

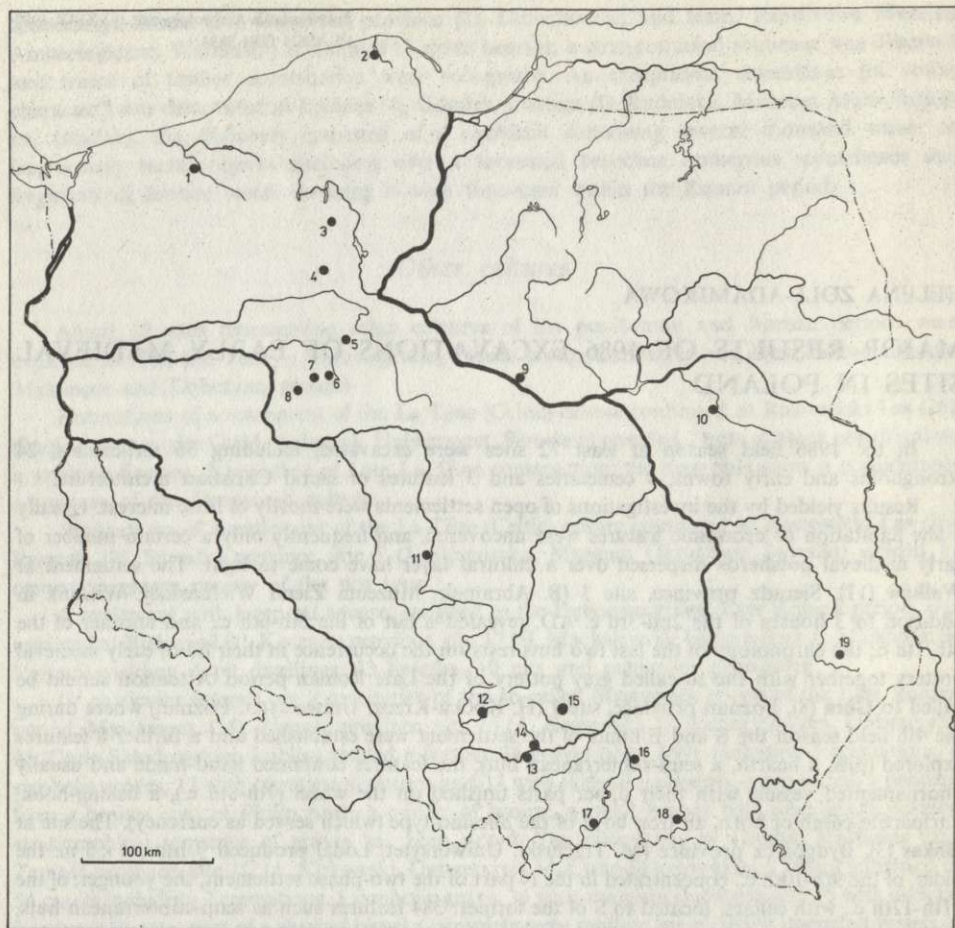
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MAJOR RESULTS OF 1986 EXCAVATIONS OF EARLY MEDIEVAL SITES IN POLAND

In the 1986 field season at least 72 sites were excavated, including 36 settlements, 24 strongholds and early towns, 9 cemeteries and 3 features of sacral Christian architecture.

Results yielded by the investigations of open settlements were mostly of little interest. Usually a few habitation or economic features were uncovered, and frequently only a certain number of early medieval potsherds dispersed over a cultural layer have come to light. The settlement at **Walków** (11), Sieradz province, site 3 (B. Abramek, Muzeum Ziemi Wieluńskiej, Wieluń), in addition to 3 houses of the 2nd-3rd c. AD, revealed a hut of the 5th-6th c., and another of the 6th/7th c.; the chronology of the last two huts rests on the occurrence in their fill of early medieval pottery together with the so-called grey pottery of the Late Roman period. Attention should be called to **Góra** (8), Poznań province, site 1 (H. Kočka-Krenz, Uniwersytet, Poznań) where during the 4th field season the S and E limits of the settlement were established and a further 8 features explored (pits, a hearth, a semi-subterranean hut); the features contained hand-made and usually unornamented vessels with their upper parts finished on the wheel (7th-8th c.), a fishing-hook, a tripartite comb of horn, an iron bowl of the Silesian type (which served as currency). The site at **Obkas** (3), Bydgoszcz province (M. Trzcziński, Uniwersytet, Łódź) produced 9 huts, 4 × 5 m: the older, of the 9th-10th c., concentrated in the N part of the two-phase settlement, the younger, of the 11th-12th c., with cellars, located to S of the former. 384 features such as semi-subterranean huts, overground post-houses, hearths and pits with materials of the 11th-12th c. were uncovered in the region of Lake Żarnowieckie at **Nadole** (2), Gdańsk province, site 5 (I. Wolanin-Szuldrzyńska, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Gdańsk). Two houses from the late phase of the Middle Ages were explored at **Sobiejuchy** (5), Bydgoszcz province, site 4 (J. Ostoja-Zagórski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań); both houses contained ovens; beneath the floor of one of the huts a complete skeleton of a cow, 3-4 year old, was discovered lying on its left side in the contracted position (foundation sacrifice?).

