

# Forgotten History of Zespół do Badań Dziejów Szkła w Wielkopolsce (the Group for the Study of History of Glass in Greater Poland)

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**Abstract:** A Polish historian of glass Jerzy Olczak, who worked in Poznan for many years, brought together a group of enthusiasts interested in this subject. In 1981, he founded the Group for the Study of the History of Glass in Greater Poland (Zespół do Badań Dziejów Szkła w Wielkopolsce) to carry out field research for verifying glassworks sites in the region. Under a different name, this group operates to this day.

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I have never thought that I would study not only the history of archaeology but also my own past – in the context of archaeological research. Today, almost no one remembers the group of enthusiasts of archaeological and historical glass, which operated (and still operates) in Poznan. Therefore, I think that it is worth to recall this team of ‘glaziers’, especially that in my home archive I came across the protocols of our meetings which occur to be useful sources for supplementing the memory of the members.

The first person who comes to everyone’s mind when thinking about the study of old glass in Poznan in the middle of the 20th century is Jerzy Olczak (1929–2007), a graduate of the history of material culture in 1955 and a student of professor Witold Hensel (1917–2008). He started his adventure with archaeology at the time of millennial research (a research program associated with the forthcoming celebration of the 1000th anniversary of Poland, which involved the examination of archaeological remains linked with the process of the emergence of the state), interdisciplinary analyses, studies on the history of crafts, and the beginnings of experimental archaeology. During his student internship excavations at Kruszwica (Inowrocław district) in Kujawy he took interest in glass finds from this site. His master thesis written in 1955 was titled: *Rzemiosło szklarskie na terenie Wielkopolski i Kujaw w okresie wczesnośredniowiecznym* [Glass manufacturing in Greater Poland and Kujawy in the Early Medieval Period]. Having obtained a full-time assistant position at the Department of Polish and World Archaeology of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, he developed a pioneer study on technology of archaeological and historical glass and from 1962, in collaboration with Kazimierz Siuchniński (1928–1981; at that time Siuchniński was an assistant lecturer at this university and later he specialized in the Neolithic period), the study on past settlement in Pomerania. In the following

years, the research carried out by archaeologists from Poznan in Międzyrzecz and Kruszwica (among others) yielded finds of both ready-made glass artefacts and traces of glass manufacturing. In 1965, Jerzy Olczak defended an outstanding doctoral dissertation, supervised by professor Józef Kostrzewski (1885–1969), titled *Glass manufacturing in the area of Poland in the Early Medieval Period. The archaeological-technological study* [Wytwórczość szklarska na terenie Polski we wczesnym średniowieczu. Studium archeologiczno-technologiczne] (Olczak 1968; Przewoźna-Armon 2000: 11–124; Stolpiak 2009: 457–459). Among 164 scientific works which Jerzy Olczak published in his entire life, 98 positions were dedicated to glass manufacturing (Markiewicz and Nawracki 2000).

In the late 1960s, the head of the Department of Polish and World Archaeology of Adam Mickiewicz University professor Jan Żak (1923–1990) made attempts to broaden the scope of the Department’s activity. The task was not easy, because in the time of centrally planned economy Poland’s authorities decided about the number of university graduates and the majority of universities were allowed to recruit students every second year. It would have been extremely difficult to convince the authorities to create a new vacancy in this situation. Therefore, it seems that to realize his plans professor Jan Żak used a ruse: he persuaded the rector of the university and other governing bodies in Poznan to take advantage of the opportunities provided by provisions concerning ‘full-time docents’ issued after march 1968 in connection with the urge to fill in the vacancies after troublesome scholars dismissed from the university after the March events.<sup>1</sup> In the Department

<sup>1</sup> The year 1968 witnessed an outbreak of anti-government student movements in Poland. Many academics who backed the protests were dismissed from the university. It was difficult to replace some of the scholars and for this reason, under a special law, people with high academic achievements who had not yet acquired appropriate



