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MAJOR RESULTS OF THE 1973—1974 EXCAVATIONS OF EARLY MEDIEVAL SITES IN POLAND

The number of early medieval sites investigated in Poland was 114 in 1973 and 91 in 1974, though in some cases the object of the excavations carried out was to study other periods. The sites explored in 1973 included 94 settlements (44 strongholds) and 20 cemeteries (5 of the cremation types and 3 assumed), and those explored in 1974 consisted of 77 settlements (34 strongholds) and 14 cemeteries (5 of the cremation type and 1 assumed).

Among the settlements from the first centuries of the Early Medieval period, i.e. the 6th-7th cent., two sites in Western Pomerania were totally explored in 1973 and 1974 respectively. These are: **Derczewo** (1), site 3 and **Dziedzice** (2), Myślibórz distr., site 4 (A. Porzeziński, Muzeum Narodowe, Szczecin). Both settlements yielded leading forms in the group with the oldest hand-made early medieval pottery distinguished there. In the northern part of Lower Silesia and in Ziemia Lubuska, in the zone called „Tornow-Klenica”, investigations were continued of a settlement at **Nowy Dworek** (40), Świebodzin distr., site 7 (E. Dąbrowski, Muzeum Ziemi Lubuskiej, Zielona Góra, 1973) revealing a post-building, the fill of which contained fragment of a bronze hatshaped pendant and fragments of undecorated hand-made pottery, occasionally finished on the wheel (analogical to **Nowy Dworek**, site 3, 1965).

In south-eastern Poland of special interest is the settlement at **Puławy-Włostowice** (18), site 1 (L. Gajewski, J. Gurba, I. Kutylowska, Uniwersytet M. Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin) which yielded hearths and pits of the 5th-6th to 8th cent. In addition to potsherds, the fill of one pit contained fragments of a comb with a double tooth-row (group II B/1 after A. Chmielowska) found together with a piece of wire and a belt-buckle decorated with animal heads and similar to west-Germanic examples (2nd half of the 4th to 1st half of the 5th cent.). Prague-like pottery was also uncovered on the settlements at **Lublin** (18), site „Grodzisko” (A. Kutylowska, Uniwersytet M. Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin, 1974) and at **Bachórz** (22), Brzozów distr., site 16 (M. Parczewski, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków). The area explored at Bachórz measured 850 sq. m and revealed 22 features of the 7th to 9th cent., including two of the earliest phase; one of these was a square hut (4 × 4 m) with a stone oven containing pottery similar to the Prague-type as well as to Prague-Korčak and Tornow-Klenica types.

A separate group is represented by Old Prussian settlements dating from the 5th-6th to 7th cent., i.e. **Tumiany** (13), Olsztyn distr., site 2 (K. Dąbrowski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa, 1973) — 18 features including 2 large ones, composed of two parts, 11 × 3.6 m and 9,1 × 3.1 m respectively, with



Map showing important archaeological sites of the Early Medieval Age, investigated in 1973 and 1974. Number of the point on the map correspond to the number after the place-names in text

a a hearth or oven (workshops?) and **Franknowo** (14), Biskupiec Reszelski distr., site 1 (I. Dąbrowska, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa) — 44 features of the 6th-9th cent.

As concerns the next phase that precedes the emergence of the state the investigations of the oldest fortified settlements and strongholds seem comparatively the most important. The stronghold at **Niewiadoma** (16), Sokołów Podlaski distr., site 1 (M. Miśkiewicz, Uniwersytet, Warszawa, 1974) is of an early date. Its first phase, represented by a moat and a palisade (?) is dated by a spur with hook-like ends to the beginning of the 7th cent. The rampart, preserved to the height of 270 cm, revealed 3 successive phases of crossed logs construction. A settlement of the 7th to 13th century, site 8 (R. Mazurowski, Uniwersytet, Warszawa, 1973) neighbours with the stronghold. Moreover, investigations were continued of the 8th-9th century settlement at **Czekanów Podlaski** (17), Sokołów Podlaski distr., site 3 (B. Antosik, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) and of that at **Haćki** (15), Bielsk Podlaski distr., site 2 (W. Szymański, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa, 1973), dated to the 7th-8th and 11th-12th cent.

