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MAJOR RESULTS OF 1983 EXCAVATIONS OF EARLY MEDIEVAL SITES IN POLAND

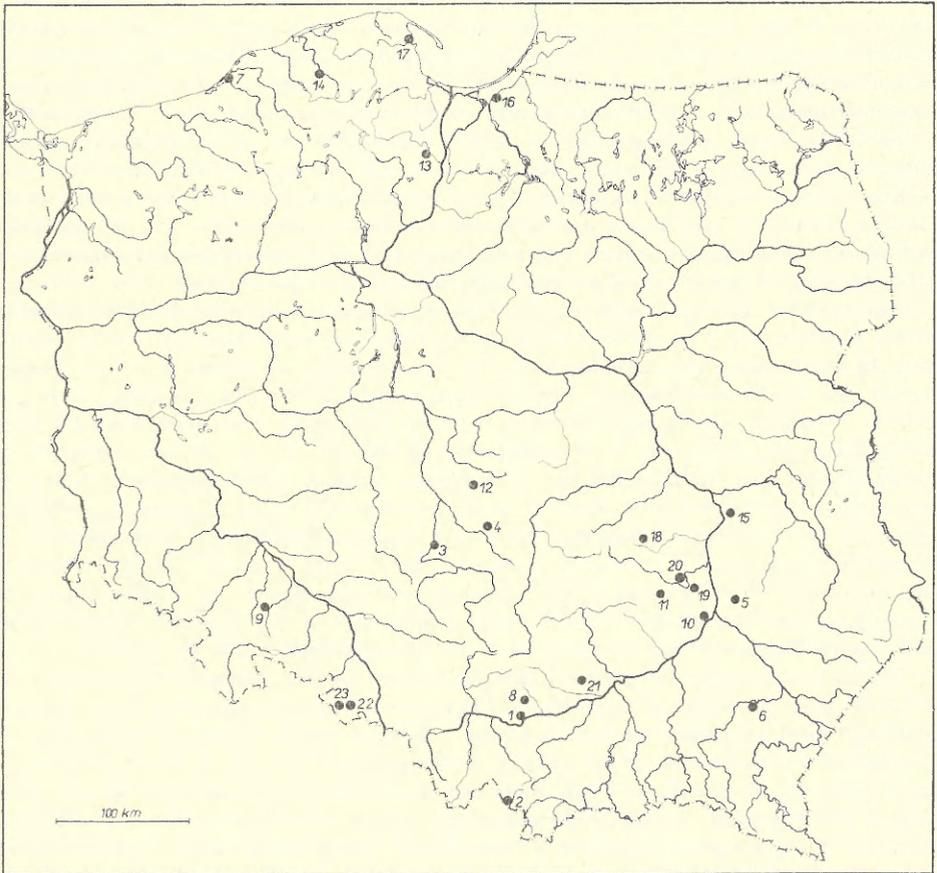
Excavations were conducted of about 50 early medieval sites including 20 strongholds and early towns, 19 settlements, 6 monasteries, 14 cemeteries and 1 assumed cult place.

For the problem of early Slav settlement of paramount importance are the results of excavations at **Bizoređa** (15), Kielce province, site 12 (G. Kotkowski, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Łódź) where a settlement dating from the close of the 4th to the close of the 7th cent. continued to be explored. The excavations revealed a further 9 features (7 in 1982) oblong in plan, 3-5 × 1.2-3 m and up to 10 sq m in size, interpreted as houses. Some contained only vessels of the Prague type while others had also Late Roman wheel-made pottery. Vessels of *Krausengefässe* type of four varieties and a bronze tendril brooch of A VI-158 type were found outside the features. In Pomerania the following settlements from the early phase of the Early Middle Ages were explored: **Łobżany** (3), Szczecin province, site 1 (A. Porzeziński, Muzeum Narodowe, Szczecin) — 4 semi-subterranean huts, 4 open hearths, 6 pits containing pottery of the Dziedzice-Sukow type and hand-made vessels with their upper parts finished on the wheel, dated as from the mid-6th to the mid-8th cent., and **Dębczyno** (4), Koszalin province, site 38 (A. Sikorski, Uniwersytet, Poznań) — 3 pits with pottery of the Dziedzice-Sukow type (6th-7th cent.), 2 semi-subterranean huts, 26 domestic pits, 84 post-holes (part formed a building construction) with pottery of the Szczecin-Menkendorf and Wolin-Fresendorf type (9th/10th cent.); one of the huts contained a ring for bridle straps.