Fig. 1. Employees of the Department of Polish and World Archaeology at Adam Mickiewicz University. 1973. Standing: Czesław Strzyżewski. Sitting, from the left: Jerzy Olczak – archaeologist specialized in glass; Jan Żak – head of the Department; (George) Opeoluwa Onabanjo – student; Maria Mucha – archaeologist specialized in glass, Kazimierz Siuchniński, Jerzy Fogel, Hanna Kóčka-Krenz. From the collection of M. Mucha.

of Archaeology in Poznań dismissals did not take place, therefore promoting a doctor already employed in this institution to the position of a docent could be a prelude to the creation of a separate Department in the future, particularly if obtaining the position of a docent would imply swift habilitation. On 28 March 1969, such nomination was given to Jerzy Olczak (Kronika 1975: 283), whose doctoral dissertation had been published only a year earlier. He had already written more than 60 works not only in the field of glassmaking. In addition, he participated in international conferences. Docent Olczak was soon appointed a consultant of two graduate students who wrote and defended their master theses (unpublished) under the supervision of professor Jan Żak in 1972: Maria Mucha (*Early medieval glazed pottery in Poland*) and Barbara Stolpiak (*The Bronze Age and Early Iron Age glass artefacts from the area of north-western Poland*).

The research plan of the Department of Archaeology in 1971 involved establishing a specialization dedicated to modern glass manufacturing (Stolpiak 1984a: 65); two years later professor Żak managed to create a scientific-technical vacancy to realize these plans.

degrees were employed for the positions of professors and associate professors.

Maria Mucha (Fig. 1 and 2), employed at a newly established job position, was responsible for collecting bibliography concerning the history of glass. A year later Jerzy Olczak and Maria Mucha outlined a long-term research program. Its first stage began in 1975 and involved a surface survey aimed at localizing and registering old glassworks. In the years 1975–1976 excavation was carried out at a modern glassworks archaeological site Bukowe, Słupca district (Mucha 1979: 181). At the same time, professor Żak initiated the creation of an international group for the development of a standardized description and technological interpretation of archaeological and historical glass – *Les Verres Anciens de l'Europe Centrale, d'Est, de Sud-Est et de la Region du Caucase*. In the following years, Jerzy Olczak was engaged as a dissertation supervisor of his graduate students specialized in the history of glass: Elżbieta Billewicz (*Glass artefacts from a Roman town Novae in Bulgaria*, 1974), Jarmila Kaczmarek (*Early medieval glazed pottery from Kruszwica, sites 2 and 4*, 1977), Bolesław Panczenko (*Medieval and modern glass utensils from Kruszwica, sites 2, 4, 5*, 1978), Joanna Trocha (Sawicka) [*Early medieval glass artefacts from Kruszwica, sites 2, 4, 17*, 1978] and Alicja Turno (*Glass artefacts from a Roman and Byzantine site at Novae in Bulgaria, from the excavation in 1976*, 1980).



Fig. 2. Maria Mucha by the catalogue of glass. 1981. From the collection of M. Mucha.

The first of the graduates left Poznan, but others planned to stay. Professor Olczak, knew that even if it would have been possible to create a separate research unit at the university, it nevertheless would still be extremely difficult to employ such a numerous group of graduates. Hence, he planned to maintain contact with his students and create a team of volunteers dedicated to the study of glass manufacturing. I heard about these plans at the end of 1977, when I was finishing my delayed master thesis, working already at the Archaeological Museum in Poznan. I was not thrilled with my working environment – I dreamt about the Department of the Early Medieval Period, while instead I received a position at the Department of Education. So I was satisfied when I finally came to work at the Museum's Archives. Having learnt about me changing the workplace, Jerzy Olczak was very happy and he asked me to join the group dedicated to the study of glass that was to be created in near future. In the past he had given me a lot of autonomy as a supervisor of my master's thesis, nevertheless there had been disagreements between us. Hence I was surprised at his offer. However, he saw in me a person who would and could, independent

