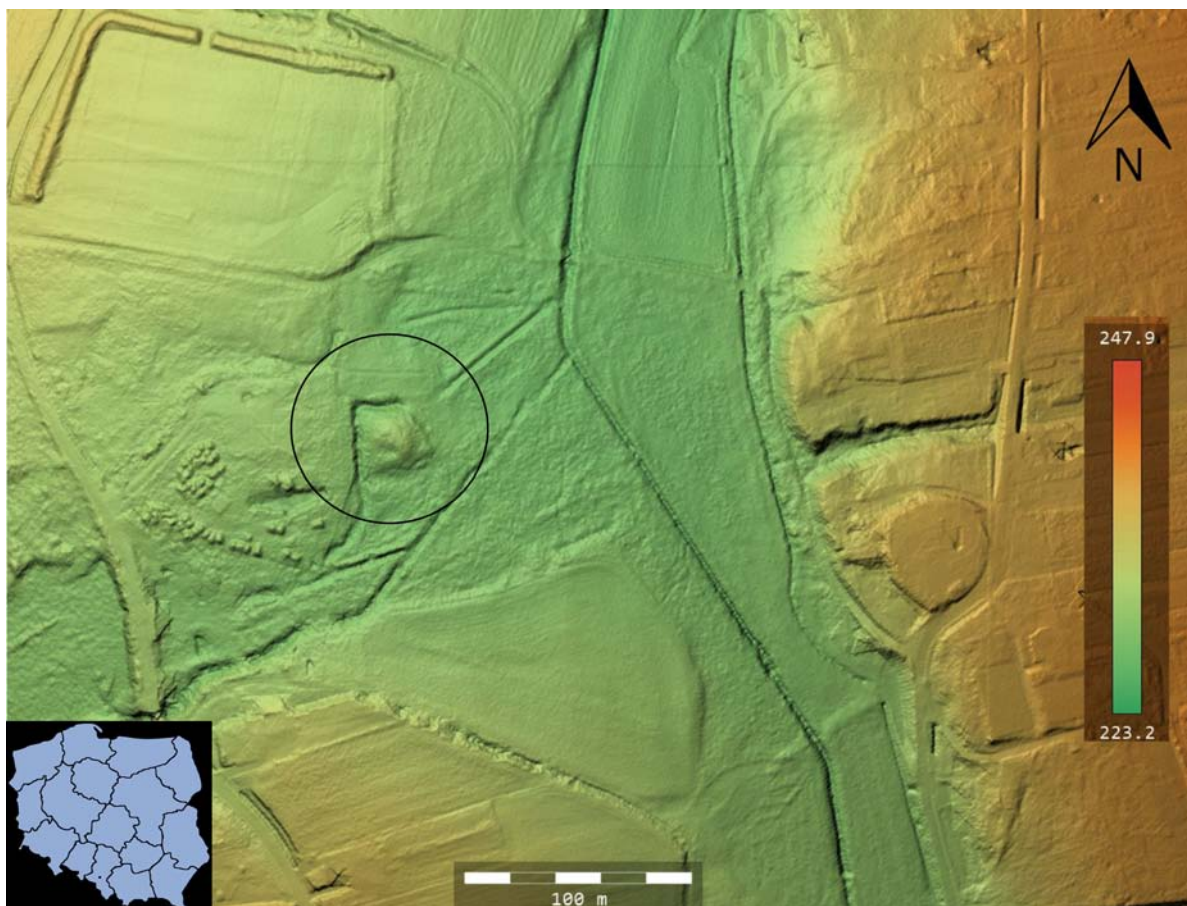


Fig. 1. Lidar AMS with the location of the manor in Kozłów, Upper Silesia District. Graphic design: R. Zdaniewicz, Planlauf software.

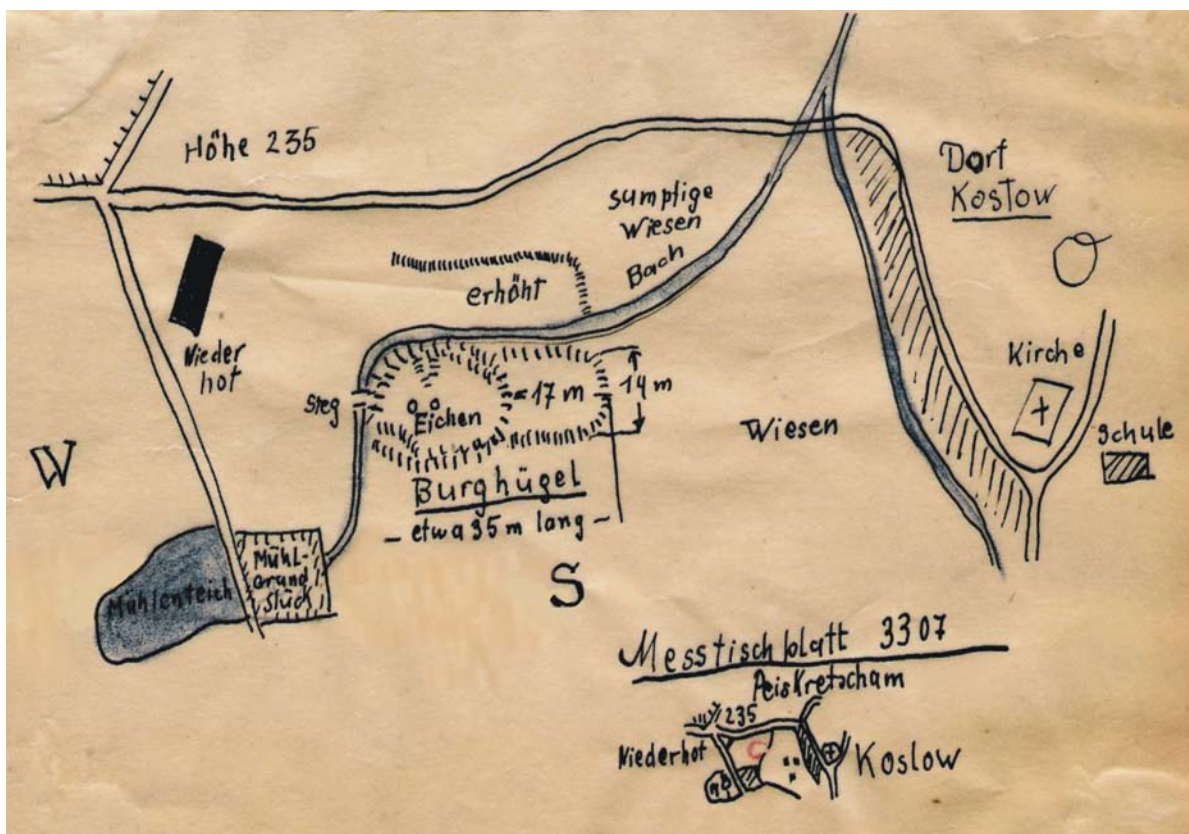


Fig. 2. Archive map of archaeological site termed as a 'stronghold' or 'Slavic burghwall' early 1930s. Archive of Museum in Gliwice.

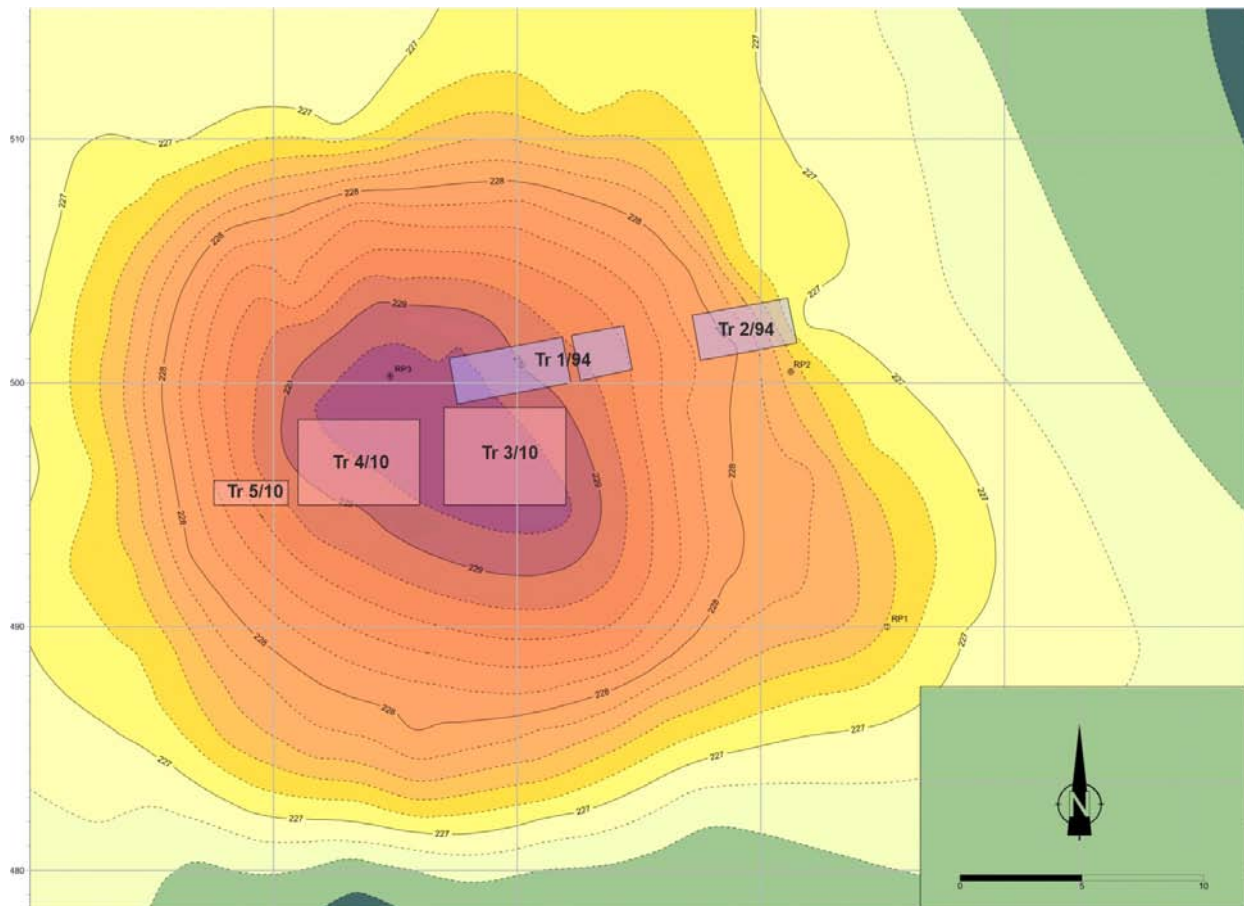


Fig. 3. Contour map of the site with excavations from 1994 and 2010. Graphic design: M. Furmanek.

