

HELENA ZOLL-ADAMIKOWA

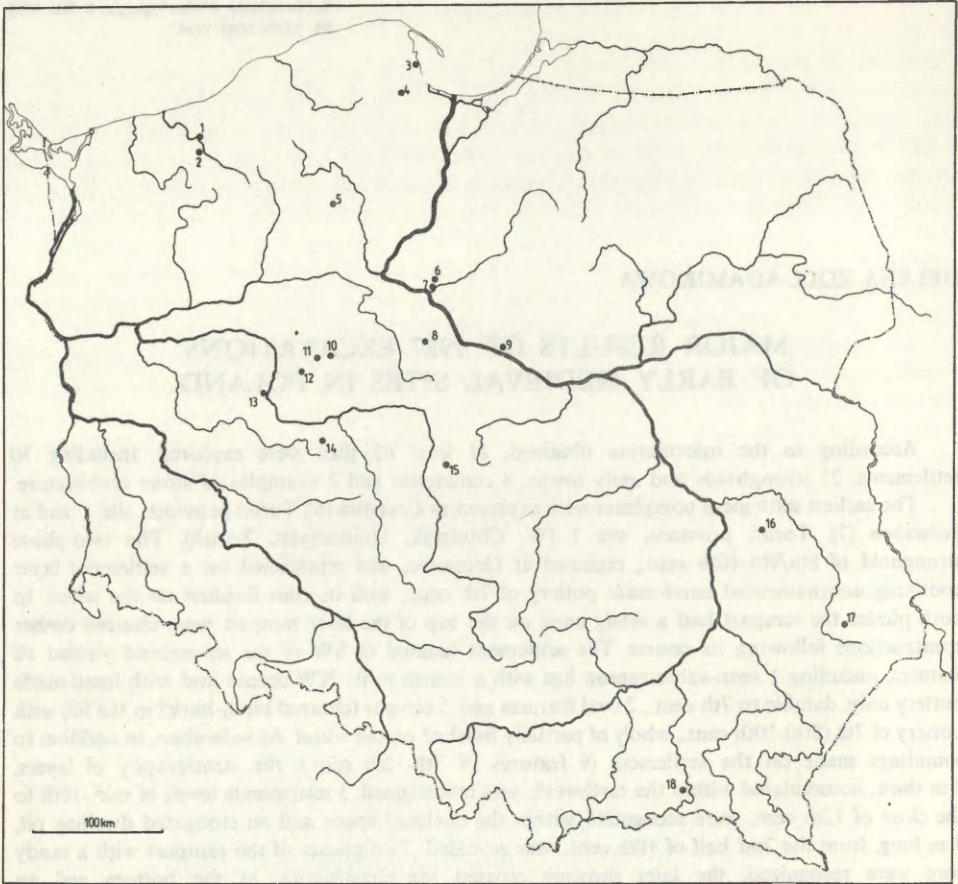
## MAJOR RESULTS OF 1987 EXCAVATIONS OF EARLY MEDIEVAL SITES IN POLAND

According to the information obtained, at least 65 sites were explored, including 30 settlements, 25 strongholds and early towns, 8 cemeteries and 2 examples of stone architecture.

The earliest settlement complexes were explored at **Gronowo** (6), Toruń province, site 1, and at **Jedwabno** (7), Toruń province, site 1 (W, Chudziak, Uniwersytet, Toruń). The two-phase stronghold of 8th/9th-10th cent., explored at Gronowo, was established on a settlement layer containing unornamented hand-made pottery of 7th cent., with its rims finished on the wheel. In both phases the rampart had a sandy core: on the top of the later rampart were charred timber constructions following its course. The settlement located to SW of the stronghold yielded 18 features, including 1 semi-subterranean hut with a hearth in its NW corner and with hand-made pottery only, datable to 7th cent., 2 oval features and 5 tar-pits (charred birch-bark? in the fill) with pottery of 7th (8th)-10th cent., wholly of partially finished on the wheel. At Jedwabno, in addition to soundings made on the settlement (9 features of 7th-12th cent.), the stratigraphy of layers, 8 m thick, accumulated within the earthwork, was investigated. 3 settlements levels of mid.-10th to the close of 12th cent were recognized within the enclosed space and an elongated dwelling pit, 4 m long, from the 2nd half of 10th cent., was revealed. Two phases of the rampart with a sandy core were recognized, the later showing crossed log construction at the bottom and an undetermined charred construction facing the inner side of the sandy mound; a dry moat surrounded the stronghold.