The studies of earthworks in Little Poland, so far inadequately known, have been intensified. Attention claims an impressive stronghold, consisting of 4 parts and occupying an area of over 10 ha on the left bank of the Dunajec at **Naszacowice** (17), Nowy Sącz province, site 1 (J. Poleski, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków). Reconnaissance, focused so far on the enclosed part, did not reveal any traces of a cultural layer; instead, 23 features sunk in the primary ground (quadrangular semi-subterranean huts, hearths, "tub-like" features, an inhumation) were discovered. In 1986 the main rampart, (still standing to a height of 5.5 m) was cut across, revealing 3 construction phases and 5 settlements phases (the latest two on the destruction layer of the rampart of phase III). The earliest part of the fortifications has been preserved in the form of a clayey core resting on humus. The construction of the rampart of phase II was the most distinct. The main vertical part, resting on a layer of clay, 0.7 m thick, consisted of 2 rows of boxes, 2 m (outer) and 4,2 m (inner) wide, running parallel to the course of the rampart. The outer face consisted of a palisade of posts, 0.2-0.3 m across, placed side by side; the inner face and the "partition wall" between the rows of boxes were formed by horizontal timbers morticed into square posts, driven every 2.5 m. The fill of



the boxes (1.5 m high) was divided by 2 levels of planks running transversely to the course of the rampart. In the outer part, the fill consisted of closely fitted slabs of broken sandstone and in the inner part, of layers of clay. The top part of the rampart survived only as a destruction layer, 0.5 m thick, containing charred beams. The fortifications of phase III, strongly damaged by fire and modern farming, were built also of sandstone slabs and clay (the base was up to 8 m wide). The destruction layer of rampart II contained: an ornamented silver-plated plate-like terminal of a spur with 3 horizontal rivets, and a lead lunula ornamented with a convex trellis and circles (both relics date from the 9th c.). In addition to various objects of metal, bone, glass and stone, there was an exceptionally large amount of pottery of the 9th-11th c.

Excavations were commenced of a stronghold occupying 4 ha and consisting of at least 2 ring-ramparts at **Brzezowa** (18), Krosno province, site 1 (J. Ginalski, A. Muzyczuk, Muzeum Okręgowe, Krosno). The excavation trench within the enclosed part failed to reveal any features. On the other hand, the trenches cut across the inner rampart showed that it had been raised on a layer of burnt matter which contained a vessel, decorated over its whole surface, and with the rim finished on the potter's wheel (8th-9th c.). The rampart, originally 5 m wide, was built of clay and of at least 3 layers of planks, transversely laid to its course; the inner and outer faces were revetted with a wattle fence fixed with pegs. Fragment of another construction consisted of layers of burnt clay and stone slabs (perhaps part of a collapsed gateway). The outer, strongly levelled rampart revealed indistinct traces of charred timber construction: A further 12 features were explored at the

earthwork at **Zawada** (16), Tarnów province (A. Cetera, J. Okoński, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Tarnów); the features included 2 semi-subterranean huts, respectively 4.7×4.6 m and 4.3×4.2 m in size, with domed ovens in the N or NE corner, and 1 overground house of log cabin construction. Moreover, there were recovered 39 metal objects, including a spur with hook-like terminals.

Altogether during 5 field seasons 72 habitation or economic features of the 9th-11th c. have been uncovered.

Among fortified settlements explored in other parts of Poland, attention is claimed by the earthwork of the 11th-12th c. at **Grodzisk** (10), Siedlce province, site 1 (W. Wróblewski, Uniwersytet, Warszawa); the lower part of the rampart consisted of rectangular boxes, 4.5×2.25 m in size, filled with clay and placed alternately to the course of the rampart: one perpendicularly and two parallel to it; the upper part was composed of a clayey mound revetted on the outside with a crossed logs construction. On the inside was a moat with banks revetted with fascine; under the base of the rampart plough-marks have been recorded.