from my boring work in the Research Record Office, carry out research concerning glass. I was invited to participate in all projects undertaken by the group for the study of glass, including the field verification of glassworks. Participation in this research would give me the opportunity to learn something new; in addition, due to the connection between glass and glaze, I did not have to give up my own interests. I agreed to join the group provided that they respected my autonomy. While writing my master thesis about glazed pottery I quickly realized that this was an 'artificial' subject. Then I became intrigued by building ceramics, both glazed and unglazed, in the Romanesque architecture. Above all, I was fascinated by the work of historian of art – Krystyna Józefowiczówna (1917–1985), who promised to let me study the material from her research in Trzemeszno, Gniezno district. To deal with this kind of pottery I had to obtain the consent of Włodzimierz Błaszczyk (1929–1989), the director of the Archaeological Museum in Poznan. In 1978 he agreed to this idea, provided that I decided to write a doctoral dissertation on this subject. Then, Jerzy Olczak told me that within the framework of the planned meetings of the group for the study of glass he would support me with his knowledge in the initial stage of my work on the dissertation, and after I collected the material and started my studies, he would recommend me to 'the best supervisor he knew', as he himself could supervise only doctoral dissertations concerning glassmaking. He advised me to be discreet in this matter until I received the support of the proper supervisor.

My cooperation with docent Olczak involved improving subsequent versions of the 'registration card of glass artefacts', presenting the results of different analyses and experimental archaeology concerning building pottery, collecting glass material from various museums on behalf of the Archaeological Museum in Poznan, test-reviewing of archive files of several districts aimed to recognize the character of information on glass contained in them. I worked on these tasks in 1978 and partly 1979. My supervisor was having more and more graduate students, but the group for the study of glass was still not formed. Then, we learnt unexpectedly that professor Olczak got the position at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun. One day, knowing that he was in Poznan, I ran to the university and asked him for an explanation. He calmed me down: 'I only changed my place of work, the rest is unchanged and our agreement is still in force'. And he soon disappeared. It is hardly surprising, as in Torun he became the head of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology; in 1982, he opened the Unit for the History of Glass and he was very busy fulfilling his duties. Professor Jan Żak, however, allowed Maria Mucha to continue her work; he gained her a scholarship from the University in Kiel (1985/86) and sent her to various thematic conferences.

In March 1980, I tried unsuccessfully to make an appointment with docent Olczak in order to decide on my own future. In August, when the strikes broke out, no one thought about practicing science. Finally, the initiative was taken by Barbara Stolpiak, who was writing her doctoral dissertation about the history of archaeology – *Rozwój prahistorii polskiej w okresie 20-lecia międzywojennego. Część I: 1918–1928* [The development of Polish prehistory in the first decade of the interwar period 1918–1928] (Stolpiak 1984b). On 20 February 1981, she invited all the professor Olczak's students remaining in Poznan to an information meeting (Fig. 3). All the invited came, with the exception of Joanna Sawicka, who, being employed at the Studios for Conservation of Cultural Property, worked mostly outside of Poznan and could not even dream of additional activities. The participants of the meeting included: Barbara Stolpiak, Maria Mucha and three employees of the Archaeological Museum in Poznan – Bolesław Panczenko, Alicja Turno and Jarmila Kaczmarek.