Fortifications of 8th-9th cent continued to be explored at **Brzezowa** (18), Krosno province, site 1 (J. Ginalski, A. Muzyczuk, Muzeum, Krosno); the bipartite structure of the inner rampart was confirmed: uncharred parts composed of clay and of at least 3 layers of transverse boards, faced on the inner and outer side with a wattle fence, and parts of intensely burnt clay and stone slabs; a knife with a voluted ending was found in the debris of the wattle facing the inner side of the rampart. The newly discovered earthwork at **Garbów** (16), Lublin province, site 3 (P. Lis, W. Zieliński, Uniwersytet M. Curie-Skłodowska, Lublin) consists of a partly preserved double line of ramparts. The sondage within the enclosed space yielded the NE part of a semisubterranean hut with a domed oven of stone and pottery of 8th-9th cent. The construction of a 9th century rampart (later damaged and repaired) was recognized at **Kczewo-Młynek** (4), Gdańsk province, site 2 (H. Paner, K. Godon, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk); this was a crossed log construction strengthened by granite blocks and beams following the course of the rampart; the enclosed space revealed remains of overground structures of 10th-1st half of 11th cent., overlying an older settlement layer of 9th-10th cent.; small finds included an amber bead, iron tongs and an arrowhead with barbs.

The 4-year exploration of a settlement of 8th-12th cent was concluded at **Bialogard** (1), Koszalin province, site 17 (H. Machajewski, Uniwersytet, Poznań) revealing 6 semi-subterranean huts, 2 ovens, 9 hearths, 12 storage pits and 169 postholes with pottery of the Golańcz and the Szczecin group. The features were arranged in 2 parallel rows 8-10 m apart.



Map showing important archeological sites of the Early Medieval Age, investigated in 1987

Numbers of the points on the map correspond to the numbers after the place – names in text

Specialists of various branches participated in the investigations of the early Piast stronghold with relics of monumental sacral architecture and of neighbouring cemeteries on the Ostrów Lednicki Isle at **Lednogóra** (11), Poznań province, sites 1 and 2 (J. Górecki, J. Wrzesiński, K. Żurowska and team, Muzeum Pierwszych Piastów na Lednicy). Two regions were investigated: the N part of the stronghold near the so-called 2nd pre-Romanesque church (straight ending of the presbytery, and in the neighbourhood remains of timber building from the end of 10th and 1st half of 11th cent., and a feature for preparing mortar for the local stone structures were revealed), and the E edge of the isle (2 rows of stakes, a beam and boards from the roadway of a bridge abutment – 2nd half of 11th – early 12th cent.). Exploration of site 14 (associated settlement, relics of pre-Romanesque cathedral) was continued at **Gniezno** (10), Poznań province (T. Sawicki, K. Szurkowska, Muzeum Początków Państwa Polskiego, Gniezno) revealing fragments of the apse of the northern aisle, and to E of it, in the neighbourhood of the previously discovered tomb slab with a Latin inscription, part of a grave in a stone-setting, with remains of 2 individuals; a further part of the Romanesque floor was discovered in the nave. A semi-circular stone foundations with a radius of 1.5 m, probably the relic of the corner tower of the 12th (?) century church, was revealed at the W wall of the church on site 15 (stronghold, relics of St George's church).



Among settlements dating from lated phases of the Early Middle Ages the following deserve to be mentioned: **Gdynia-Oksywie** (3), Gdańsk province, site 43 (B. Spigarska, Muzeum Miasta Gdyni) — 2 dwelling features of 11th cent., containing a coin, iron knives (one in a leather case with bronze fittings), a comb of horn and bone, unworked amber; **Obkas** (5), Bydgoszcz province (M. Kowalczyk-Kmiecńska, Uniwersytet, Łódź) — excavation continued at a two-phase settlement of 9th-12th cent., revealed a further 6 huts, 4 × 5 m in size, with hearths in Nw corner, forming a semicircular row along the NW — SE line; **Puszczykowo** (13), Poznań province, site 8 (R. Mazurowski, J. Marcinkiewicz, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Poznań) — a multi-cultural site revealed: 3 sizable semi-subterranean huts (from 4.5 × 6 to 7 × 8 m) of the 2nd half of 13th cent., situated in one row, 15-18 m apart; corridor-like entrance ramps; 2 post houses each with one oven: in one was an oven with two fire-places (for bread baking and cooking) and in the other, a domed two-chamber furnace probably for iron smelting (large amounts of slag in the fill).

