

ZENON WOŹNIAK

A SURVEY OF THE INVESTIGATIONS OF THE BRONZE AND IRON AGE SITES IN POLAND IN 1985

The Lusatian culture

In the season surveyed, the investigations included about 50 sites of the Lusatian culture, with cemeteries accounting for one third. The scope of the excavations was usually small.

In view of the scope of discoveries made the following sites deserve to be mentioned. Site 1 at **Zawada** (28), Tarnów province (A. Cetera, J. Okoński, Przedsiębiorstwo Konserwacji Zabytków, Tarnów) revealed a rampart, a moat and traces of built-up inside a new stronghold of that period. This is one of the south-easternmost defensive features of the Lusatian culture to be recorded in Poland. A settlement complex of BA IV – Ha continued to be investigated at **Maciejowice** (22), Siedlce province (M. Mogielnicka-Urban, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa). The cemetery (site 1) yielded a further 55 urn graves and 1 pit grave; the stratigraphy of burials was noted in several cases. This excavation was accompanied by the study of the settlement (site 2), which included geological research; elements of built-up have come to light.

In addition to 11 cremation graves of Ha D, frequently with stone constructions, an inhumation grave of Ha C came to light at **Lachmirowice** (7), Bydgoszcz province, site 3 (K. Szamałek, U. Narożna-Szamałek, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań). An interesting barrow cemetery of BA D continued to be explored at site 3 at **Podrzecze** (11), Leszno province (W. Śmigielski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań) where 5 cremation barrows were excavated: 3 with stone circles inside, and 2 with earthen mounds only.

Area excavations were carried out at 2 settlements from the late phase of the Tarnobrzeg group (HA D/La Tène A) at **Białobrzegi** (30), Rzeszów province, sites 1 and 5 (S. Czopek, Muzeum Okręgowe, Rzeszów) revealing numerous features including 2 post buildings, and among small finds fragment of an anthropomorphic (?) figurine of clay. The settlement of Ha C-D at **Kunice** (24), Legnica province, site 1 (A. Mierzwiński, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Wrocław) yielded a semi-subterranean hut, 23 pits and 5 hearths as well as an anthropomorphic figurine of clay and casting moulds of stone.

Long-term excavations were continued of several large cemeteries, offering a possibility to explore the whole area involved and in this way to broaden the research perspectives by a number of new aspects, e.g. demographic. The cemeteries include **Kowalewko** (12), Poznań province, site 3 (E. Rajkowska, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań) where a further 55 graves of BA V – Ha C, mostly under pavements or in stone-settings, were explored. **Niechmirów – Mała Wieś** (15), Sieradz province, site 1 (A. Kufel-Dzierzgowska and team, Muzeum Okręgowe, Sieradz) yielded a further 46 cremation graves usually of the urn type, ranging from BA III to Ha D, the later graves under stone pavements; pit grave 692, with stones in the corner of a rectangular pit, merits attention. Excavations were continued at **Zbrojewsko** (25),

