

HELENA ZOLL-ADAMIKOWA

RESULTS OF THE 1968 EXCAVATIONS OF EARLY MEDIEVAL SITES
IN POLAND

In comparison with former years, the 1968 excavations of Early Medieval sites were conducted on a relatively smaller scale. Much effort was devoted to the study of newly discovered but still unexplored sites. Consequently, the scope and results of these activities were less spectacular than those of the large-scale excavations carried out for several years on a few representative sites. Nevertheless, they, too, have considerably enriched our knowledge about the density and character of settlement in particular regions. In all, 107 Early Medieval sites were examined, including 34 unfortified settlements, 49 strongholds (often associated settlements), 3 industrial sites, 7 cremation and 14 inhumation cemeteries. Moreover, systematic reconnaissance and test investigations were carried out in several regions (e.g. province of Koszalin, district of Inowrocław, the basin of the Bnińskie Lakes in the province of Poznań, and the Szreniawa basin). As a result, several hundred sites, some of the Early Middle Ages, were recorded.

Over 30% of settlements examined have yielded materials from the early stages of the Medieval period. Attention should be drawn to the settlements from the earliest phases of the Early Middle Ages discovered in the area of Ziemia Lubuska and in the northern part of Lower Silesia. Of 9 settlements discovered at Żukowice, Głogów district (M. Kaczkowski, Powiatowy Konserwator Zabytków, Głogów), habitation site no. 5 of the 5th—6th cent. was explored to its limits (a hut with a stove for refining [?] iron, traces of 11 pit furnaces, 30 domestic pits, hand-made pottery, a small number of "grey" pottery of the Late Roman type, a casting mould); moreover, the excavation of site nr 9 of many cultures revealed traces of habitation from the 6th to the mid-7th cent., and from the end of the 10th to the early 11th cent. The earlier phase yielded 10 rectangular huts with corner posts and wattle walls, hand- and wheel-made pottery a comb of the 5th cent., fragment of a glass beaker with ribs. Other sites of this period are: Krzekotów, Głogów district (M. Kaczkowski, Powiatowy Konserwator Zabytków, Głogów) — one semisubterranean hut of the 6th cent., with corner posts and wattle walls; Osiecznica, site 1, Krosno Odrzańskie district (E. Dąbrowski, Muzeum Okręgowe, Zielona Góra) — features dated to the 5th/6th cent.

The sites examined in other regions are: Dziedzice, Myślibórz district (A. Porzeziński, Muzeum Pomorza Zachodniego, Szczecin), 3 semisubterranean huts of the 7th cent., hand-made pottery similar to the Sukow type in Mecklenburg; Biskupin, site 18, Żnin district (J. Głosik, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa), excavation continued of a settlement of the 6th—13th cent. (4 semi-sub-

terranean huts and 7 pits including a smoke-house of the 6th—7th centuries, and a large concentration of hearths of the 12th to 13th cent.); Jaksice, site 1, Inowrocław district (C. Sikorski, Muzeum, Inowrocław) — huts and pits in two layers of the 7th to 12th cent.; Zawonia, site 3, Trzebnica district (M. Młynarska-Kaletyn, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa) — excavation continued of a settlement with overground buildings of the 6th to 8th cent. (three unfortified villages of the 11th/12th to 13th cent. were explored on sites 1, 5 and 6 in the same locality).

The investigation of settlements of the Early or Late Piast period comprised primarily industrial features. These are: Polany, site 2, Radom district (O. Lipińska, L. Długopolska, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) — slag and fragments of clay tuyères in pits of the 12th/13th cent.; Wołów-Piotroniowice, Wołów district (S. Pazda, Uniwersytet, Wrocław) — two furnaces with preserved air channels; Przemysł, the streets Kosynierów and Krasieński (A. Kunysz, Muzeum, Przemysł) — two kilns with pottery of the 11th to 13th/14th cent.; Radom. Old Town, site 3 (E. Kierzkowska, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa) — hearths and a damaged part of a clay stove with adjacent pits of the 10th cent. (the earliest traces of Early Medieval settlement in the area of the Old Town). Moreover, remains of 11 furnaces, disposed at random and datable to the Early Medieval period, and hand-made pottery were found within the ancient metallurgical centre on the slopes of the Łysa Góra (Święty Krzyż) Mountain, site 9, Kielce district, in the Świętokrzyskie Mountains (K. Bielenin, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Kraków). The study of salt working features were continued at Wieliczka, site XI, Kraków district (A. Jodłowski, Muzeum Żup Krakowskich, Wieliczka), where a second salt pan consisting of 3 wooden barrels placed one upon the other came to light near salt working installations of the 12th to 13th cent. disclosed in the previous year. This year's discovery dates from the fully Medieval period. The excavation of site II (Gothic castle) included a mine shaft, active at latest about the mid-13th cent. It was lined with boards with ends halved together and had two hanging bast ropes, 9 cm thick (probably used in hoisting the salt output).

