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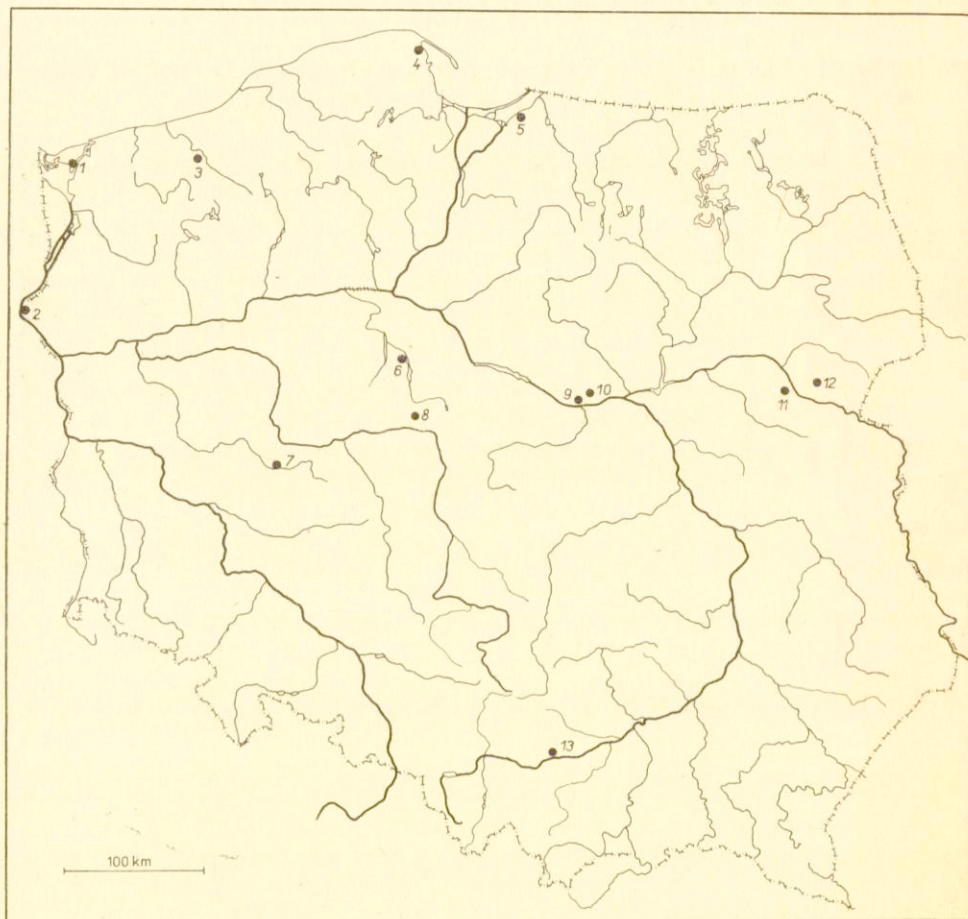
MAJOR RESULTS OF THE 1981 EXCAVATIONS OF EARLY
MEDIEVAL SITES IN POLAND

The 45 early medieval sites excavated in 1981 included 18 earthworks or early urban settlements, 2 complexes of monastery buildings, 16 settlements and 9 cemeteries. The excavations were conducted mostly on a small scale. Some continued earlier fieldwork, without however affecting the findings so far obtained, while those of the newly discovered sites were of the reconnaissance type.

Materials from the beginnings of the Early Middle Ages were revealed on only 3 settlements. Two of these are dated on the basis of pottery, namely **Wyszogród** (9), Płock province, site 13 (W. Szymański, W. A. Moszczyński, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa) — a settlement feature of the 7th cent., and **Dębczyno** (3), Koszalin province, site 10 (A. Sikorski, Uniwersytet, Poznań) — a multicultural site with numerous postholes, 12 pits, 5 semisubterranean huts and 1 hearth, dating from three chronological stages: from the 6th-7th cent. (pottery of the Dziedzice-Sukow type), from the 7th-mid-9th cent., and from the mid-9th to mid-12th cent. Note-worthy results were yielded by underwater investigations continued at a port settlement of the 7th to 12th cent., now sunk in the bottom of the Gulf of Puck, at **Puck** (4), Gdańsk province (W. Stępień, Muzeum Ziemi Puckiej, Puck) — numerous wooden constructions of coastal installations, parts of boats and whole wrecks, a quernstone, complete and broken pottery from the 7th/8th to 12th/13th cent. (mostly from the 10th-11th cent.); 3 wrecks are dated by C¹⁴ analysis to AD 555, AD 760 and AD 950 respectively, and the coastal fascine to AD 940.