Site description

The site is located in the north-western part of the village, about 400 m to the west of the church. It is situated on a relatively small, artificially raised mound, in the midst of partly waterlogged meadows (Figs. 1 and 3). The top level of the motte was at the time of survey 2.5 m high above the ground level of the neighbouring area. Currently the mound takes the form of a flat oval, approximately 20 m in diameter. In the south-western part the motte was to some extent destroyed. Unfortunately the time and cause of this event remain unknown. Originally there existed a lower quadrilateral mound adjacent to the motte on its eastern side, measuring 17×11 m (probably the original bailey) (Fig. 2). However, the lower level, still visible on the pre-war site plan, was levelled to the ground practically in its entirety in the course of the works carried out during the gas pipeline construction in 1993. The whole motte was situated in the fork of two watercourses: from the south and east the river Kozłówka, and from the north a small, unnamed stream. From the western side the earthwork was additionally circled by a wet ditch – a moat supplied with water from the nearby Kozłówka river, as well as from groundwater. Access to water and

unquestionable defensive advantages made it an ideal place to locate a motte-and-bailey manor house.⁵

The results of archaeological surveys carried out in 2010

The archaeological surveys carried out in 2010 in the mound area of Kozłów allowed the retrieval of a great deal of information pertaining to residential structures functioning here in various periods. Before attempting excavation, a non-invasive examination of the site took place, with the use of a magnetometric device. In order to examine as comprehensively as possible the relics of late medieval and early modern manor complexes uncovered in 1994, excavations were carried out across the substantial area of the least destroyed central and western part of the site (Fig. 3). Surveys of the top of the mound also aimed to confirm the functioning of a 14th-century motte-and-bailey manor house in its area, the existence of which had not been definitively proven during earlier excavations.⁶ In the course of the works a couple of utility levels were encountered, linked to its buildings and its use in the

⁵ Marciniak-Kajzer 2011, 50-51.

⁶ Pierzak and Rozmus 1994, 32.



Fig. 4. Photography of the north profile of dig S3. Graphic design: B. Targaczewski.

period from the 14th through to the 19th and 20th century. It should be noted that a part of the uncovered cultural strata remained in tight correlation with the utility levels of the site, which had already been uncovered during the works carried out in 1994. Thanks to their juxtaposition, as well as the application of non-invasive examination methods, it was possible to retrieve more detailed information concerning the dimensions of the residential structures.

The archaeological surveys uncovered 4,738 pottery sherds, 1,782 fragments of stove tiles, and 445 metal items. These artefacts constitute a unique testimony to the level of life and material status of the people dwelling on the mound in the past.

Traces of the 14th-century settlement

The oldest traces corresponding chronologically to the time the site had been created were observed in the course of the exploration of digs 3, 4, and 5. They can be linked to the stratum of the so-called primordial humus, marked as SU 55. This stratum was preserved only within the area of dig 3, as in digs 4 and 5 it was destroyed practically in its entirety during the later ground levelling (only its lowest part remains). During the exploration of SU 55 a few dozen of vessel ceramic sherds were found, as well as fragments of an iron spur which should be linked to the 14th century (Fig. 6). At that time the area was chosen as the site for an unspecified building, as evidenced by the intentional raising of the ground observed in the excavation in the form of SU 48 and SU 54 (Fig. 4). It appears

that the material from a linear crosscut currently delimiting the area from the west was used to this end. In this way a 30-40 cm elevation of the ground was achieved, additionally granting a defensive element in the form of a moat. Thus, the prepared ground was most likely used as the construction site of an unspecified complex, most probably of a residential nature, the scant remains of which were observed only in the northern part of dig 3, in the form of SU 26 (Fig. 5). However, it should be noted that in the course of the exploration of this level no remains of such construction were found. Nevertheless, the existence of a residential building complex seems to be highly likely, as evidenced by the careful ground preparation (raising it, encompassing it with a ditch). Such endeavours were usually linked with the construction of a specific structure, for example a tower house. Perhaps such a project was initiated and for unknown reasons never completed. In any case no 13th- or 14th-century documents survive regarding the owner of the village or the existence of a manor in its area. The settlement called *Kozłow* in written records most likely already existed in the 13th century, when for the first time it appears as the village of Jakub, the bishop of Nysa, in a document dated from the 11th of November 1279, issued by a knight called Stefan, last name unknown.⁷ Another person mentioned by name in the document is the parson of the local parish – Reverend Henryk, as well as the village bailiff, Herman.⁸ It

⁷ *SU*, no. 464; Panic 1992, 90.

⁸ *UdKR*, 14; Panic 2000, 22.

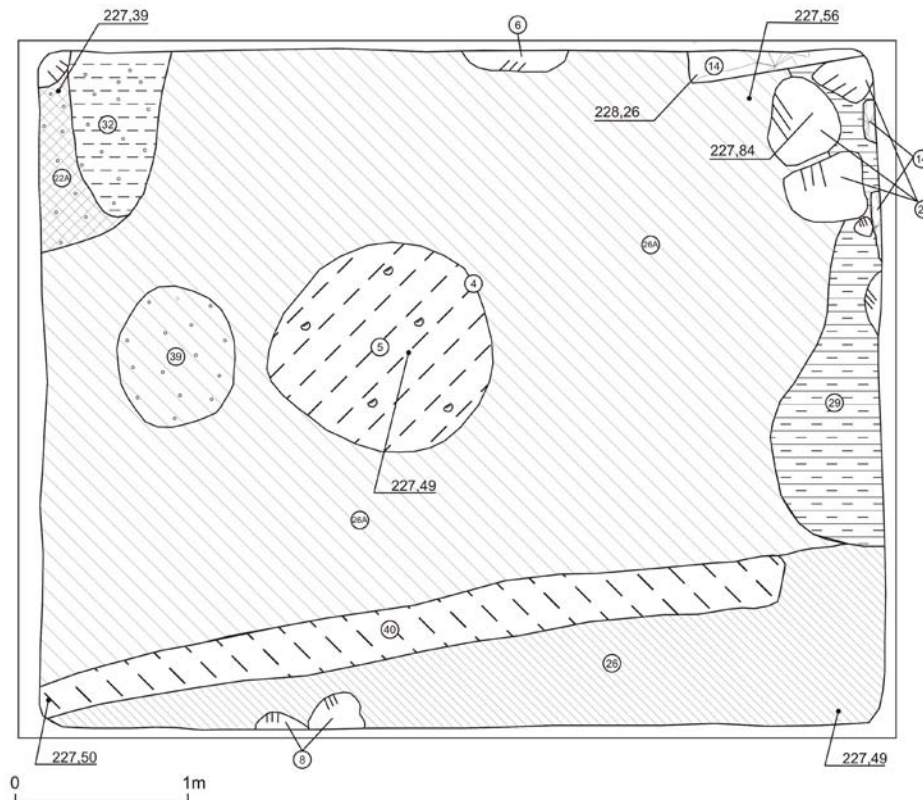


Fig. 5. Drawing of the surface of dig S3. Drawn: R. Zdaniewicz.

should be marked, however, that this document might well be a later counterfeit forged by the Cistercians from Rudy Raciborskie.⁹ Nevertheless, the parish in Kozłów probably already existed in the 13th century, and the fact of it being mentioned in the discussed document was most likely supposed to constitute the evidence of its validity.¹⁰

What may seem interesting in the context of the manor's existence is the fact of the discovery of some spur fragments in one of the oldest levels of the site (SU 55), which because of its form and the way its rowel was shaped (starry) should be dated as stemming from the 13th-14th century (Fig. 6:3). This artefact according to the shape of its yoke corresponds mostly to type III in Z. Hilczerówna's typology or one of the types A – E in S. Kołodziejski's typology.¹¹ The surveys of medieval manor houses in Poland show that spurs and other elements of horse tack count among very frequent findings uncovered in the course of archaeological excavations carried out on such sites.¹²

Vessel sherds discovered around SU 26 and SU 55 display the qualities of late medieval pottery, linked

to the 14th century (Fig. 7). Their leading characteristic is the applied reductive firing technique, which gave the pots and wall fractures monochromatic hues: grey, steel-grey, and black. These vessels were made on a potter's wheel, from clay tempered with a large admixture of sand, at times with individual fragments of crushed stone, probably using the sliding technique, as evidenced by faintly or firmly profiled concavo-convex bands visible on the inner side of the sherds. Isolated base fragments show that the bases of the vessels were flat. In the course of throwing they would usually be placed upon a bed of sanding, and in rare cases they were severed from the wheel's pad. Some vessel sherds discovered in these strata were fired in oxidation, but in terms of their production technique they do not differ essentially from the ones produced by reductive firing. The considerable fragmentation of the material makes it impossible to examine phenotypic traits of the vessels. Most pots had brims in the form of a prominent border profiled both from the inside, as well as from the outside, and equipped with a lip (Figs. 7:1-7:3). In the majority of cases ornamentation was limited to horizontal, gently profiled grooves, although only 10% of the sherds were decorated (Figs. 7:4-7:5). Only isolated fragments were decorated with ornaments made with a small stamp.

⁹ Panic 1992, 90; Panic 2000, 22-24.

¹⁰ Panic 2000, 25, 37.

¹¹ Hilczerówna 1956, 63-69; Kołodziejski 1985, 165-173.