Flosh-marks, probably of an Early Medieval date, were revealed on two sites: at Dobropole, Kamień Pomorski district (W. Garczyński, A. Porzeziński, Muzeum Pomorza Zachodniego, Szczecin) and at Boleszyn, Turek district (M. Głosek and team, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Łódź).

The verification of previously discovered earthworks and the search for new were carried out on larger scale in the following provinces: Koszalin (J. Olczak and K. Siuchniński, Uniwersytet, Poznań), Zielona Góra (M. Kaczkowski, Powiatowy Konserwator Zabytków, Głogów), Masovia and Podlasie (W. Szymański and team, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa), and in the eastern part of the sub-Carpathian region (A. Żaki, Komisja Archeologiczna Oddziału PAN, Kraków). As a result about 70 fortified sites were recorded and examined by means of test trenches or crossed out from the list.

Long-term excavations of several representative pre-Piast strongholds were continued. The investigations at Lubomia, Wodzisław Śląski district (J. Szydlowski, Muzeum Górnośląskie, Bytom), which rank as the most important, concentrated on the fortifications of the central part of the stronghold of the 8th/9th — 2nd half of the 9th cent. (second habitation phase). It was found that the two ramparts were surmounted by a timber structure and the internal wall of the inner rampart

was revetted with fascine and loamy clay. The passes through both ramparts was examined on the east side, that through the outer rampart being boarded by posts. Further post houses of this phase were discovered. They were arranged along the rampart with their gable walls facing the central area.

The excavation of the following sites merit attention; Chodliki, Opole Lubelskie district (A. Gardawski, I. Kutylowska, Uniwersytet M. Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin) — the latest part of the rampart built of earth-filled boxes was examined; the rampart was destroyed in the 9th cent. or earlier (on its top a 9th century hut came to light); Szczaworyż, Busko-Zdrój district (E. Dąbrowska, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Kraków) — two habitation phases of the 7th—8th and 9th/10th to mid-11th cent. The study of the inner rampart showed two phases: the earlier construction of earth and the later of earth and stone capped by crossed logs. Two quadrangular huts were disclosed in the enclosure from phase II (horseshoe buckle of the 10th—11th cent.), and rectangular huts come to light between the ramparts; Jadowniki, Brzesko district (A. Żaki, A. Jodłowski, Komisja Archeologiczna Oddziału PAN, Kraków, Muzeum Żup Krakowskich, Wieliczka) — a big stronghold of many parts, pottery of the 9th—10th cent.; Koźlice, Zgorzelec district (J. Knebel, Institut für Sorbische Volksforschung DAW, Bautzen, and T. Kaletyn, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Wrocław) — rescue excavations of an earthwork of the 7th—10th cent. (3 buildings within the enclosure, crossed logs construction, and a stone fore-wall); Stare Borne, Koszalin district (D. Członkowski, Pracownia Archeologiczno-Konserwatorska, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Warszawa) — a refuge (?) stronghold of the 7th—8th cent., no traces of permanent built-up within the enclosure, two ramparts on the easily accessible south side, the internal faced on the inner side with granite stones and surmounted by a palisade, a gate of oak posts and a stone paved drive. Essential data were revealed by the investigations commenced at an earthwork at Obrowo, Tuchola district (G. Wilke, Uniwersytet, Toruń) — two fortification phases, respectively dated by pottery to the 7th cent. (earth-clay rampart faced with stones on the outer side) and the 8th—9th cent. (crossed logs construction), sunk-in buildings at the foot of the wall. The excavation of the earthwork at Janiszewo, Tczew district (E. Kuszewska, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk), revealed two habitation phases respectively dated to the 9th—10th and to the 11th cent. (an imitation Saxo-Bavarian denarius of the 1st quarter of the 11th cent. was found in the debris of the earlier rampart). The only Early Medieval Prussian earthwork to be excavated in 1968 is at Bogdany, Braniewo district (R. Odoj, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Olsztyn), probably attributable to the 7th—9th cent.; on its site a Teutonic castle was built in the Middle Ages.