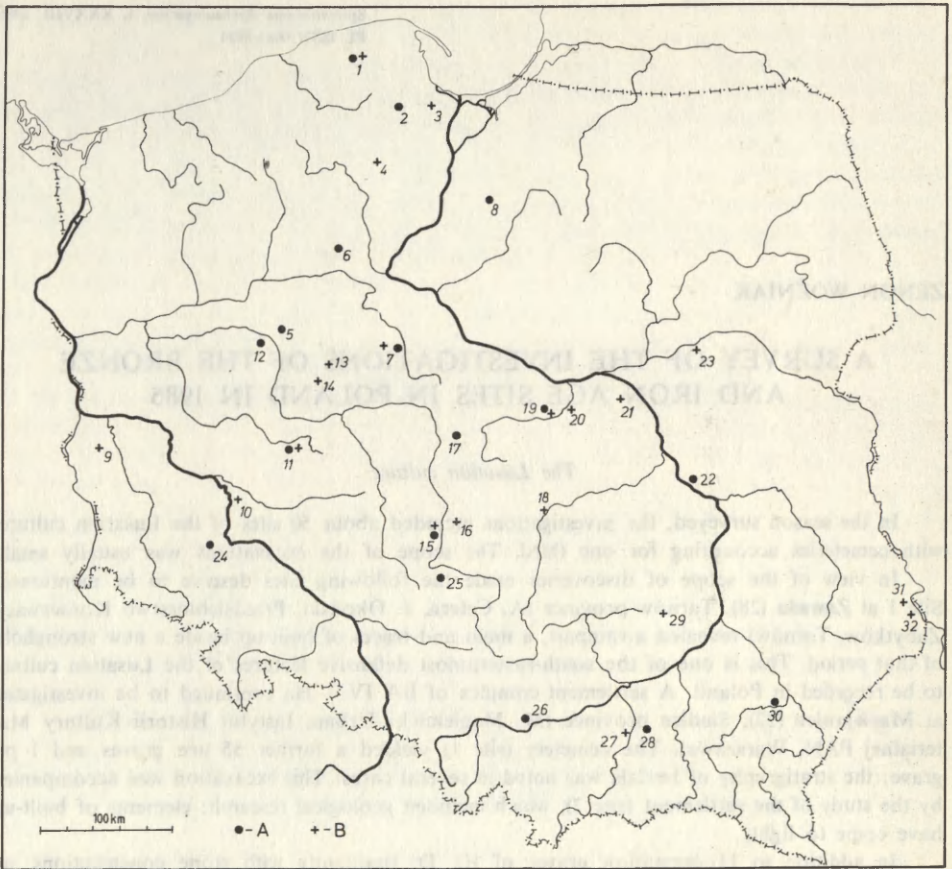


Fig. 1. Map of major sites of the Bronze and Iron Ages investigated in 1985

A – Lusatian, Pomeranian and West Baltic Barrow culture; B – later cultures

Częstochowa province, site 3 (M. Gedl and team, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków) yielding a further 54 graves (total: 851) mostly of the inhumation type, with stone-settings, BA V; of particular interest is inhumation grave 832 which contained a bronze axe and a bronze razor of Herrnbaumgarten type. Only a few burials located in the N part of the excavation trench date from the early phase of the Lusatian culture. A further 4 inhumation graves in stone settings and 12 cremations were explored at **Baczyn** (26), Kraków province (J. and A. Krauss, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Kraków); an ornitomorphic rattle has come to light.

The Pomeranian (Wejherowo-Krotoszyn) culture

Over 20 sites of this culture, mostly cemeteries, were explored in the 1985 field season. Attention is claimed by the discovery of a large building (3.5 × 5.3 m) with a clay-lined stone hearth, at a settlement from the beginnings of La Tène at **Wilkowice** (17), Sieradz province (J. Błaszczyk, Uniwersytet, Łódź). Of considerable interest are the excavations of the cemetery at **Czarnówko** (1), Słupsk province, site 5 (D. Rudnicka, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk) where a cist grave contained 4 urns, including a face urn, of Ha D. 10 damaged graves with stone constructions of Ha D, and 2 face urns decorated with bronze ear-rings and glass beads were discovered at **Starkowa Huta** (2), Gdańsk province, site 2 (M. Fudziński,

Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk). Site 1 at **Parkowo-Mokrz** (5), Piła province (M. Dernoga, Muzeum Okręgowe, Piła) revealed 12 graves from the beginnings of La Tène A, usually of the urn type in stone settings but also of the bell type (with an urn beneath an inverted vessel), a remarkable find for this part of Poland; in the vicinity of the graves, hearths, pavements and stone circles were recorded. Site 1 at **Orle** (6), Bydgoszcz province (W. Kuczkowski, Muzeum Okręgowe, Bydgoszcz) revealed a further 4 cist graves of Ha D, containing face urns. 4 graves of the bell type and 12 urn graves, including 1 double with a stone pavement, were discovered at **Różyce – Stara Wieś** (19), Skierniewice province, site 3 (H. Wiklak, Muzeum Brzeziny).

The Przeworsk culture

In the 1985 field season over 40 Przeworsk sites, mostly settlements but also a number of cemeteries, were explored. The following cemeteries yielded interesting results: **Babice Stare** (21), Warszawa province (A. Kruk, M. Kulisiewicz-Kubiela, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Warszawa) where a large portion of the cemetery was uncovered yielding 99 usually damaged cremation graves from phases B – C₁ of the Roman period. Site 2 at **Nadkole** (23), Siedlce province (J. Andrzejewski, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) yielded a further 35 graves, mostly from phase B₂; small finds include a miniature hexagonal iron shield with a boss and a bronze grip. A further 83 graves, usually of the pit type, were explored at **Żdźarów** (20), Skierniewice province, site 1 (J. Andrzejewski and team, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa); the oldest part of the cemetery from phase B₂ of the Roman period was uncovered; numerous fragments of glass vessels and of *terra sigillata* were found. Site 2 at **Cieblowice Duże** (18), Piotrków province (J. Karolczyk, Muzeum, Tomaszów Mazowiecki) revealed a further 41 graves from phases B₁-B₂ of the Roman period, predominantly of the urn type, one in a stone setting; the discoveries include bronze mounts of a shield edge, a one-edged sword, a battle-axe, a clay vessel with a representation of a human figure on its bottom. Site 1 at **Niechmirów – Mała Wieś** (15), Sieradz province (A. Kufel-Dzierżowska and team, Muzeum Okręgowe, Sieradz) revealed a further 17 graves (4 of the Late pre-Roman period and 13 of the Roman period), and a clay vessel with a figural ornament, found in a Roman period grave of a warrior. 35 graves, usually of the pit type, from phases B₁-B₂ of the Roman period, including a warrior's grave with rich grave goods (fittings of a wooden bucket), were uncovered at **Podrzecze** (11), Leszno province, site 3 (W. Śmigieński, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań).