¹² Marciniak-Kajzer 2011, 217-221; Nowakowski 2017, 160-163.

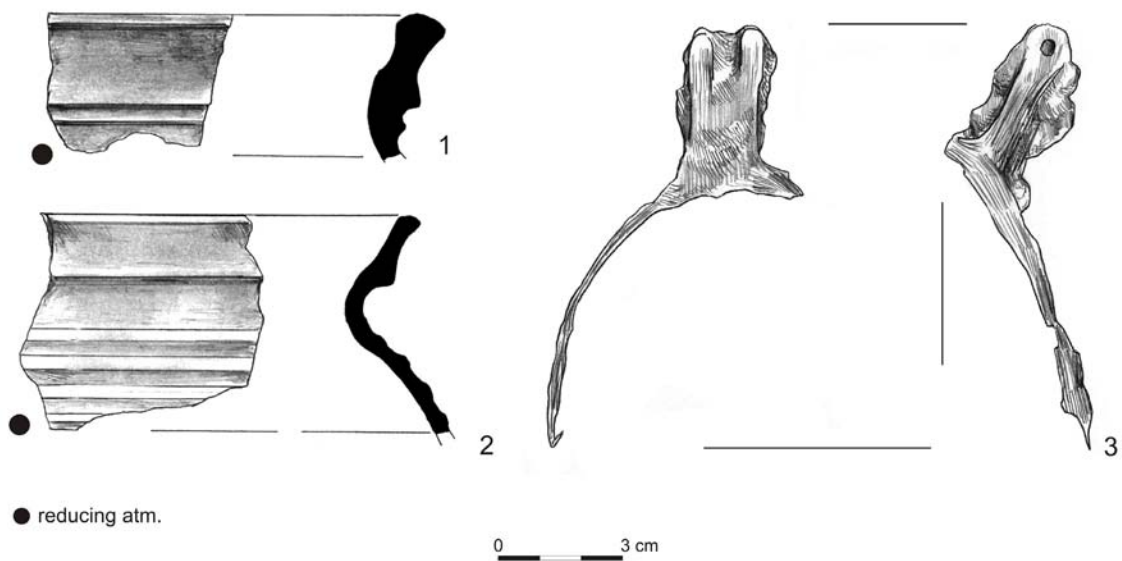


Fig. 6. Selection of artefacts (layer SU 55). Drawn: R. Polackiewicz.

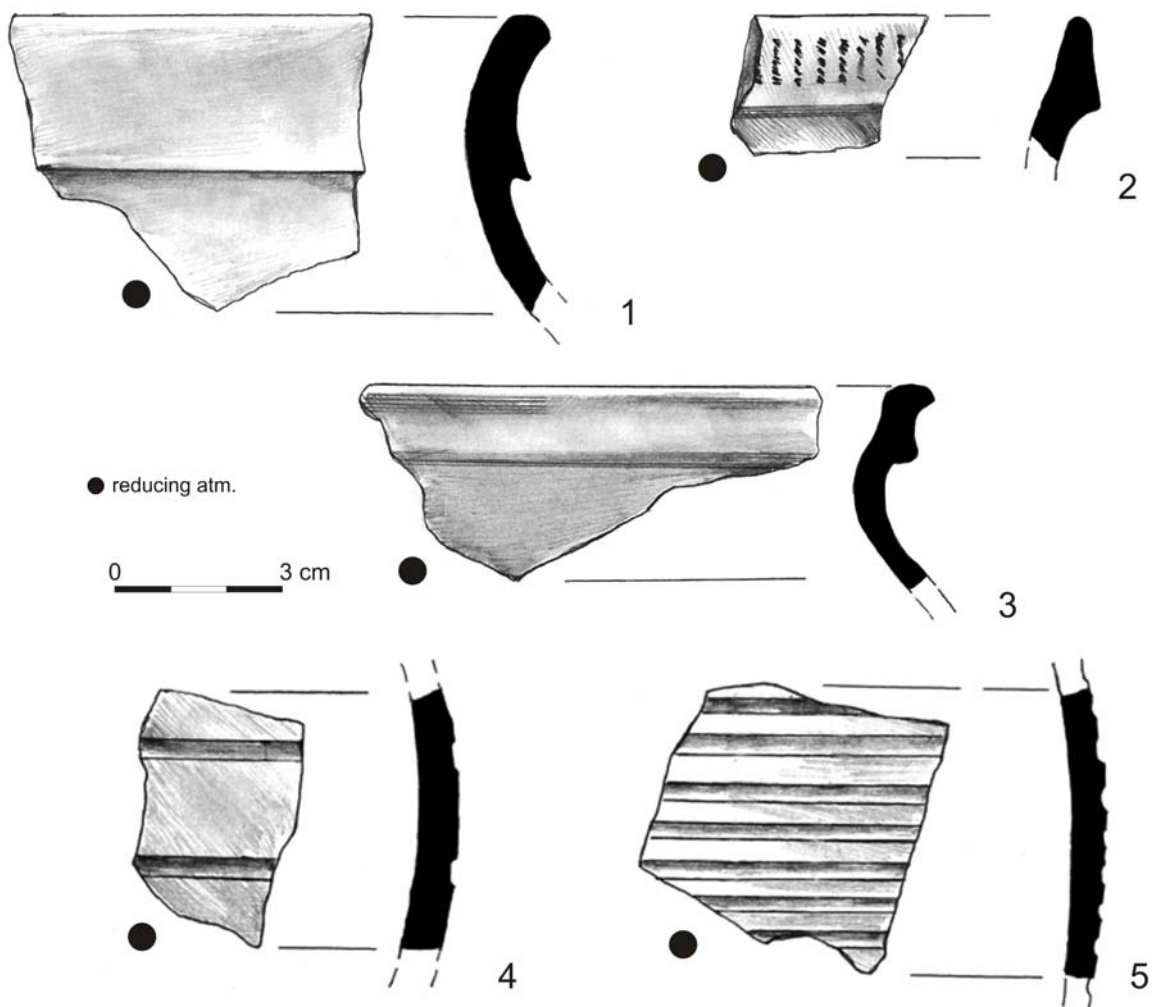


Fig. 7. Selection of pottery (layer SU 26). Drawn: R. Polackiewicz.

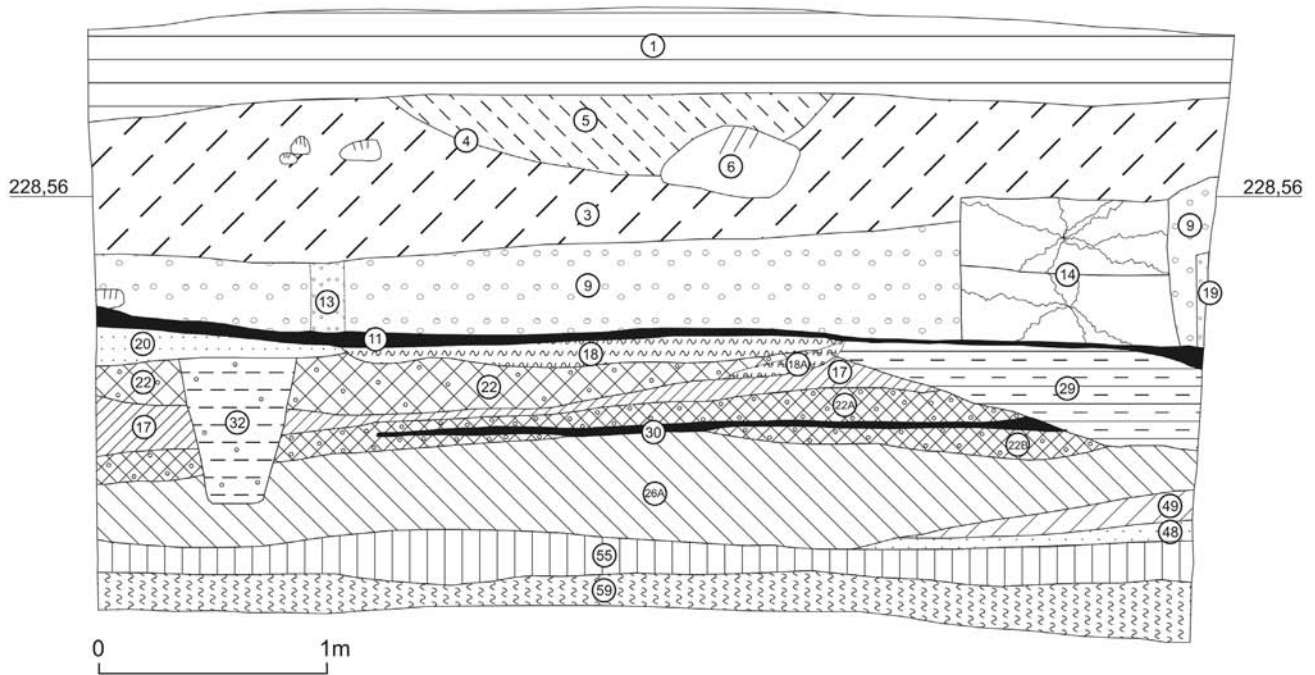


Fig. 8. Drawing of the south profile of dig S3. Drawn: R. Zdaniewicz.

Relics of the late 15th- and early 16th-century Manor

At the close of the 15th century, or, what is more likely, in the first decades of the 16th century, the area of the site was once again chosen as the place for the construction of a residential complex. The area was cleaned up and levelled. Perhaps it was then that the relics of older, 14th-century constructions were removed.