Large-scale excavations were conducted in Silesia. At **Legnica-Zamek** (33), (C. Lasota, Politechnika, Wrocław, 1973) 5 successive phases of the fortifications dating from the 8th-9th/10th and 10th/11th to 12th cent. were discovered. Investigations were continued of the stronghold at **Niemcza** (32), Dzierżoniów distr. (J. Kaźmierczyk, Uniwersytet, Wrocław, 1973) composed of three units and defended by a multi-phase stone wall, 8th-12th cent. In the neighbourhood of the Słęża Mountain excavations were concluded at **Strachów** (30), Wrocław distr., site 1 (J. Lodowski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Wrocław) — a lowland stronghold, 80 × 100 m in size, defended by a moat and an earthen rampart with an earthen core and inner facing, with houses built around the empty central space, occupied for a short period at the close of the 9th or in the beginning of the 10th cent. (small finds included fragment of a glass vessel). The investigations conducted on a neighbouring settlement at **Stary Zamek** (31), Wrocław distr., site 6 (J. Lodowski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Wrocław) uncovered 430 sq. m, revealing 2 pit dwellings and 9 pits of which one contained 2 iron spurs with hook-like endings, type F after J. Żak, dated as the 9th cent.

The settlements explored in central Poland included **Lutrowskie** (27), Kłobuck distr., site 4 (A. Matoga, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków, 1974) — 4 semi-subterranean huts from the end of the 8th or the 9th cent., and **Barkowice Mokre** (26), Piotrków Trybunalski distr. (M. Góra, Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne, Łódź, 1974) — 3 hearths on a promontory cut off by a ditch (?), tentatively dated as the 6th to 10th cent.

In Great Poland of particular interest is **Łąd** (43), Słupca distr. (M. Zeylandowa and team, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań) — a stronghold composed of two units, repeatedly rebuilt (rampart of earth or timber-earth, with crossed logs or box construction, covered by stones), inhabited since the 8th to 12th-13th cent. The central part of the stronghold produced remains of a stone building — a church (?), dated as the 10th-11th cent. and surrounded by a cemetery. Small finds included fragment of a coin, temple-rings, finger-rings, a spur, piece of a glass pane. At **Dakowy Mokre** (41), Nowy Tomyśl distr., site 1 (W. Śmigieński, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Poznań, 1974) a lowland stronghold, 80 m in diameter, with a timber-earth rampart of crossed logs and overground houses circularly arranged, dating from the 7th/8th to 9th cent., was explored. The settlement at **Kalisz** (43), site 2 (K. Dąbrowski and team, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa, 1973), of which 1000 sq. m were explored, yielded 16 pits on the edge of the Proсна valley, dated as the 7th-9th and 12th cent. The second phase is represented by numerous finds including 3 silver denarii of Bolesław the Curly, type 2, a gilt-bronze mount of a liturgical book (?) and a fragmentary finger-ring of glass.

Attentions should be called to the large-scale investigations of strongholds in Pomerania, including **Lubieszewo** (8), site 1a, b (E. Choińska, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk) — a stronghold of the 8th-10th cent., surrounded by an earthen rampart and controlling the Motława crossing, with traces of a wooden construction at the foot of the stronghold — a bridge or a landing-place? and **Owidz** (9), Starogard Gdański distr., site 1 (A. Wapińska, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk) — an irregularly shaped stronghold (120 × 50 m) with two habitation phases of the 9th/10th and 10th-12th cent.

Of the early urban organisms located in the oldest centres of the Piast Monarchy, explored in these seasons, the following should be mentioned: **Sandomierz** (21) (S. Tabaczyński and team, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN,

Warszawa) **Zamek** — a box rampart at the edge of the nill, 11th cent., with another outer rampart at its foot, and with a palisade and a diagonal abattis. **Collegium Gostomianum** — a settlement of the 10th-11th cent., a church dedicated to St. Peter (traces of a tower?, 5×5 m, architectonic details), rebuilt in the 13th century, surrounded by a graveyard.

In **Kraków** (23) on the **Wawel Hill** (St. Koziel, J. Niżnik and team, Państwowe Zbiory Sztuki, Wawel), investigations of Pre-Romanesque architecture were continued; these included annexes to the rotunda dedicated to Virgin Mary and the so-called church B where the lower part of a column was revealed in the centre of the west apse. Around the church, further burials, including a male grave with a tin paten (?) of the 11th cent., were explored. The explorations conducted within the **town** (T. Radwańska, E. Zaitz and team, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Kraków) uncovered a settlement in the precincts of the **Dominican monastery**, dated as from the mid-11th cent. Due to the investigations resumed in **St. Salvator church** it has been possible to establish successive phases of its erection during the 11th-12th cent.