Among other settlements explored the following deserve to be mentioned: **Kartoszyno** (5), Gdańsk province, site 7 (I. Wolanin-Szuldrzyńska, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Gdańsk) where the fourth season of excavation revealed 442 features (semi- and subterranean huts, hearths, an oven, pits) in the industrial part of the settlement of the 11th-12th cent. situated on Lake Żarnowieckie; **Sypniewo** (27), Ostrołęka province, site 2 (U. Perlikowska-Puszkarska, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Warszawa) — 19 habitation, domestic and industrial features (smelting and working of iron) unearthed at an 11th cent. *Suburbium*, overlaid by remains of the later phase of an inhumation cemetery dating from the 12th-13th cent.; **Łąkorek** (7), Toruń province, site 1 (K. Grążawski, C. Pietrzykowski, Uniwersytet, Toruń and Muzeum, Brodnica) — commencement of underwater investigations of a timber construction in Lake Łąkorz where 532 piles in 23 rows forming a structure in the likeness of 2 platforms joined in the coastal part, were recorded; moreover on the lake bottom a debris layer of burnt timber and beneath it a layer of pine bark and shavings were observed; because of the absence of small finds the construction is as yet undated.

The oldest strongholds to be investigated in the season of 1983 are: **Motycz** (21), Lublin province (I. Kutylowska, Uniwersytet M. Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin) where the promontory of an elevation, cut off by a moat and rampart of box and probably of crossed logs construction, revealed traces of settlement of the 8th-9th cent.; **Podeblocie** (22), Siedlce province, site 1 (J. Gąsowski, E. Twarowska, Uniwersytet, Warszawa) — a stronghold and an associated settlement, 9th-11th cent. (with materials of 7th-8th cent. as well), developed stratigraphy (eg 5 phases of silting and use of the moat), a rampart of vertical posts supporting a framework of boards, subterranean huts with domed ovens in E corners, a foundation offering in the form of horse's skulls, a basket of bark with 5 kg of wheat grains; **Czerchów** (11), Łódź province, site 1 (A. Chmielowska, Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne, Łódź) — the 9th season of excavation yielded evidence for two phases of defences: under the younger rampart with crossed logs construction was a layer of burnt and decayed timber in crossed logs arrangement which in addition to iron arrowheads contained handmade pottery, occasionally with its upper parts finished on the wheel, dating from the 8th-10th cent.

Attention should be called to the results obtained at 3 strongholds in southern Poland, namely: **Tuligłowy** (19), Przemysł province (M. Cabalska, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków) — the *suburbium* of the fortified township of several parts revealed a further 2 sub-terranean huts with hearths (so far 5 huts have been discovered), 8th-9th cent (one of block construction, 4×4.5 m) and above an overground post (?) building from the later phase, 10th-11th cent.; **Zawada** (18), Tarnów province, site 1 (A. Cetera, J. Okoński, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Tarnów) — the seasons of 1982 and 1983 brought to light at least 9 early medieval features (9th-11th cent.) including 3 elongated overground buildings ($2.6-4 \times 1.8-2$ m) without heating installations, probably with wattle walls, and 3 quadrangular semi-subterranean huts (2.8×3 to 3.6×4.3 m) with traces of walls of block or post construction, with hearths or stone ovens in N or NW corners and with a passage-entrance on the S or SE side; **Kraków-Okół** (16), Senacka Street 3 (M. Cwetsch, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Kraków) — further investigations of the base of an 11th cent. (?) rampart which surrounded the early medieval suburbium on the W side and survived under the foot of a Gothic town wall. In the outer part of the defences traces of a stone mantle and oak beams perpendicular to the rampart axis, lying 1.7 m apart with thin boards in between, came to light.