The relic of the pre-construction levelling is constituted by SU 26A, in certain places reaching the level of the natural layer. A linear object, SU 40, constituting the remnants of an unspecified wall construction or foundation (?) could be linked to it as well (Fig. 5). The prepared ground was additionally partially covered by a layer of sand (SU 25). Relics of a residential complex – that is, of the manor erected on the mound at the turn of the 15th and 16th century – were registered in all the examined digs. The following levels are connected with the examined structure: SU 17, 22, 22A, and 30 (Fig. 8). Unfortunately, in many places these were destroyed or disturbed by subsequent constructions (especially in trench 3). At the current stage of research it can be asserted that the examined structure was built primarily from wood, although a large number of daub lumps in the rubble suggests that clay was used as well. The original dimensions of the whole structure are hard to establish. By juxtaposing the deposits discovered in the examined trenches with the one encountered in 1994 it can be stated that the manor house was probably no less than 12 m long. Unfortunately, in order to establish its width additional surveys would have to be carried out

in the southern part of the motte. The building probably had a wooden floor, to which might be linked the charred layer uncovered in trench 3 and marked as SU 30. However, it is hard to definitively settle the matter, as this layer could just as easily be the relic of a fallen, burnt wall. The manor was furnished with a stove, which is evidenced by fragments of tiles uncovered during the exploration of SU 22 and 22A (Fig. 11).

Constructions marked as SU 50, 51, 52, 53, and 67 are connected to the manor house as well (Fig. 14). The quantity of historic material discovered in some of these structures points to their dumping ground character. The structure SU 67, interpreted as the relic of a cellar with wood-panelled walls resting on a wooden pillar (SU 34), is worthy of note.

The manor did not operate for long. Probably as early as in the first half of the 16th century it was destroyed, possibly by fire (?). It is indirectly evidenced by a coin discovered in the course of the filling up of trench 3 – an Alexander Jagiellon silver crown half-groschen¹³ which with a great deal of likelihood may be linked to the functioning of this structure (Fig. 13).

By the 15th century the village probably already belonged to the Kozłowski family, but the date when this land was transferred from princely ownership to private hands remains unknown. Undoubtedly at this time the parish already existed in the village, which is confirmed by a document stating the sale of the

¹³ Kubiak 1998, 160-162.

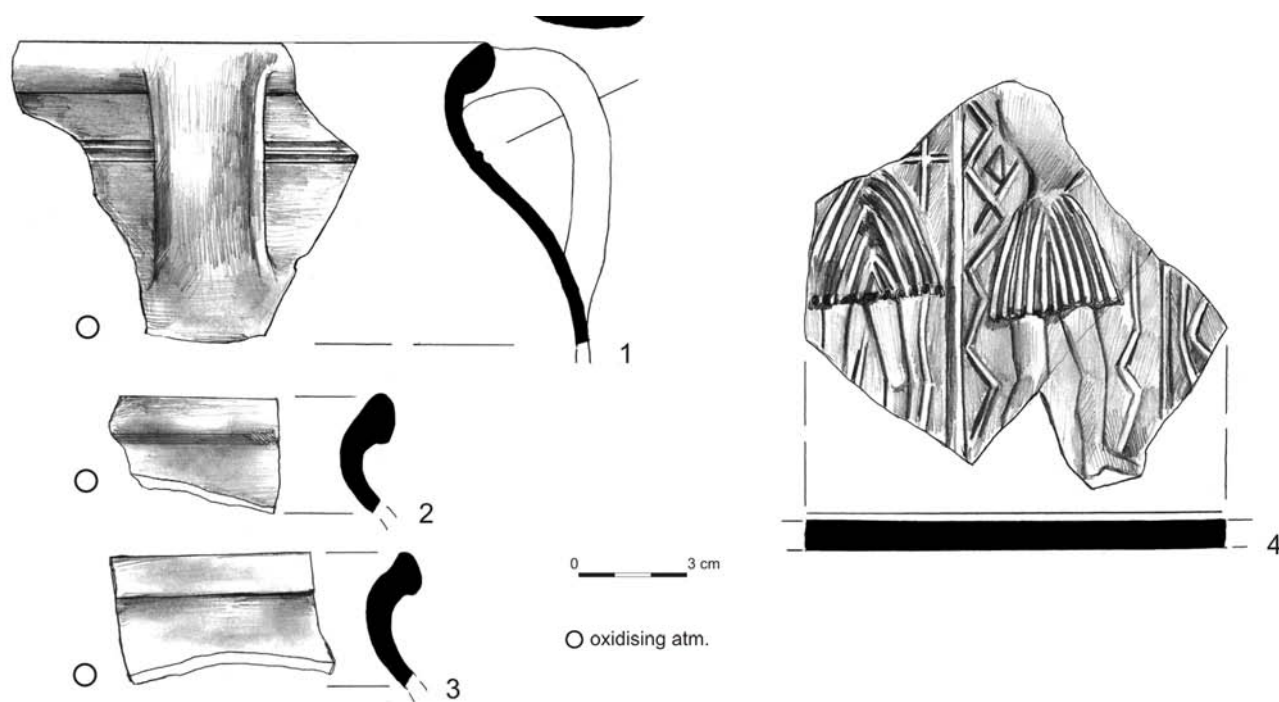


Fig. 9. Selection of artefacts (layer SU 26A). Drawn: R. Zdaniewicz.

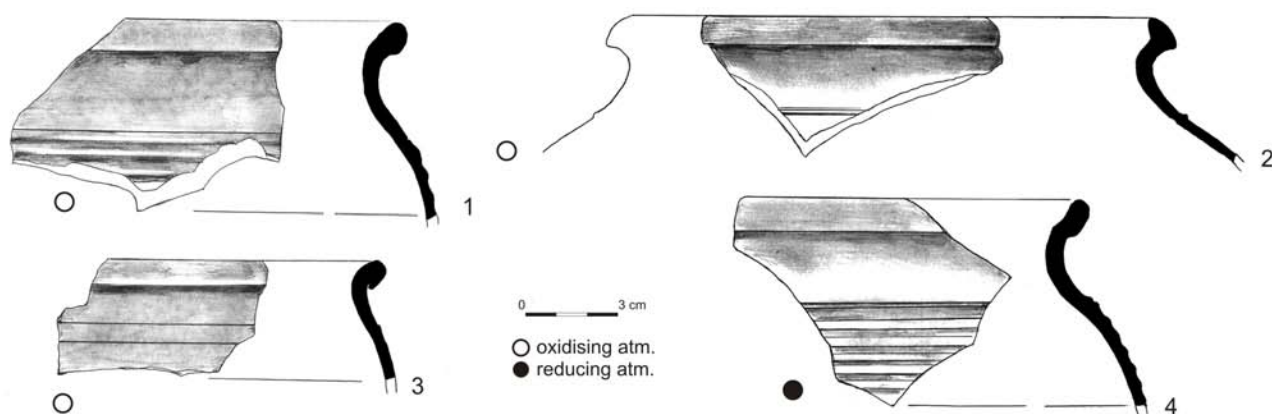


Fig. 10. Selection of pottery (layer SU 22). Drawn: R. Polackiewicz.

Kozłowski estate to the clergy at Niemodlin in 1427, in which Nikolaus von Niepasicz is mentioned as the owner of a part of Kozłów.¹⁴ The document also attests to the fact that at the time the village was already partitioned. As witnesses to the transaction there are named, amongst others, Prince Bartholomäus von Coslaw, as well as the heir to a part of the village, Simon von Coslaw.¹⁵ Kozłów might have also been the place of origin of Sieghard and Konrad von Koslov, who were mentioned in a document of the prince of Oświęcim, Kazimierz, on the

15th of November 1422.¹⁶ Konrad Koslovsky from the House of Raszyca, Prince Bernard's scribe in the years 1449-1451, and Casper von Koslow, mentioned in 1456, were most likely other representatives of the family line.¹⁷ As of today there have not been found any records of the existence of a knightly manor house in Kozłów in 15th-century sources. It would seem that in this period the representatives of the family Kozłowski must have dwelled in the village, as they were the main founders of the stone church established in the village around 1500.

¹⁴ Panic 2000, 24-25.

¹⁵ Schmidt 2007, 131.

¹⁶ Drabina et al. 1985, 189.

¹⁷ Pilnaček 1991, 53; Horwat 1993, 82.