Excavations was continued of a number of large strongholds which were intensively studied in the so-called Millennium period. These are: Gniezno (G. Miłkołajczyk, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań, Oddział w Gnieźnie) — owing to the large number of rescue trenches traces of a road and of habitation features, dating from the 8th cent. and later were disclosed north-east of the stronghold, while to the east of it the external base of the crossed logs construction and remains of a wooden bridge probably leading to one of the villages came to light. Investigations of the artisans' suburb of the 10th—13th cent. was concluded at Kruszewica, Inowrocław district (W. Hensel, E. Springer, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa, Poznań). The discoveries included a further 6 huts with hearths in SW corners (one hut with a reed-lined extension, another with an antler under

the corner), 7 "industrial" fireplaces and domestic pits. The excavation at Szczecin (E. Cnotliwy, Pracownia Archeologiczno-Konserwatorska, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Szczecin) included part of the northern rampart with 7 phases of rebuilding and use (from about mid-9th to the 2nd half of the 10th cent., the later phases being destroyed by the Medieval castle), remains of underlying unfortified settlement from the close of the 8th cent., and supposed traces of a fortified Lusatian site from the Hallstatt period. At Opole-Ostrówek (B. Gediga, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Wrocław) the interior of the fortified town was further examined, revealing levels of the 2nd half of the 10th and the 11th cent. (wooden houses including two of the "post-yoke" construction, streets, a musical instrument from the close of the 10th cent.). The rampart seems to have coincided with the 3rd habitation level dated to about the mid-11th cent. At Wiślica, Busko-Zdrój district (Z. Wardołowska, Uniwersytet, Warszawa), the ditch surrounding the earliest stronghold was revealed at several points (an irregular oval, 100 by 140 m, with a separate internal enclosure, 60 by 50 m in the NE part).

Among the large number of Early and Late Piast earthworks, the sites which contributed to our knowledge of the defensive system are of particular interest. These are: Podzamcze, Kwidzyń district (M. Haftka, Muzeum Zamkowe Malbork) — remains of a stone-clay keep (?) at an Early Medieval earthwork (site 1), fragment of an open-work chape of a Scandinavian sword-scabbard found in the neighbouring settlement of the 11th—12th cent. (site 2); Bnin, Śrem district (J. Żak and team, Uniwersytet, Poznań), site 2a, ring-earthwork — base of the latest part of crossed logs and hooked joint construction, 13th cent., external part of the rampart of the middle phase; site 1, a motte of the 13th/14th cent. — two construction stages of the motte, partly built of boxes; Kaszowo, Milicz district (Z. Hilczer-Kurnatowska and team, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań) — base of the rampart in part S (14 m wide), two quadrangular stone foundations (towers?) on the inner side of the rampart in part W, preliminary investigations of two neighbouring settlements (one with traces of smelting) contemporary with the stronghold (2nd half of the 10th and early 11th cent.); Radom, site 1 (E. Kierzkowska, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa) — rampart built of boxes with halving joints, 11th cent.; Raciąż, Sierpc district (B. Buczek-Płachtowa, Pracownia Archeologiczno-Konserwatorska, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Warszawa) — base of a rampart of the crossed logs construction tied with vertical posts, 10th cent. (?); Gródek, Sokołów Podlaski district (I. Górska, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa) — test examination the internal part of the rampart of rectangular boxes filled with clay, an inner stone bank, two habitation phases of the 12th and 14th—15th cent.

A number of fortified sites have revealed materials from the beginning of the Early Medieval period derived either from older unfortified settlements or from the earliest habitation phases of the fortified sites. These are: Strączno, Wałcz district (H. Janocha, F. Lachowicz, Muzeum Archeologiczne and Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Koszalin) — pottery from the 7th to 12th cent., an iron axe of the 12th cent.; Czernsk, site 4, Piaseczno district (T. Kiersnowska, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Warszawa) — excavation continued of the former suburb revealed dwelling features of the 7th—8th, 11th—12th cent. and later; Lublin "Grodzisko" hill (S. Hoczyk, Uniwersytet M. Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin) — test examination, a rectangular semi-subterranean hut with a stone hearth in the NW corner, hand-made pottery (6th/7th cent.); timber-earth rampart of the 12th

cent.; Stawy, Jędrzejów district (Z. Woźnicka, Uniwersytet, Warszawa) — reconnaissance, a 12th century stronghold with an earthen rampart, two ditches, absence of a contemporary culture layer, earth houses earlier than the fortifications.