Relics of pre-Romanesque and Romanesque architecture were investigated in 1986. Foundations of a semicircular apse and part of the main wall of St George's church dating from the second half of the 11th c., were uncovered at **Gniezno** (6), Poznań province, site 15 (T. Sawicki, Muzeum Początków Państwa Polskiego, Gniezno). Works carried out within a stronghold of the 9th-12th c. on a lake island called Ostrów Lednicki at **Lednogóra** (7), Poznań province, site 1 (J. Górecki, J. Wrzesiński, Muzeum Pierwszych Piastów na Lednicy) focused on the so-called pre-Romanesque church II (church I is represented by the remains of a rotunda with a palatium), revealing annexes added from E to the presbytery of the church and a wall of one of the two stone tombs inside the building. Numerous excavation trenches on the **Wawel Hill** (14) in **Kraków** (Z. Pianowski and team, Państwowe Zbiory Sztuki, Wawel) revealed parts of a rampart of the 9th-10th c. on the N edge of the hill, part of the northern wall of St. Gereon's church from the mid-11th c. with an imprint of an inter-bay column, and further parts of the palatial hall from the second half of the 11th c. (main walls mostly in *opus spicatum* course, absence of partition walls, ceiling supported probably by 24 pillars of which so far 5 have come to light). Foundations of a 12th century refectory, built of limestone cube and closing from S the quadrangle of monastery buildings, were examined in the Benedictine abbey from the 4th quarter of the 11th c. in **Kraków-Tyniec** (13) (T. Radwańska and team, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Kraków); in the N wall part of a walled up portal was found.

Among 25 explored towns, castles and mottes from the Late Middle Ages (13th-15th c.) of special interest is the fortified magnate's residence at **Janowiczki** (15), Kielce province, site 1 (S. Kołodziejcki, Wojewódzki Ośrodek Archeologiczno-Konserwatorski, Kielce) where seven-years' investigations were concluded. It has appeared that in the early 14th c. a square wooden structure, probably a tower, with each side 5.3 m long, was raised on the spit of a loess hill, cut off by a moat from the hinterland; the structure was surrounded by an earthen rampart raised on the edge of the spit. In the mid-14th c. this structure was replaced by a larger feature of two parts, with sides 20×14 m long, built of local marl stone; this structure functioned to around mid-15th c. A stone dwelling-defensive tower, constructed in the second half of the 13th c., was fully explored at **Slawków** (12), Katowice province (J. Pierzak, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Katowice). The tower, with sides 12×11 m long, and walls 2.3 m thick, as well as the courtyard adjoining it from N were originally surrounded by a moat only; in the 14th c. an earthen rampart was raised there, a small tower with a staircase was added to the main building, and a gate-house was erected in front of the courtyard. The feature was destroyed in the mid-15th c., possibly in 1455 during the Hussite invasion.

Three barrows with cremation burials, possibly in urns (parts of 6 vessels of the 8th-9th c., large number of cremated human and animal bones) were explored at **Mokre** (19), Zamość province, site 1 (W. Koman, Wojewódzki Ośrodek Archeologiczno-Konserwatorski, Zamość). The barrows, originally quadrangular with rounded corners, were surrounded by pits (they were absent on the S side); the fill of one pit suggests that it might have been a cremation place.

The investigations of inhumation cemeteries have failed to yield interesting results. The

following cemeteries merit attention: **Dębczyno** (1), Koszalin province, site 53 (A. Sikorski, Uniwersytet, Poznań) — graves of the 12th/13th-13th c. (among grave goods were 3 Brandenburg bracteates); in a female burial the upper part of the skeleton was removed and replaced by erratic boulders; **Orle** (4), Bydgoszcz province, site 1 (W. Kuczkowski, Muzeum Okręgowe, Bydgoszcz) — 4 graves, including one furnished with an iron scythe and an arrowhead (?), another containing an unidentified object of wood, leather and bronze; **Płock-Podolszyce** (9) (T. Kordala, Muzeum Mazowieckie, Płock) — the S limits of the cemetery have been established and 14 burials revealed, including 5 in coffins, one skeleton without the skull, furnished with a spearhead, a wooden bucket with iron parts and a knife; other graves contained large numbers of temple-rings of brass (!) and an iron needle.

Translated by Jerzy Kopacz

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