In **Wrocław** (29)-**Ostrów Tumski** (J. Kaźmierczyk, Uniwersytet, Wrocław) the *suburbium* of the 11th-12th cent. was explored near the cathedral. The discoveries included remains of a manor consisting of a large house, a stable, a smokehouse, stone workshops and a building regarded as a prison (?); numerous small finds included a gold pendant, a plaque with the representation of an eagle, a silver coin, a chess figurine of horn (a knight), fragments of ornamented stained-glass tiles, and of glass vessels as well as styles of iron and bone.

The discoveries in **Poznań** (42)-**Zamek Przemysława** (W. Błaszczuk, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań) consisted of remains of an open settlement of the 10th-12th cent., on whose site a stronghold with a suburb surrounded by a timber-earth rampart was built in the 12th cent. Rescue excavations in the cathedral of **Poznań-Ostrów Tumski** (E. Naumowicz-Śmigielska and team, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań, 1974) have confirmed the stratigraphical sequence so far established, extending from the settlement of the 9th/10th cent. to the second Romanesque cathedral built in the second half of the 11th cent. Investigation was continued of the stronghold at **Lednica** (45), Gniezno distr. (J. Łomnicki and team, Muzeum Początków Państwa Polskiego, Lednica), revealing the platform that linked the stronghold with the bridge on the lake.

Large-scale excavations were conducted at **Kruszwica** (47), Inowrocław distr. (W. Hensel and team, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa) where site 2 on **Wzgórze Zamkowe** produced traces of timber buildings and streets of the 11th-12th century stronghold; small finds included a lot of glass artifacts such as finger-rings and beads. The rampart of the second *suburbium* was explored on site 4, it was built of boxes with piles and a fore-wall and of crossed logs strengthened by hooks. An open settlement (site 4a) with traces of wooden buildings from the first half of the 12th cent. neighboured with the *suburbium*.

At **Mogilno** (46) (J. Chudziakowa and team, Uniwersytet, Toruń) investigations of the Benedictine monastery complex were continued, revealing the south apse and foundations of the transept of the Romanesque church and stairs (with part of the vault) leading to the east crypt with the window-opening on the north side. The church was erected on the site of the open settlement of the 8th-10th cent. and of the stronghold of the 10th-12th cent., part of whose rampart was revealed east of the building. At **Kałdus** (48), Chełmno distr. (A. Kola and team,

Uniwersytet, Toruń) investigations were carried out of a 10th-12th century stronghold surrounded by a rampart of crossed logs and by a moat, with remains of a stone sacral (?) building within the enclosure.

Valuable discoveries were made on two principal strongholds in Western Pomerania. In **Szczecin** (3)-Zamek (E. Cnotliwy and team, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Szczecin) 15 habitation levels were revealed: the earliest is dated by a spur with hook-like endings to the beginning of the 8th cent. On the isle of **Wolin** (4), Kamień Pomorski distr., site 1 (W. Filipowiak, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Wolin) 6 habitation levels of the stronghold of the 8th/9th to 11th cent., with remains of houses built on a frame of vertical posts or of closely set boards, were revealed. Among small finds of special interest is a small wooden figurine with representations of four human heads at its top — possibly the object is linked with the cult of the ancient Slav deity — Światowit.

The ever wider scope of the research of the production settlements from the close of the Early Medieval period should be stressed. Remains of salt-works were explored in the Kraków saliferous area in **Kraków-Sidzina** (25) and **Wieliczka** (24), Kraków distr., site 4 (A. Jodłowski, Muzeum Żup Krakowskich, Wieliczka, 1973). Shafts and installations for washing gold-bearing sand, dating from the 12th-14th cent., were discovered in Lower Silesia at **Legnickie Pole** (34), site 1, at **Wądroże Wielkie** (35), Legnica distr., site 1 and at **Złotoryja** (37), sites 1, 2 and 3 (J. Kaźmierczyk, Uniwersytet, Wrocław).