Long-term investigations were continued at **Łąd** (12) Konin province (M. Zeylandowa, K. Lutowa, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań) yet no further remains of the church were found within the central stronghold* (the church was pulled down to its foundations); on the other hand a well preserved wreck of a boat, 2 m wide and at least 10 m long, came to light at the outer foot of the

rampart, in the moat. Another season of excavations of the port town at **Wolin** (1), Szczecin province, site 1 (W. Filipowiak, J. Wojtasik, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Wolin) revealed a further 2 post houses (with their long walls 4.7 to 5.4 m long), situated at a "street", 1.55 m wide; the layer contained numerous parts of boats and ships.

The study of wooden architecture of medieval towns included excavations of two sites of major importance, namely: **Elbląg** (6), Stare Miasto (Old Town) (G. and T. Nawrolski, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Gdańsk) where a further 5-6 levels of streets and wooden houses from the mid-13th to the early 14th cent., a draining channel revetted with fascine and numerous ceramic imports came to light; moreover the stratigraphical relationship of 2 Gothic buildings, founded on ruins of earlier structures in a different urbanistic layout, was studied; **Pultusk** (26), Ciechanów province, site Zamek (Castle) (M. Mierosławski and team, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Warszawa) where a stronghold with a layer 3.5 m thick, comprising 8 levels of timber build-up of the early 13th to 14th cent., was explored. The discoveries included a farther course of the main street, a northern street (absent in the lowest layers), a square at the crossing of the two arteries, and about 80 buildings of various types (including a large block house with a porch on the S side); test trenches cut through the slope and the moat of the Castle uncovered a sand bank of the early 13th cent., a cultural layer with hearths (remains of an assumed earlier fortified settlement of the 12th cent.), and a multilayer inhumation cemetery with the earliest burials of the early 13th cent. at the foot of the castle hill.

Excavations of the remains of sacral architecture and of medieval monasteries brought valuable results. In the first place attention should be called to the investigations at **Wawel Hill** (17) in Kraków (J. Firlet, Z. Pianowski, Kierownictwo Odnowienia Zamku Królewskiego, Kraków-Wawel) where remains of two kinds of Romanesque walls preserved under the Gothic cathedral were distinguished and verified: a later linked with the Romanesque cathedral (so called II), 11th-12th cent., and an earlier associated with the three-nave basilica, which probably represents the long sought pre-Romanesque cathedral (so-called I), built about 1000 AD; moreover the *westwork* (foundations of the W wall and of 2 towers) of St. Gereon's church was discovered; the church, so far regarded as cathedral I, is now interpreted as the Romanesque palace church erected about the 3rd quarter of the 11th cent.

Investigations of St. Trinity church (former convent church of the Norbertines) at **Strzelno** (10), Bydgoszcz province, site 1 (J. Chudziakowa, Uniwersytet, Toruń) introduced essential corrections into the chronology and layout of the church interior. The earliest building was erected about the 12th/13th cent., burnt down in the 2nd half of the 13th cent., rebuilt at the end of the 13th cent. (to this phase belong the already known Romanesque columns with relief, the newly discovered polychromy and the floor of ceramic tiles); absence of an original entrance in the *westwork* was established and 2 round towers flanking the Romanesque presbytery were revealed. The sixth season of excavations of the Benedictine monastery at **Lubin** (13), Leszno province, site 1 (Z. and S. Kurnatowski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań) involved study of the northern wing of the well preserved monastery buildings of the Gothic phase and the IIIrd and IIrd Romanesque phase; moreover the impressions of the foundation of the apse which closed the W façade of the church of Romanesque phase I were revealed. Remains of a demolished Cistercian monastery of the 12th-17th cent., erected on the ruins of a stronghold of the 10th (?) - mid-11th cent., continued to be investigated at **Lekno** (9), Piła province, site 3 (A. Wyrwa, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Piła); the investigations commenced in 1982 revealed outlines of a one-nave church with a semicircular apse and rectangular presbytery from about the mid-13th cent., remains of a yet unidentified earlier sacral feature, a surrounding churchyard (121 graves arranged in 3 levels were explored), a rampart of crossed logs, 10-15 m wide at the base, intensive traces of a fire which destroyed the upper parts of the defences and the buildings inside the enclosure.