Among the older earthworks attention is claimed by the discovery of an extremely well preserved construction of the rampart from the tribal period (9th-10th cent.) in **Kraków** (13), on the Wawel Hill (Z. Pianowski, J. Firlet, Kierownictwo Odnowienia Zamku Królewskiego na Wawelu, Kraków) — at the northern slope of the hill were boxes filled with sand and clay, with one side some 1.5 m long, preserved to the height of 11 courses, and a palisade consisting of stakes driven at the base of the rampart and running along the fortifications near their inner edge. Moreover, 2 unknown stone buildings came to light north of the walls of Romanesque cathedral II. Long-term exploration of the early medieval port town at **Wolin** (1), Szczecin province, site 1 (W. Filipowiak, J. Wojtasik, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Wolin) revealed in the 1981 season another habitation level from the 1st half of the 10th cent., with a street, 2 m wide (longitudinal ground beams and transverse boards), and post houses up to 6 m long, of similar size and built on the same plots as those from the overlying layers. The fills contained large quantities of organic remains (e.g. grain, fish, fruit) and various objects such, for instance, as part of a folding balance of bronze, a horn awl decorated with the representation of a human face, an unfinished amber object in the shape of a chess's castle. The sixth season of excavations of the hypothetical cult centre, situated on a lofty hill at **Radzikowo Stare** (10), Płock province (I. Dąbrowska, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa, B. Babić, National Museum, Prilep, Yugoslavia) revealed an oblong multilayer feature (the earliest level was of the 7th cent.), and a charred wooden construction situated on the hill slope and consisting of stakes driven perpendicularly to the slope and joined by horizontal beams; the construction is interpreted as a kind of steps? perhaps leading to the top of the hill.

Among the sites from the later phases of the Early Middle Ages, investigated for several seasons such as Czersk, Kraków-Old Town, Łąd, Ryciąż (cf. earlier vols. of "Sprawozdania Archeologiczne") special attention is claimed by site 2 at **Kruszwica** (6), Bydgoszcz province (W. Hensel, W. Dzieduszycki, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań) where layers of the 12th to the 1st half of the 13th cent. (below the foot of the 13th cent. rampart) yielded traces of a glass workshop which produced decorative architectural details (finished and half-finished glazed floor and wall tiles), differing from those made in the previously discovered glass workshop on site 4. The existence of a rampart dividing the stronghold from the *suburbium* has not been confirmed. This suggests that the early urban settlement at Kruszwica formed one unit.



The complex of buildings of the Benedictine monastery at **Lubiń** (7), Leszno province (Z. and S. Kurnatowski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań) revealed further parts of the south apse and of the south and north walls surrounding the oldest Romanesque church, reconstructed as a three-nave basilica; in Romanesque phase II (12th cent.) a churchyard, bounded on the south by a defensive stone wall, was established on the site of the south nave of the earlier church.

The proportion of cemeteries investigated in this season is higher than until now. The tenth season of excavations of the Old Prussian graves of the 6th-7th cent. at **Nowinka** (5), Elbląg province, site 1 (M. Pietrzak, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk) revealed a cremation place represen-

ted by an irregular quadrangle, 1.7×3 m in size, sunk to the depth of 0.3 m below the surface of the ground and consisting of several layers of charcoal alternating with thin layers of sand, and of occasional cremated human bones. Other discoveries consisted of a further 9 graves, including 2 skeletal burials of horses (with heads to S) and 7 cremation burials (6 with human bones and 1 with remains of a horse). At **Klukowo** (12), Białystok province, site II (D. Jaskanis, H. Karwowska, Muzeum Okręgowe, Białystok) part of a barrow probably with a cremation burial of the 8th-9th cent. was explored (numerous Slav potsherds, fragment of a bronze object, fragment of a clay spindle whorl); under the mound was a quadrangular wooden construction, about 2×4 m, with ruins of a stone oven (?) in the NE corner and a whole vessel in the SE corner; on the edge of the mound a skeleton of a child (a secondary burial?) was found.

Among the inhumation cemeteries from the later phases of the Early Middle Ages of special interest are the results obtained at **Cedynia** (2), Szczecin province. Site 2 (H. Malinowska-Lazarczyk, Muzeum Narodowe, Szczecin) revealed the S and NW part of the ditch surrounding the cemetery of the 10th-14th cent. and several graves on the SW and NW margin of the cemetery, including a burial in a wooden boat with its bow towards NW (like the head of the dead) and a burial with a sword, a spur and a knife, dated to the 1st half of the 12th cent. The excavations of site 2 a (A. Porzeziński, Muzeum Narodowe, Szczecin) uncovered a further 37 graves, of which 11 were furnished with 2 vessels, and arrowhead, 8 knives, 2 mounts of knife-cases, as well as further parts of a ditch which divided the cemetery, dated as from the 2nd half of the 10th to 11th cent., into two parts. The cemetery of the Gasovian-Podlasie type, explored for 11 seasons at **Czekanów** (11) Siedlce province, site III (B. Zawadzka-Antosik and team, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) revealed 27 graves (13 furnished with temple rings of tin and bronze, a small cross, finger-rings, a bracelet, glass beads and an awl); the graves included a burial of a cripple with *ante mortem* broken legs and *a post mortem* broken left arm, and a burial of three men buried at the same time, one with his occiput cut with a sharp implement. Attention also claims the newly discovered cemetery at **Bilczew** (8), Konin province, site 1 (K. Olińska, Muzeum Okręgowe, Konin) where in addition to 3 relatively richly furnished inhumation graves (a perforated axe, a "strike-a-light" with 2 flints, a bead, a small bucket, clay vessels), traces of cremation burials, probably contemporaneous with the inhumations, came to light.

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