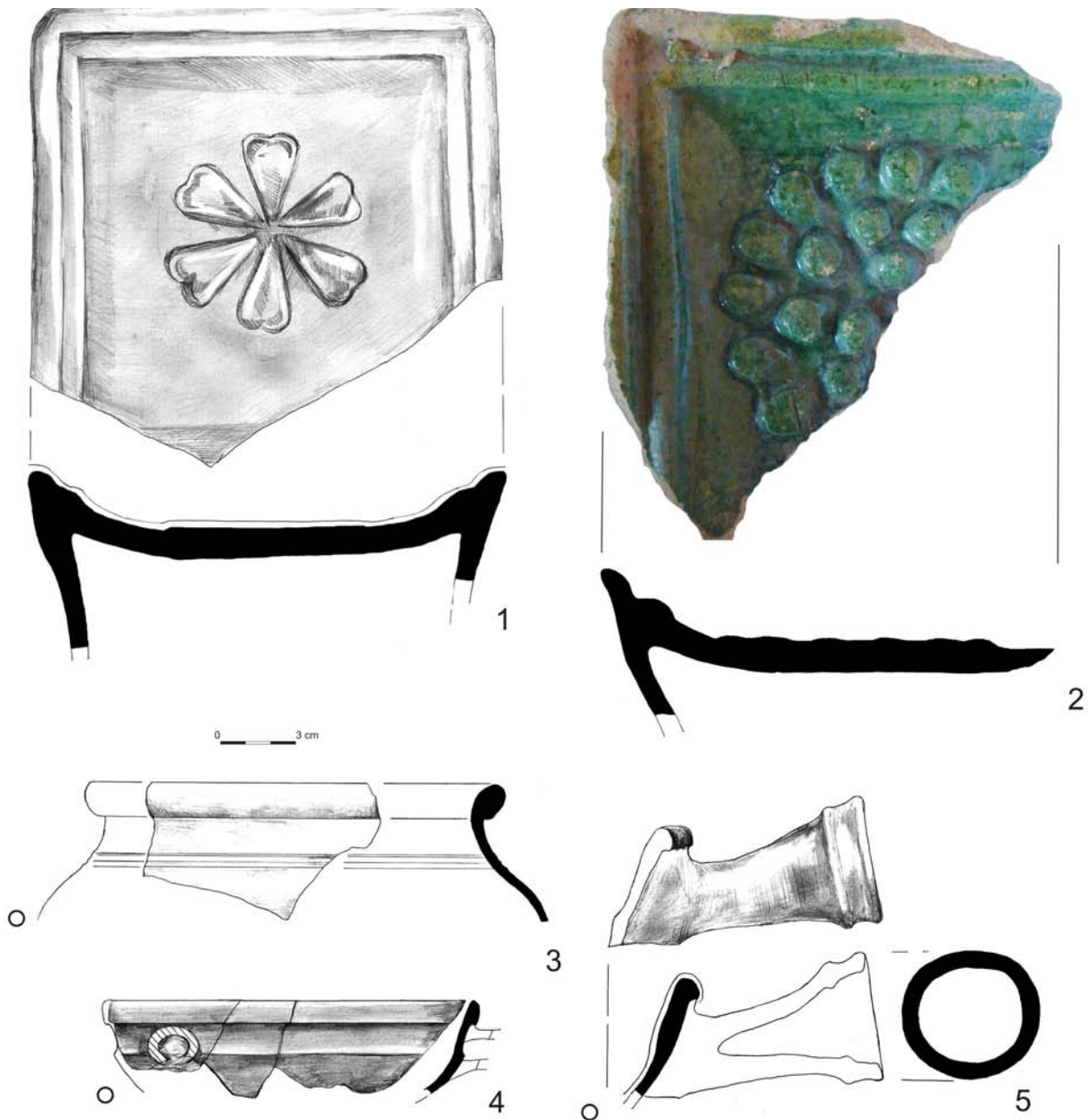


Fig. 11. Selection of artefacts (layer SU 35 and 36). Drawn: R. Polackiewicz and R. Zdaniewicz

In the course of the exploration of SU 17, 22, 22A and 26A, 35, 36, as well as the structures marked as SU 51, 52, and 53, linked to the functioning of the manor house in the 15th-16th century, there were found fragments of ceramics displaying late medieval characteristics, as well as ones of the early modern type (Figs. 9-11). The majority of these are characterised by a homogenous, clear oxidation firing technique, which gives the ceramics different shades of a creamy or brick-red colour. However, it should be noted that many of the sherds display secondary discolouration, caused both in the course of its usage, as well as during the post-deposition period. Some vessels, around 20-25%, were fired in reduction or blackened. The surfaces of this group of vessels were additionally ornamented by polished stripes.

The manufacture technology of this group varies – the technique in which some of the vessels were made refers to late medieval vessels. It means they were made at a potter's wheel, mostly by the application of sliding techniques, from clay tempered with sand, not always of the select kind. However, some vessels were made from clay with an admixture of a lot finer sand, or even powdered rock. These are usually characterised by thinner walls and the presence of delicate convex-concave creases resulting from forceful rolling, although most likely some of them must have been made with the coiling technique. It would seem that the differences in the technique with which the vessels were made result from the actual application of particular items and from the traditional division into kitchenware and tableware pottery.



Fig. 12. Fragment of stove tile with heraldic motif (layer SU 35). Drawn and photo: R. Polaczkiwicz and R. Zdaniewicz.



Fig. 13. Silver crown half-groschen of King Alexander Jagiellonian. Photo: R. Zdaniewicz.

Among the vessels the basic form was constituted by pots and jugs (Fig. 9:1-9:3; 10:1-10:4 and 11:3). Their spouts were the shape of a flat, lenticular and rounded flask, sometimes equipped with an outward-bent lip. The pots were up to about 50 cm high and were about 30 cm in spout diameter. In the ceramic materials coming from

the discussed stratigraphic units there were found also fragments of deep bowls, plates, and pans, mainly in the form of handles, bases, and conical feet (Fig. 11:4-11:5). The ornamentation of these vessels was simple, often reduced to shallow, horizontal grooves in the upper part of the vessel (Figs. 9; 10:1-10:4 and 11:3).

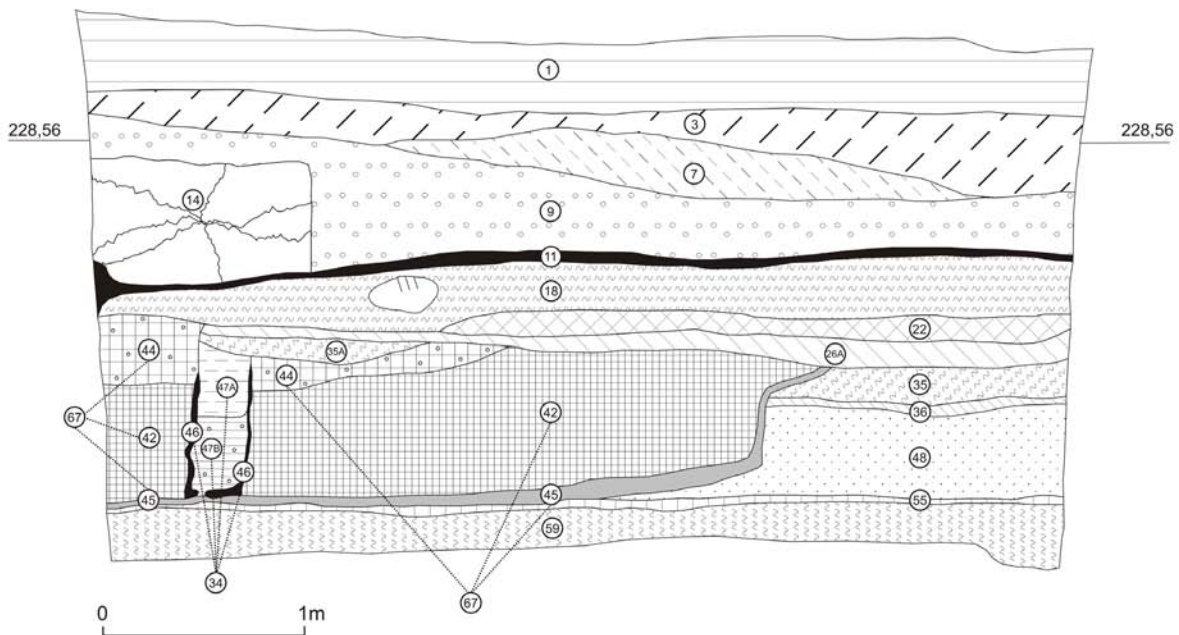


Fig. 14. Drawing of the south profile of dig S4. Graphic design: R. Zdaniewicz.

Some sherds had traces of dark-red, green, and honey-coloured glaze.

Amongst the discussed strata fragments of pot and panel tiles were found as well. However, it is hard to definitively establish whether they all come from one heating device (Figs. 9 and 11:1-11:2). The surface of most of the panel tiles was glazed green or honey-coloured. The diversity of representations ornamenting the tile faces is worthy of note. Some of them were decorated with convex floral ornaments, usually in the form of individual rosettes or more elaborate, yet simple in form flowery motifs echoing the Renaissance style.¹⁸

Amongst the found artefacts there were also interesting tile fragments displaying late Gothic characteristics. The first of the mentioned artefacts is a relic of a panel tile, on the face of which we can see the profile of a horseman's head in a close helmet ornamented with a jewel (Fig. 12).¹⁹ As the greater part of the tile is missing, it is at the moment difficult to state whether the jewelled helmet visible on the tile constituted an element of some heraldic motif, or was a representation of an element of knightly culture, for example a tournament scene.²⁰ The first option seems more likely. Representations of helmets of similar shapes, both with and without jewels, are known from numerous heraldic tiles stemming from the second half of the 15th century, as for example those found in Czechia.²¹

The second fragment represents the current of anthropomorphic ornamental design and echoes courtly culture (Fig. 9:4). Its face is decorated by moving figures in stylised tunics. Such types of representations refer to late Gothic decorative motifs found on panel tiles.²² The fact that post-medieval motifs appeared in tile decoration even in the first decades of the 16th century in Silesia is evidenced by the collections of stove tiles from Chudów and Racibórz.²³

Relics of the 16th/17th-century Manor

On the charred remains of the manor house functioning in the 15th/16th century a new residential construction was erected in the 16th century. The ground for the new manor house was cleared and partly raised, which is evidenced by SU 18 and 20. The relics of the residential structure (the manor house in the form of rubble) were registered in all the examined digs. SU 9, 11, 13, 14, 27, and 29 are connected to the construction in question (Fig. 4:8 and 4:14).

The manor house was most likely erected as a light-frame construction (wattle and daub), as evidenced by a large number of preserved daub fragments, probably constituting the remains of the original wall filling, and a very small amount of preserved burnt wood fragments (Fig. 4). It is less probable that a log construction was used here, additionally covered with a 6-10 layer of clay or straw, though this was undoubtedly a more common solution in

¹⁸ Dąbrowska 1987, 131-132; Dymek 1995, 38-39; Motylewska 2008, 34-37.

¹⁹ Zdaniewicz 2013, 270-277.

²⁰ Dąbrowska 1987, 124-129; Dymek 1995, 33-34.

²¹ Brych 2004, 46; Kováčik and Veselá 2009, 295

²² Dymek 1995, 33-34.

²³ Muzolf 2002, 11-17; Nocuń 2008, 122-126.

the Silesian building tradition.²⁴ Single pillar and beam imprints preserved on the fragments of overburnt clay discovered in the rubble of the manor (SU 9) should rather be linked to some form of a framing construction.

The whole construction was erected on a foundation of large erratic stones. The clay surface of the wall was additionally whitewashed, and in some parts covered in painting, delicate traces of which were preserved on some of the daub fragments. The manor house had wooden floors, the relic of which is constituted by SU 11.

In the course of the survey observations were made concerning the layout and dimensions of the whole manor house. Its relics (rubble) were found on the entire surface of digs 3, 4, and partly 5. Similarly as in the case of the older manor house (the relics of which were uncovered on the site) the deposit layout in the examined digs was juxtaposed with the one found in 1994 surveys.