Only one barrow cemetery with cremation graves was excavated at **Mokre** (20), Zamość province, site 1 (A. Kutylowski and team, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Lublin) where in 1981

* Cf. „Sprawozdania Archeologiczne”, vol. 35: 1984, p. 307, no 10.

an iron spur of variety A/B after J. Żak was found on the surface of one barrow. Two heavily damaged barrows (modern and medieval ditches) explored in this season, yielded Neolithic, Trzciniec, Lusatian and early medieval pottery, fragments of cremated bones, and abundant remains of burnt matter.

A fairly large number of inhumation cemeteries was excavated. In the 13th season of excavation of graves with stone settings of the Mazowiecki type at **Czekanów** (23), Siedlce province, site I (B. Zawadzka-Antosik, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) 30 graves were explored (so far 188 have been uncovered) of which 20 contained grave goods, mainly ornaments, including fragments of a diadem of cloth of gold, stiffened with a birch bark, 39 temple rings, 7 ear-rings, 120 beads of glass and 10 of bronze with silver granulation, finger-rings, bracelets, etc., in all over 230 objects (11th–12th cent.). Of the other cemeteries investigated in this part of Poland two, dating from the 12th cent., were similar in type, namely **Narajki** (25), Białystok province, site 1 (L. Długopolska, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) — 20 burials of which less than half was furnished (arrow-heads, knives, “strike-a-lights”, finger-rings, a cross of bronze) and **Skiwy Małe** (24), Białystok province, site I (B. Maciukiewicz-Czarnecka, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Białystok) — 6 inhumation graves, 1 cremation and 1 partly cremated burial, the inventories included a bead with gold foil, temple-rings, iron parts of a wooden bucket.

In western Poland other types of cemeteries of the 11th–12th cent., unassociated with churches, were explored. The discoveries at **Sokolniki** (14), Wrocław province (H. Śledzik-Kamińska, Ośrodek Archeologiczno-Konserwatorski, Wrocław) included 15 skeletons and 4 pits without burials arranged in irregular rows, the dead usually with heads to W, 2 burials pressed down with stones, in another a stone pressed down the mouth of the dead, one skeleton was lying on the side with bent arms; grave goods included a silver coin, a bead, temple rings, knives, “strike-a-lights”, a chisel, hones, iron parts of buckets. At **Brodnica-Szabda Cegielnia** (8), Toruń province, site 1 (M. Marciniak, Muzeum, Brodnica) the W part of a cemetery, destroyed by a river, revealed 4 male graves (with heads to E), one in contracted position, and 4 female graves (with heads to W), with small-sized temple-rings, an arrow-head, knives, “strike-a lights”, spindle whorls. Long-term excavations were continued at **Cedynia** (2), Szczecin province, site 2 (H. Malinowska-Łazarczyk, Muzeum Narodowe, Szczecin) where an area of 375 sq m in the N and W part of the cemetery revealed one cremation burial and 29 inhumations dating from phase I and II (10th–13th cent.). Skeletons were arranged along the E–W and N–S axis (part of the graves in the N section) either in wooden coffins of directly in earthen pits, furnished with coins, temple rings, ear-rings, beads, finger-rings, knives, “strike-a-lights”.