

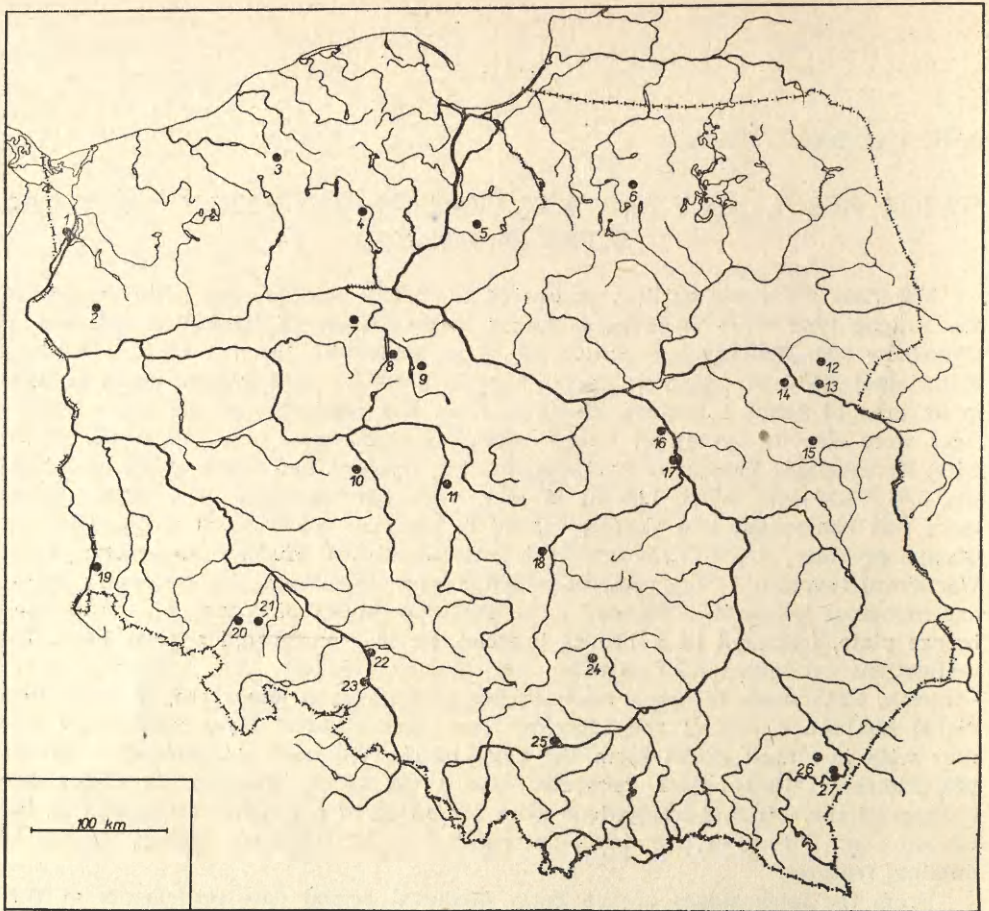
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MAJOR RESULTS OF 1977 EXCAVATIONS OF EARLY MEDIEVAL SITES IN POLAND

Materials from the earliest phases of the Early Middle Ages with pottery of the Prague type were discovered during investigations of habitation features at **Chwałków** (20), Wałbrzych province, site 1 (J. Lodowski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Wrocław) where 14 huts in nest-like arrangement came to light in an area of about 1 hectare. Features from the beginning of the Early Middle Ages were also uncovered at **Krapkowice** (23), Opole province, site A (K. Macewicz, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Opole); these were traces of 2 houses, 5.85×2.35 and 3.00×1.85 m in size, with hearths inside. The pottery found there was hand-made and slightly turned at the rim. Excavations at **Tumiany** (6), Olsztyn province, site 2 (T. Baranowski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa) revealed 11 features, of which 3 were dwellings. The inventory included numerous potsherds, fragment of a cross-bow fibula of bronze, an ornamented bronze plate, fragment of a bronze bracelet, an iron knife and a glass bead. Investigations conducted at **Czekanów** (14), Siedlce province, site 1 (B. Zawadzka-Antosik, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) uncovered an early medieval hut and 7 pits of the 12th-13th cent. The cultural layer yielded an iron spur with in-turned hooks from the close of the 7th cent. At **Barkowice Mokre** (18), Piotrków Trybunalski province, site 1 (M. Góra, Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne, Łódź) investigations were conducted of a fortified settlement of the 6th-9th cent. The area examined, surrounded by 2 defensive ditches, yielded 10 dwelling features.