Judging from the fact that in trench 5 there were found relics of the western wall of the construction, and in trench 1 from 1994 the edge of the eastern wall of the manor, the manor could not have been less than 14.5 m long (Fig. 16). Unfortunately, establishing its width with absolute certainty would require carrying out additional surveys in the southern part of the motte. With a great deal of likelihood it can be said that the part of the manor examined in 1994 and 2010 was its front side, which can be evidenced by the relics of the door, found in digs 1 and 3 (Fig. 21:1-21:5). The interior of the uncovered part of the manor was probably divided in its front side into three rooms. Relics of partition walls marked as SU 13 and 14 attest to it. What is worthy of note is a large number of metal artefacts linked to the functioning of the manor, such as axes, a shovel, and diggers uncovered in the eastern part of the manor, in the space of the room partitioned by wall SU 13. These findings might point to the farming function of this part of the manor.

Undoubtedly the manor was equipped with a stove, which is evidenced by numerous tile fragments found mainly in SU 9. Unfortunately it has not been possible to establish its exact location. The wooden manor house burnt down in the 16th century, or perhaps in the first decades of the 17th century. It would seem that it was a sudden event, as evidenced by a large set of tools left inside the house. However, no further structures were built on its ashes.

No mentions regarding the functioning of the Kozłów manor at that time remain either. In mid-16th century Johannes Kozlovski was the owner of the majority of the village, perhaps even of the whole of it, having repurchased a part of the village from his brother Peter in 1548,

and a further part from his nephew Girzik in 1554.²⁵ It is also known of Johannes Kozlovski that in 1559 he gave a part of his fortune to his sister Barbara, and in 1560 he married Barbara von Pelka.²⁶ At the beginning of the 17th century the village still belonged in its entirety to the representatives of the Kozłowski family, which can be evidenced by the tombstone of Piotr Kozłowski from 1618 placed in the local St. Nicholas Church. During the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) Protestant troops probably laid waste to the village, just as it happened in the case of the majority of neighbouring villages.²⁷ At that time the seat of the Kozłowski family could have been damaged as well.

The vessels found in the rubble of the 16th/17th century manor were made in most part from ceramic paste with a fine-gained or powdered admixture, at a potter's wheel, with the use of sliding and coiling techniques (Fig. 15). The bases of most of these are flat and bear the marks of having been severed with a wire. A lesser number of finds is constituted by vessels made of clay tempered with selected sand using a technology similar to medieval patterns. To a large extent it is the preserved brim fragments that grant us information concerning the vessels. The pots usually had flask-like, rounded brims (Fig. 15:1-15:4). Amongst these the wide-mouthed ones with or without a handle are especially worthy of note. Some of the vessels had strongly angled brims, equipped just under the rim with a sharply profiled border, constituting a thickened lip (Fig. 15:6). Such brims were usually added to pots, as well as jugs.²⁸ In the studied material there were found fragments of jugs, bowls/mixing bowls (*'makutra'*), cups, pans, and plates, which constituted both kitchenware and tableware (Fig. 15:5 and 15:9). It is worth noting that one of the discovered vessels contained burnt grain, which indicates that it was a container.²⁹

Ornamentation in most cases was limited to horizontal, single incised lines, localised in the upper parts of the vessels (Fig. 15:1 and 15:4). Some of the items were decorated with prominent borders (Fig. 15:8). The surfaces of many pieces were glazed with different shades of green, yellow, orange, and light brown. However, it should be noted that in many cases the sherds were thermally damaged and the colour of the enamel is hard to determine. Isolated pieces in turn bear the traces of having been decorated with a painting technique. The painted white intricate floral ornament decorating the inside of one of the plates merits special attention (Fig. 15:5).

²⁵ Schmidt 2007, 132.

²⁶ Pilnaček 1991, 54.

²⁷ Nietsche 2011, 116-131.

²⁸ Szwed 2004, 331-381.

²⁹ Kofel 2019, 95-111.

²⁴ Dubiel 1971, 34-41.

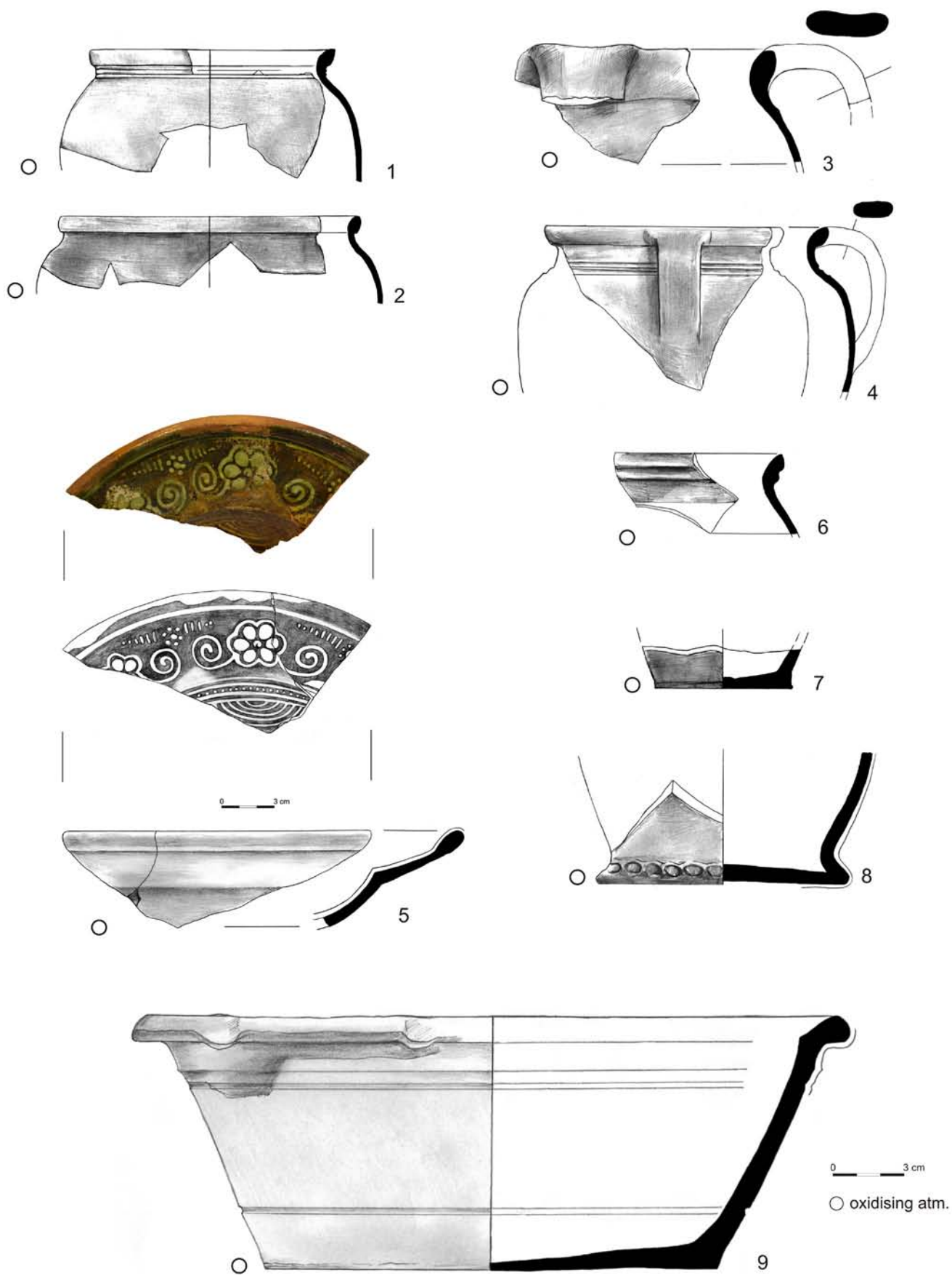


Fig. 15. Selection of pottery (layer SU 9). Drawn: R. Polackiewicz and R. Zdaniewicz.

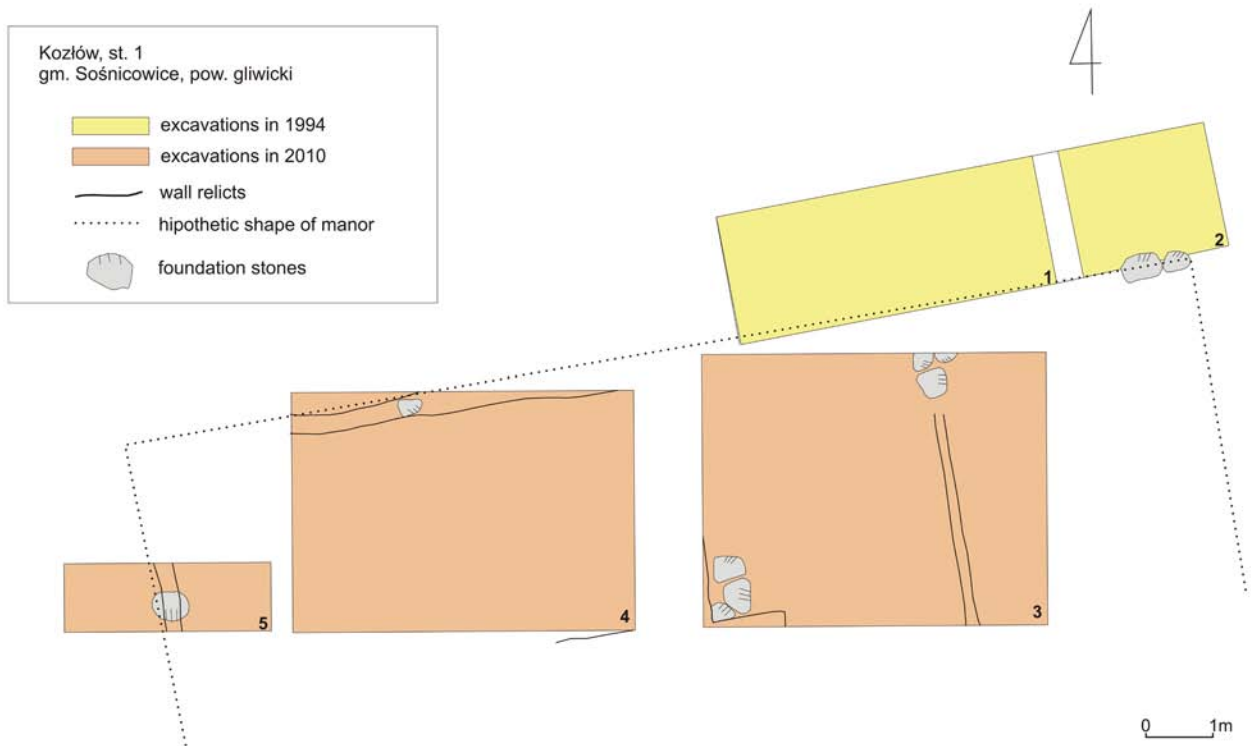


Fig. 16. Reconstruction of the shape of the 16th/17th century manor house. Graphic design: R. Zdaniewicz.