Among the settlements explored, the following merit attention both on account of the scope of excavations and the discoveries made: **Lachmirowice** (7), Bydgoszcz province, site 3 (K. Szamałek, U. Narożna-Szamałek, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań) where 2 pit dwellings of the Late pre-Roman period, one with a cellar containing a dog's skeleton, came to light. **Pawłowo** (13), Poznań province (C. Strzyżewski, Muzeum Początków Państwa Polskiego, Gniezno) where 2 huts and 4 hearths from phases C₂ – D of the Roman period as well as ard-marks were uncovered. Excavations of a settlement associated with iron smelting were continued at **Psary** (10), Leszno province, site 1 (H. Mamzer, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań) revealing 27 features of the Late Roman period; they include semi-subterranean huts in regular arrangement and one primitive smelting furnace. A further 3 post buildings of the Late Roman period (total: 26) and a storage pit were explored at **Siemiechów** (16), Sieradz province, site 2 (M. Jażdżewska, Muzeum, Pabianice) where nearly the whole area of the settlement has been uncovered. The discoveries at **Różyce – Stara Wieś** (19), Skierniewice province, site 3 (H. Wiklak, Muzeum, Brzeziny) include a large post building (4.5 × 6 m) with a hearth and a floor of clay, 13 pits, 1 hearth and 4 burials of dogs surrounded by stones (also a saddle quern) of which two were furnished with vessels.

The recording of the traces of iron smelting was continued on the SE fringe of the

Holy Cross Mountains. 531 sites of this kind were discovered (K. Bielenin and team Muzeum Archeologiczne, Kraków) and a site at **Modliborzyce** (29), Tarnów province, was explored, revealing 59 primitive smelting furnaces in regular arrangement, 1 ore-roasting furnace and 1 domestic feature.

The Oksywie and Wielbark cultures

In the season surveyed over 10 sites of the Wielbark culture were investigated, some of these yielding features of the Oksywie culture as well. Important results were obtained at **Pruszcz Gdański** (3), Gdańsk province, site 7 (M. Pietrzak, M. Tuszyńska, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk) where an extensive cemetery of the Oksywie and Wielbark cultures was excavated, yielding 23 pit graves, 10 urn graves and 3 inhumation graves of the Late pre-Roman period, a rare find in this part of Poland (the skeletons with heads to S and W, this arrangement being typical for analogical graves of the Przeworsk culture). Moreover, 23 pit graves, 10 urn graves and 73 inhumations of the Roman period (to phase D) were uncovered here. The finds include 2 glass beakers similar to Eggers 224 and 228 types, and lavishly ornamented silver-gilt disc brooches. The 20th field season at **Odry** (4), Bydgoszcz province (B. Górka, T. Grabarczyk, Uniwersytet, Łódź) yielded 1 pit grave and 6 inhumations of the Wielbark culture of the Late Roman period (the final phase of the cemetery); among small finds were bronze spurs, 14 cremation graves (Oksywie and Wielbark phases) and 24 inhumation graves from phase B₂ of the Roman period (Wielbark phase) were examined at **Czarnówko** (1), Słupsk province, site 5 (D. Rudnicka, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk).

The settlement at **Stroszki** (14), Poznań province, site 1 (A. Gałęzowska, E. Stelmachowska, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań) revealed 2 semi-subterranean huts and 58 pits and hearths (usually of the Wielbark culture) as well as numerous pieces of iron slag.

Other cultures

Excavations were moreover conducted of over 10 sites representing other culture groups of the pre-Roman and Roman periods such as the La Tène, West Baltian Barrow, West Baltian, Puchov, Luboszyce, Dębczyno and Chernyakhovo cultures.

On the lake isle at **Lodygowo** (8), Elbląg province, site 2 (J. Michalski, Uniwersytet, Warszawa) a clayey rampart surrounding the settlement of the West Baltian Barrow culture of the Early Iron Age was discovered.

Site 2 at **Łętowice** (27), Tarnów province (A. Szpunar, Przedsiębiorstwo Konserwacji Zabytków, Tarnów) yielded a cremation grave from La Tène C phase, furnished with pottery; previous discoveries of a small number of La Tène graves were made in this part of Poland before World War I.

A semi-subterranean hut and a post-building with one rounded wall were discovered within a Late Roman period settlement of the Luboszyce culture at **Jazów** (9), Zielona Góra province, site 3 (G. Domański, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Wrocław).

Several sites of the so-called Masłomęcz group associated with the Chernyakhovo culture were examined in south-east Poland. Site 10 at **Gródek** (32), Zamość province (A. Kokowski and team, Uniwersytet M. Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin) yielded another cremation grave and a further 29 inhumations (9 fragmentary), a skeleton of a tortoise, and 2 brooches of the Bügelkopffibel type. A large two-room post building (12 m wide), a semi-subterranean hut with remains of a weaving loom and 3 pits (one with skeletons of 2 pigs) were found at **Hrubieszów-Podgórze** (31), site 1A (E. Banasiewicz, Wojewódzki Konserwator Zabytków, Zamość); small finds include a silver crossbow brooch.