From the later stages of the Early Medieval period date settlements at **Wyżółów** (11), Sieradz province, sites 7a and 7b (M. Cwetsch, Pracownia Badawcza Archeologiczno-Konserwatorska PKZ, Poznań) which yielded 145 archaeological features such as hearths, storage pits, ovens, smoking pits and a well, dated to phases B and C this period. The discoveries at **Krupice** (13), Białystok province, site 5 (D. Jaskanis, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Białystok) included 30 pits and remains of 3 huts in the form of rectangular stone pavements. In the corner of one hut was a regular, rectangular stone hearth. In **Warszawa-Wilanów** (16) (H. Młynarczyk, U. Perlikowska, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Warszawa) investigations were continued of a settlement of the 11th/12th to 13th cent., which yielded a further 7 features — remains of burnt huts. They were oval in outline and from 1 to 5 m in size. Site 1 at **Pleszew** (10), Kalisz province (E. Pudęko, Muzeum Okręgowe Ziemi Kaliskiej, Kalisz) yielded early medieval pits containing wheel-turned pottery with convex potter's marks in the shape of crosses.

Excavations were also carried out of earthworks from various phases of the Early Middle Ages. At **Myślibórz** (2), Gorzów province (B. Bojanowski, Myślibórskie Towarzystwo Kulturalne, Myślibórz) layers of a timber-earth rampart, repeatedly burnt down and rebuilt, have come to light. Portable finds uncovered there, such as potsherds, objects of metal, bone and horn, suggest a date in the 8th to 10th cent. The excavations continued of the earthwork of the 18th-11th cent at **Tuligłowy** (26), Przemyśl province (M. Cabalska, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków) were concentrated within the stronghold proper and revealed 5 huts situated



Map showing important archaeological sites of the Early Medieval Age, investigated in 1977. Number of the point on the map correspond to the number after the place-names in text

in the central space. In addition to pottery the material included knives with tang for the handle-parts of horse harness, spear- and arrow-heads. Investigations were commenced of an early medieval earthwork of the 9th-10th cent. at **Dołhołęka** (15), Biała Podlaska province (S. Jastrzębski, Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin). The investigations comprised the enclosed space, the rampart and the area beyond the rampart. The core of the rampart consisted of a layer of strongly burnt clay, 175 cm wide, originally delimited by a timber construction. The investigations at **Wydrzno** (5), Toruń province (W. Kochanowski, R. Boguwolski, Muzeum, Grudziądz) have shown that the build-up within the stronghold (10th-12th cent.) was confined to the parts near the rampart. A section through the rampart revealed that the rampart core was 4.2 m wide and 0.65 m high. It was strengthened by a crossed logs construction. At **Kołuda Wielka** (8), Bydgoszcz province, site 1 (A. Cofta-Broniewska and team, Uniwersytet, Poznań) the trenches located near the assumed stronghold gate revealed remains of two constructions: one was of timber and stone, overlying the lower part of the rampart slope and the adjacent belt of the enclosed space, and the other of stone, being erected on the ruins of the former and representing probably part of the structure which

had protected the entrance to the stronghold. Both date from the end of the 10th to the 2nd half of the 11th cent. Excavations were conducted of the ring earthworks at **Mietlica** (9), Bydgoszcz province, site 1 (A. Dymaczewski, S. Jernigen, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań, University in Louisville, Kentucky, USA) where early medieval layers were revealed near the rampart, and remains of larger buildings of the 6th-7th cent. came to light in the central part of the enclosure. Excavations were continued of the dwelling feature in the eastern part of the stronghold of the 11th-13th cent. at **Raciaz** (4), Bydgoszcz province (J. Kmiecinski and team, Uniwersytet, Łódź). The section revealed two phases: phase 1 — from before 1256 — an earthen rampart; a fire in 1256 documented by a burnt layer; phase 2 — after 1256 — a rampart with timber constructions which were destroyed during the fire of 1300.

Investigations were also continued of strongholds associated with the centres of authority of the early Polish state. The investigations conducted in **Kraków-Stare Miasto** (25) (E. Zaitz, T. Radwańska, K. Radwański, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Kraków) revealed early medieval layers associated with the old habitation horizon of Okół (town before the "locatio"), dated to the 9th-10th cent., an early medieval rampart of the 10th/11th to 13th cent., with traces of timber construction, and a defensive wall of medieval date.