Fig. 17. Stove tile with portrait motif (layer SU 9). Graphic design: R. Zdaniewicz.

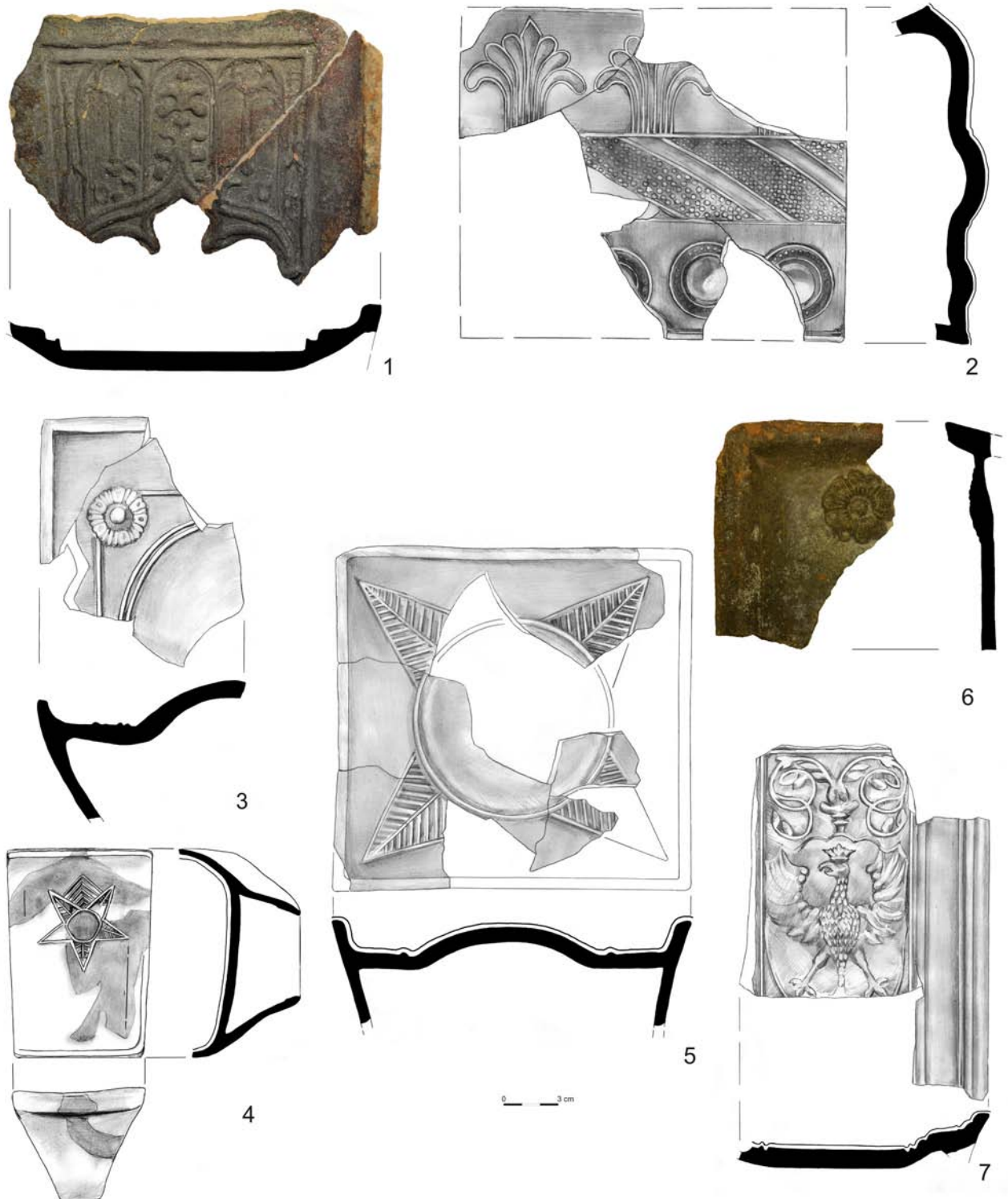


Fig. 18. Selection of stove tiles with floristic, zoomorphic, and geometric motifs (layer SU 9). Graphic design: R. Polackiewicz and R. Zdaniewicz.

In the discussed strata a large set of Renaissance tile fragments was found, once forming part of the stove with which the manor was equipped (Figs. 17-20). The set was constituted mainly by middle tiles as well as mantle and capstone ones. Some of the tiles were square, and some rectangular in shape. The faces of the middle tiles had distinct frames, and their centres were usually richly decorated with single motifs or intricate compositions

including geometric, floral, zoomorphic, and architectural patterns, as well as portraits. The surfaces of the tiles were usually coated with dark green enamel, which in many cases was unfortunately thermally damaged. The application of an engobe to the faces was definitely rarer, and is found only on isolated fragments.

Ornamental compositions containing arrangements of floral, zoomorphic, and geometric motifs constitute



Fig. 19. Stove tile with portrait motif (layer SU 9). Graphic design: R. Zdaniewicz.

a dominating current of decorative tile art. Floral motifs took many forms, from simple flower rosettes and geometrised leaves usually placed at the corners of large flat or convex geometric elements (Fig. 18:3-18:6), to intricate tendril and leaf motifs combined with images of birds (Fig.18:7).

The accuracy of detail varies – it is usually less pronounced with more complex ornamental designs. Mantle and capstone tiles were for the most part less impressive, usually with a single geometrised floral motif in the centre (Fig.18:4). Sometimes, however, the geometric floral ornament would take on a more extensive, but compositionally structured spherical form (Fig.18:2).

Ornamentation in the form of architectural elements was sometimes used as a main decorative motif,

but more often as an addition to other motifs. An extremely impressive decorative form was a tracery ornament applied in the top part of the faces of openwork three-dimensional stove tiles (Fig. 18:1). Architectural motifs, however, in the form of arcades and columns, more frequently constitute elements of tiles decorated with portrait representations (Figs. 17 and 20). These usually contained figures set among ornate arcade arches, a compositional convention very popular during the Renaissance.³⁰ The most impressive example of such

³⁰ Dąbrowska 1987, 127-128; Durdik and Hazlbauer 1991, 292; Dymek 1995, 36; Menoušková and Měřínský 2008; Motylewska 2008, 23-37; Žegklitz 2012, 36-48.

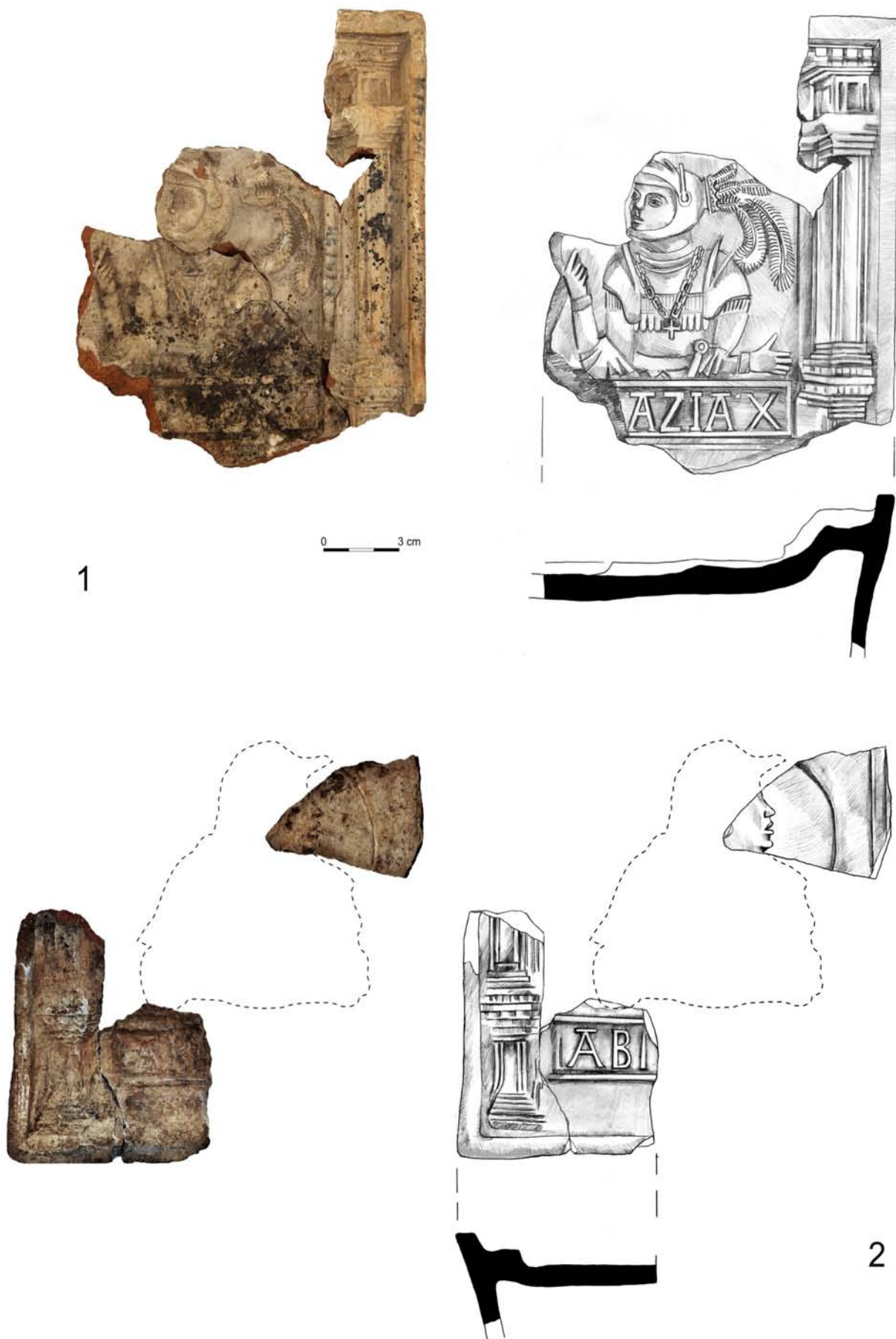


Fig. 20. Stove tile with portrait motif (layer SU 9). Graphic design: R. Polackiewicz and R. Zdaniewicz.