The following monuments of the pre-, early- and late-Romanesque architecture deserve to be mentioned: Kraków-Wawel (A. Żaki and team, Państwowe Zbiory Sztuki na Wawelu, Kraków) — further parts of walls of a pre-Romanesque sacral building, probably with 4 apses, 2nd half of the 10th cent. (?), and few unfurnished inhumations from the surrounding cemetery; Cedynia, Chojna district (H. Malinowska, Muzeum Regionalne, Cedynia) — excavation continued of the inhumation cemetery of the 12th—13th cent. (?) revealed three walls, 2 m thick, of an oblong building (a church linked with the conversion to Christianity of Pomerania?).

Other inhumation cemeteries, usually not associated with a church, were examined in the following localities: Kraków-Zakrzówek (W. Morawski, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Kraków) — further burials of the 11th cent., male burials with head to E, female to W, one male grave, richly furnished (a spearhead, two battle-knives, and a pail of yew) was surrounded by a rectangular row of posts; Trześń, Tarnobrzeg district (H. Gajewska, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa) — test examination of a site of many cultures revealed 7 graves of the 11th/12th and 13th cent.; Święck-Strumiany, Wysokie Mazowieckie district (D. Jaskanis, Muzeum Okręgowe, Białystok) — a further 124 W-oriented inhumations of the 12th—13th cent., half of them furnished mostly with ornaments, some of Old Russian provenance; on the N and E side the cemetery was surrounded by a fence of wooden stakes; Jabłończ Wielki, site 1, Bytów district (D. Jankowska, F. Lachowicz, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Koszalin) — a group of six barrows with stone constructions (circles and burial chambers) was examined, the burials were of the inhumation type, either single or collective (barrow no 3 contained one complete and two incomplete burials in separate chambers); apart from two knives, no other grave goods were found; under the external setting of one barrow, an urn from the beginning of the 12th cent. with charred human bones came to light; Tomice, Dzierżoniów district (Z. Trudzik, J. Romanow, B. Miskiewicz, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Zakład Antropologii PAN, Wrocław) — a further 9 inhumations (the dead with heads to E or W, a clay vessel, a wooden bucket, temple rings, etc.) dated by the explorers to the 9th—10th cent. (uncertain chronology!).

Excavation was continued of the following cremation cemeteries: Świelubie, site 2, Kołobrzeg district (W. Łosiński, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań) — 8 cremation barrows of the 9th cent. (an Arabic coin from the 2nd half of the 8th cent.), an inhumation at the foot of one mound; Białogórze (former Białogóra), Zgorzelec district (J. Gąsowski, Uniwersytet, Warszawa) — excavation of the cemetery of 100 barrows which form two groups, preliminary examined before the Second World War, included 4 mounds on site 1 (pottery prior to the mid-10th cent.), and 3 mounds on site 2 (traces of a burial on the top of the barrow? a rectangular stone setting and an iron axe from the 2nd half of the 10th and the 11th cent. in one barrow, pottery from the end of the 10th and the 11th cent.); Racibórz-Obora (E. Dąbrowska, Komisja Archeologiczna Oddziału PAN, Kraków) — a barrow with traces of burials on its top and in the primary ground, 3 vessels from the earlier phase (6th—7th cent.), near the mound there occurred an oblong "ditch", marked as grave 4A (earlier than the barrow?), with charred bones

and an almost complete vessel. Excavation resumed at Trepcza, Sanok district (J. Janowski, Muzeum, Krosno), included 2 mounds with a cremation layer and a burial probably on top of one mound; Czarna Wielka, Siemiatycze district (J. Jaskanis, K. Chilmon, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Białystok) site II — test examination of a barrow with a stone-earth construction, probably with a burial on the top; site I — a further 10 stone-set graves, no traces of skeletons (cremations?), grave goods of the 12th—13th cent, (an axe, a buckle and a "strike-a-light").