Long-term studies on the formation of an urban centre in the Early Middle Ages were concluded at **Opole-Ostrówek** (22) (B. Gediga, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Wrocław). The investigations of 1977 uncovered construction level of one building and construction of a passage — a street from the 2nd half of the 11th cent. The inventory included fragments of a leather shoe, objects of wood, float of bark, a knife and an awl of iron, a temple- or finger-ring of plaited wire, a fragmentary finger-ring and a glass bead.

Excavations whose main purpose was the study of early medieval architecture were conducted at **Jędrzejów** (24), Kielce province (Z. Lechowicz, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Łódź) inside the Cistercian cloister church of the 13th cent. Relics of a church of the 12th cent. with two apses and a tower over the gallery apse have come to light.

Defensive sites dating from the late phase of the Early Medieval period and from the Middle Ages were investigated at **Szczecin** (1) (E. Cnotliwy, T. Nawrolski, Pracownia Archeologiczno-Konserwatorska, Szczecin) where relics of the oldest construction of the castle of the 13th-14th cent. were uncovered. This was a defensive wall raised on foundation posts linked by constructional arches. The presence of three levels of an early medieval stone-paved road, running along the internal slope of the rampart was recorded at the castle at **Przemysł** (27) (K. Szwarowski, Pracownia Archeologiczno-Konserwatorska, Rzeszów). Remains of a wooden entrance gate and fragments of timber-earth fortifications of the 14th cent. were revealed a **Czersk** (17), Warszawa province (J. Rauhut, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa). Nearby was a pit which contained a foundation offering made when the defensive constructions of the stronghold were finished. Remains of two block structures of 11th cent. have also come to light.

Early medieval cemeteries were also examined in this season. At **Będkowice** (21), Wrocław province, site 15 (H. Śledzik-Kamińska, Wojewódzki Ośrodek Archeologiczno-Konserwatorski, Wrocław) two barrows were explored. Their bases were near-circular (8 × 9 and 6.5 × 7.5 m), and their present height was about 1 m. At the depth of 0.5 m (from the top) appeared a four-sided construction of charred beams, over which concentrations of charred bones occurred. On the basis of potsherds the barrows have been dated as the 7th-8th cent. Four barrows of the 7th-10th cent. were explored at **Białogóra** (19), Jelenia Góra province, site 2 (H. Śledzik-Kamińska, Wojewódzki Ośrodek Archeologiczno-Konserwatorski, Wrocław).

They lie in a cemetery where 167 barrows have been recorded. The bases of the barrows consisted of a circle of small field stones. In one barrow a charred agate bead was found. Small amount of osseous material suggests that the burials may have been of surface type. A barrow explored at **Krupice** (13), Białystok province, site 3 (K. Chilmon, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Białystok) contained a cremation burial. Cremated bones occurred at various levels and in various parts of the mound. The barrow dates from phase 2 of the Early Medieval period. Another type is represented by the cemetery at **Czarna Wielka** (12), Białystok province, site 1 (M. Czarnecki, Pracownia Archeologiczno-Konserwatorska, Warszawa). This was an inhumation cemetery with graves set by stones. Four graves explored in this season yielded several glass beads and iron objects. A clay vessel of the 12th-13th cent. (sacrificial offering) and a socketed spearhead of iron were found in the neighbourhood of the graves. Investigations of the "Old Magyar" cemetery of the 10th cent. were continued at **Przemyśl** (27) (A. Koperski, Muzeum Okręgowe, Przemyśl). The discoveries consisted of 5 inhumation graves which seem to have been arranged in 4 regular rows along the N-S line. The rectangular grave pits with rounded corners were timber-lined at the bottom. Apart from human skeletons the graves contained animal bones. Grave goods included ornaments of silver (ear-rings, bracelets) and bronze (purse mounts), glass beads, weapons (iron hammer-axe, arrow-heads), parts of horse harness and iron tools (knife, axe). At **Sobiejuhy** (7), Bydgoszcz province (J. Ostoja-Zagórski, J. Strzałko, W. Szymandera, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań) part of an open settlement of the 12th cent. has come to light. The discoveries consisted of 3 domestic and 2 dwelling pits.

Underwater investigations were conducted at **Bobęcino** (3), Słupsk province (A. Kola, G. Wilke, Uniwersytet, Toruń) where relics of bridge pillars were discovered. The bridge had connected the eastern shore of Great Bobęcińskie Lake with the isle on which an earthwork of the 9th-12th cent. is situated. The pillars, which consisted of 6 to 8 vertical posts each, suggest that the bridge was of an exceptionally solid construction of a type not encountered in this area.