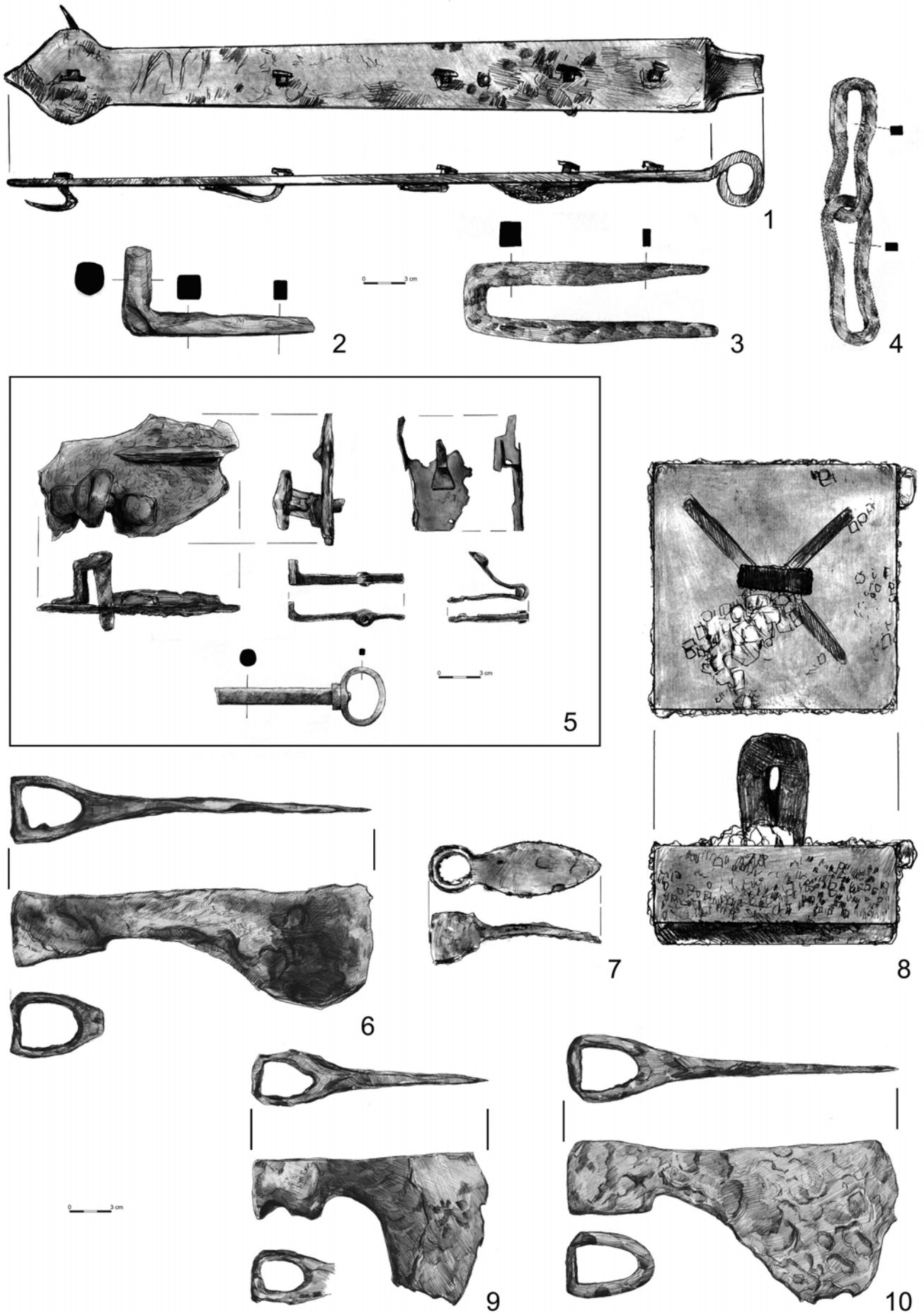


Fig. 21. Selection of metal artefacts (layer SU 9). Drawn: R. Polaczekiewicz.

a representation discovered in Kozłów is constituted by an openwork tile depicting a closed chamber and a courtly figure standing against the back of a window (Fig. 17). It is worth mentioning the rich ornamentation of the top of the arcade frame with floral motifs and the spiral surface of the side columns.

Portrait themes appear as well on the tiles depicting a series of representations referring to a series of woodcuts created by the German Renaissance painter Georg Pencz, known collectively as the ‘Twelve Heroes of the Old Testament’.³¹ The figures of Israelites were supposed to embody Christian resistance against the danger that the Ottoman Empire posed to Europe, which appeared in the first half of the 16th century.³² The faces of the tiles from Kozłów are decorated with images of armed kings of Judah – Amaziah and Abijah (Fig. 20). Such representations of armed Israelites were commonly known in 16th-century Europe, as evidenced by the tiles modelled on them, mostly found around Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary, and south-eastern Germany.³³ Another interesting example of portrait ornamentation is a tile showing the bust of a man seen in profile, probably wearing a helmet, surrounded by a floral wreath, with additional floral elements on top and bottom (Fig. 19). Portrait representations of this type frequently depicted extraordinary characters or Renaissance rulers.³⁴ Images found on other artworks, such as woodcuts, drawings, paintings, and medals often served as inspiration.³⁵ However, it is extremely difficult to identify precisely the person shown on the discussed tile. The ornamental compositions adorning the faces of tiles found in the rubble of the manor in Kozłów should be regarded as typical of the Renaissance period, and they are known from discoveries in many archaeological sites of Central Europe dating back mainly to the 16th century.³⁶

In the rubble of the 16th/17th-century manor there was also found an extensive set of metal items (Fig. 21). For the most part they constitute various farmyard fittings. There were found both relics of different types of tools, as well as other household items. Some of the tools can be linked to specific kinds of craftsmanship, and others might have had a more universal application. Amongst tools useful in carpentry there were

some hatches/axes (Fig. 21:6, 21:9- 21:10) of type VII, VIIIa, and IXa according to M. Głosek’s typology.³⁷ However, tools used for plant cultivation dominated here, such as a trapeze-shaped shovel blade, a two-toothed fork hoe/cultivator, smaller hoes (diggers) with a flat, lenticular blade (Fig. 21:7), and a larger hoe with a fan-shaped blade. Another interesting find is a four-sided object with a massive handle in its centre, interpreted as a weight (Fig. 21:8). Another farming tool found is an iron fruit picker in the form of an oval disc mounted on a solid, conical funnel with a rectangular opening to which the handle was fixed. Furthermore in the rubble of the manor an iron chain with oval links was found (Fig. 21:4), as well as a round bucket fitting made of an iron rod.

Additionally, during the exploration of dig 3, iron fittings of the manor’s door were found, constituting probably one set with corresponding fragments uncovered in dig 1 in 1994. A discovered fragment of a heart key with an elbow joint, the relics of lock elements, and hinges can also be linked to those doors (Fig. 21:2, 21:5).

The analysis of the uncovered structures of the 16th/17th-century manor and the artefacts discovered in its rubble allows us to draw certain conclusions regarding the social and financial status of its inhabitants. The building made of wood and clay certainly did not qualify as a stately mansion; it seems, however, that it reflected the actual financial condition of the representatives of 16th-century petty Silesian nobility. Unfortunately, due to the damages to the lower, eastern part of the mound, the data concerning the other buildings in the manor complex (which would have constituted the primary farm facilities) is irretrievably lost.

Numerous tool relics discovered in the rubble of the manor point to the fact that its owners occupied themselves first of all with plant cultivation, and only to a lesser extent with craftsmanship, organised solely for their own needs. Such a production profile is suggested by the domination of farm tools used for tillage and gardening, as well as craftsmanship. A large number of iron tools points, on the other hand, to a fairly good material status of the owners. Isolated fragments of painted plates, which should be regarded as elements of tableware, induce us to draw similar conclusions. Some suggestions regarding the social status and intellectual level of the inhabitants of the manor can also be drawn from the discovered stove tiles. The rich decorations and a large number of compositional conventions on their faces attests to the lively interest that the manor’s owners took in the newest trends in art, as well as to the need to use

³¹ Geisberg 1923, 28; Majewski 2010, 110-112.

³² Wójcik 1991, 244-252.

³³ Durdik and Hazlbauer 1993, 299-302; Pavlík and Vítanovský 2004, 90; Brych 2004, 151-154; Menoušková and Měřínský, 2008, 20-21.

³⁴ Dymek 1995, 36-37.

³⁵ Žegklitz 2012, 62.

³⁶ Dąbrowska 1987, 125-134; Dymek 1995, 29-50; Brych 2004; Pavlík and Vítanovský 2004, 90; Menoušková and Měřínský 2008; Motylewska 2008, 23-37; Žegklitz 2012, 25-111

³⁷ Głosek 1996, 38, 40-42.

fashionable stylistic motifs when designing their own living space. Representations on tiles inspired by Georg Pencz's woodcuts prove as well their orientation in the geopolitical situation of 16th-century Europe.³⁸ Thanks to

the discoveries made in the course of the examination of the relics of the manor, its owners appear to have been people concentrated on their land who aspired to communicate with the cultural heritage of their times.

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³⁸ Wójcik 1991, 244-252.

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