Among the mottes — knightly residences of 13th-15th cent. — the following should be mentioned: **Góra** (12), Poznań province, site 1 (H. Kočka-Krenz, D. Butka-Filipczak, Uniwersytet, Poznań and Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań) — a square wooden dwelling tower, with sides 6.5 m long, a cellar and a woden floor, 1st half of 13th cent.; **Kościelna Wieś** (8), Włocławek province, site 1 (L. Kajzer, Uniwersytet, Łódź and Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Włocławek) — in the 1st half of 14th cent, a circular rampart, 3 m wide, enclosing a space of 15 m or so across, was built on a small elevation rising 1.5 m above the surrounding meadows; in the 2nd half of 14th cent the rampart was heightened, and within the enclosed space, a cone was raised; on its upper *plateau*, 20 m in diameter, a central building was located (this phase ended in the 1st half of 15th cent.); **Jarocin** (14), Kalisz province, site 2 (R. Grygiel, E. Czarny, Konserwator Zabytków, Kalisz and Muzeum Regionalne, Jarocin) — a building of thick, horizontally laid boards, clay lined on the inside, with S wall 7 m long, was constructed on a gravel cone, revetted with stones and timber logs: small finds included numerous iron artifacts such as boltheads, a spearhead with a piece of shaft in the socket, spurs, bits, sickles, a hook for stringing a cross-bow; mid-13-14/15 cent.

Of the few cemeteries explored in 1987, attention should be called to the cremation barrows of 7th (?)–9th cent, at **Mokre** (17), Zamość province, site 1 (W. Koman, Wojewódzki Ośrodek Archeologiczno-Konserwatorski, Zamość). In the fourth field season 3 barrows, originally quadrangular in shape with rounded corners, were explored; 2 barrows were surrounded by pits on the W. N and E side, the third barrow had only one pit on the W side. Cremated bones and sherds of 3(?) + 2 + 2 vessels were scattered at random, mostly at the limits of the original extent of the barrows.

The inhumation cemetery of 12th cent at **Robertowo** (9), Płock province, site 21 (T. Kordala, Muzeum Mazowieckie, Płock) yielded 6 burials with heads to NW and W. Double burial no 1 with remains of an adult and a child (39 cm long) was furnished with 4 temple rings of silvered copper, an analogous finger-ring, an iron knife and a clay vessel; grave no 2 contained a „strike-a-light”, and grave 4, a temple ring of silvered copper. Site 13 at **Piotrów** (15), Sieradz province (G. Ryceł, Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne, Łódź) revealed 10 skeletons, dated by the finder to the 2nd half of 12th cent., located in an area of 150 sq m, distant 100 m from the cemetery on site 1, explored in 1984-1985 (of „Sprawozdania Archeologiczne”, vol. 37, p. 340; vol. 38, p. 389-390). Of the 10 skeletons, 8 were lying in a slightly contracted position, on the right side, and 2 were lying extended in the supine position, all with heads to E; grave goods included heavily corroded iron objects and 5 beads of blue glaze from grave no 1. Excavations continued of the cemetery of 11th/12th-13th cent at **Dębczyno** (2), Koszalin province, site 53 (A. Sikorski, M. Miśkiewicz, Uniwersytet, Poznań) revealed a further 6 burials of adults, of which 4 were furnished with a few coins (cross-deniers, Pomeranian denarii), 2 knives in leather cases with bronze fittings, a „strike-a-light”, a hone. Probably on the W limit of the older part of the cemetery 3 near-square enclosures were revealed: they contained either one (no 5, 20) or two graves each (the earlier, no 19, with an unnatural arrangement of the skull and the later numbered 18), located centrally within the constructions.