In contrast to settlements, the cemeteries, notably the older ones, situated in the areas inhabited by Polish tribes, were explored on a smaller scale. We can mention a single barrow with a pit burial at **Święcica** (20), Sandomierz distr. (A. Kempisty, Uniwersytet, Warszawa) which yielded fragment of a coat-of mail and a broken 10th century vessel found in the mound, and a cemetery at **Piotrowice Polskie** (36), Ząbkowice distr., site 2 (H. Ślędzik, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Wrocław) which consists of 14 barrows ranging from 7 to 10 m in diameter and from 1 to 2.5 m high. In 1969 2 barrows were explored and in 1974 one barrow with pieces of bones and potsherds of the 7th/8th to 9th cent. was examined. During the third season of excavations at **Białogórze** (38), Zgorzelec distr., site 2 on the Nysa Łużycka (T. Kaletyn, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Wrocław, 1973) 4 barrows with stone circles and with grave chambers within the mounds were explored yielding relatively rich goods — 2 iron spurs, 2 fragments of knives and potsherds of the 9th-10th cent.

In Western Pomerania excavations were concluded of a 9th century cemetery at **Świelubie** (5), Kołobrzeg distr., site 2 (W. Łosiński, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Szczecin). An area of 235 sq. m. with 6 barrows was explored and 7 cremation graves (6 with remains of the pyre, one empty) were discovered. Four of the graves were found under the mounds and the remaining ones between the barrows. The rich grave goods included fragment of an early Abbasid coin, dress-trimmings of silver, a number of bronze artifacts of Scandinavian origin (e.g. fragment of a tortoise brooch, mountings of horse harness (?)), glass beads.

In Gdańsk Pomerania two cremation pit-grave cemeteries, furnished with pottery only, were explored at **Kalkowo** (6), Wejherowo distr. (B. Płachtowa, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Warszawa, 1974) — 2 graves of the 8th cent., and at **Pruszcz Gdański** (7), Gdańsk distr., site 10 (M. Pietrzak, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk, 1973) — 3 graves of the 10th-11th cent.

Of the Old Prussian cremation cemeteries the following should be mentioned: **Młoteczna** (11), Braniewo distr., site 3 (W. Ziemińska-Odojowa, Muzeum Mazur-

skie, Olsztyn) — 58 pit graves and 3 urn graves with rich goods, 5th-6th cent., and a barrow-grave cemetery at **Bachanowo** (12), Suwałki distr. (D. Jaskanis, *Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych*, Białystok, 1973) — of the 5 barrows one mound, 8 m in diameter and 0.6 m high, with 8—10 urn graves of the 6th cent., was explored. The richest grave goods were found on the cemetery at **Nowinka** (10), Elbląg distr., site 1 (M. Pietrzak, *Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych*, Gdańsk). The features explored consisted of 26 human cremation burials in pits and of 14 horse burials with very rich furniture, i.e. an iron sword with silver mounts, a spearhead, bits, mounts of saddle and bridle, 5th-7th cent.

Apart from the churchyards described above, the inhumation cemeteries included a biritual cemetery at **Osiek** (38), Środa Śląska distr. (T. Kaletyn, *Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych*, Wrocław, 1974) — 83 inhumation graves including 1 double, and 3 cremations without furniture. Grave goods from the inhumations included temple-rings, glass finger-rings and a denarius of Bolesław the Bold. Site 1 at **Dębina** (28), Wieluń distr. (Z. Pokuta and team, *Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne*, Łódź) yielded 36 graves furnished with a battle-axe, a spearhead, an iron bucket, temple-rings and beads of silver, fluorite, glass and amber. The cemetery is dated to the 11th-12th cent. by denarii which range in chronology from Otto and Adelaide to Bolesław the Bold, type IV.

Investigations were continued of the group of Podlasie cemeteries with graves in stone settings, dating from the 12th-13th cent., e.g. at **Czekanów** (17), Sokółów Podlaski distr., site 1 (B. Zawadzka-Antosik, *Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne*, Warszawa) — 26 graves with numerous objects such as temple-rings (up to 11 examples in one grave), crescent-shaped pendants and pendants of Kauri shells, glass beads and a cross.

Finally attention should be called to the opening of the tombs of king Kazimierz Jagiellończyk (d. 1492) and his wife, Elisabeth Habsburg (d. 1505) in the Holy Cross chapel of the **Wawel** cathedral in Kraków (23). Only the king's tomb has been preserved intact. The discoveries included fragments of the crown, orb and sceptre made of leather, a cloak made of cloth interwoven with silver, as well as a sword and a gold ring.