We adopted the name – the Group for the Study of History of Glass in Greater Poland [Zespół do Badań Dziejów Szkła w Wielkopolsce], in short Glass Study Team [Zespół Szklarski], and we appointed Jerzy Olczak, who was not present at the meeting, as the head of our team. We decided to carry out a twofold activity: first, the whole team was obliged to support individual research carried out by each member, and second, the members were obliged to cooperate within a national program of studies on the history of glass, if such a program was created. In the beginning, each member had a task of producing a paper on glass/glassmaking for publication. It could be based even on the master thesis, and it was to demonstrate the readiness for scientific work. The detailed plan of our activity included: 1) registering archaeological sites at which glass was discovered. This involved archival research in the Archaeological Museum in Poznan and research concerning relevant literature; 2) registering the collection of glass artefacts held in the Poznan museums; 3) registering glassworks located in Greater Poland as based on cartographic analysis, on the examination of *Geographic Dictionary of the Kingdom of Poland* (Sulimierski, Chlebowski and Walewski [eds] 1880–1914) and as far as possible, on surface survey 4) presentation of papers by the members was to become an integral part of each meeting. We decided that the final effect of our activities would involve publishing a monograph illustrating the history of glass in Greater Poland in different historical periods. Barbara Stolpiak was responsible for the Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age, Alicja Turno – the Roman Influence Period, Jarmila Kaczmarek and Bolesław Panczenko – Early and Late Medieval Period, and Maria Mucha – Medieval Period and Modern Period.<sup>2</sup>

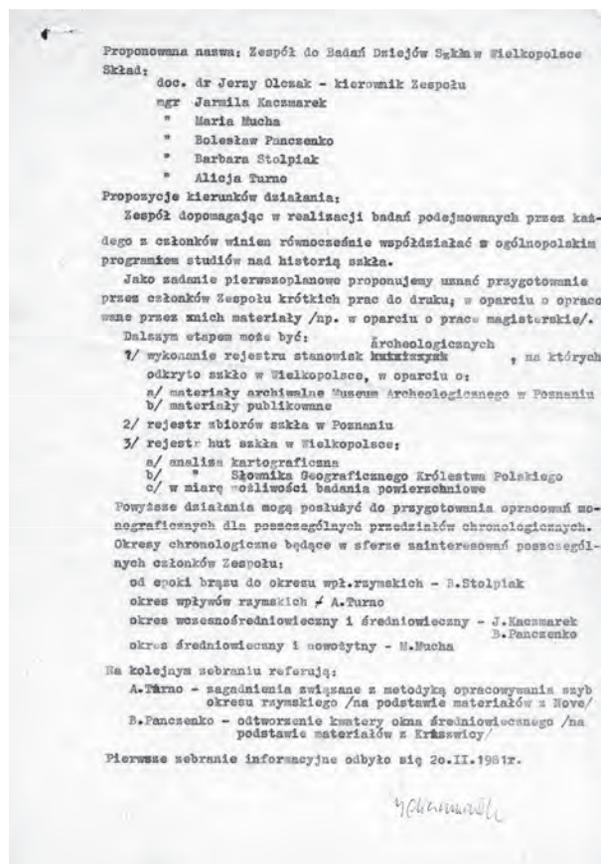


Fig. 3. Minutes from the information meeting of 'Zespół do Badań Dziejów Szkła w Wielkopolsce' (the Group for the Study of History of Glass in Greater Poland). 1981. From the collection of M. Mucha.

On 9 March, Maria Mucha and Barbara Stolpiak met with docent Olczak and informed him about the founding of the Glass Study Team and about the initial resolutions. They also discussed the subsequent versions of the 'register card of glass artefacts' and 'register card of a glassworks site'. Computers were unknown yet; instead, the use of punch cards was planned for recording and searching data. On 28 March, the complete Team met, including docent Olczak. The main subject of the meeting involved presenting the overall plans of the Group's activities. We confirmed the territorial scope of our interests (Greater Poland). We also discussed the planned research works, which were to be consulted and corrected by the members. My task was to continue with registering archive files of archaeological sites that contained glass finds, according to the resolutions formulated on 9 March. We planned to carry out field verification research. The rule not recorded in the protocol was volunteering: the members were obliged to work with no salary, but they could expect a refund similar as in business trips. We decided that if the project of founding the

<sup>2</sup> Report from the information meeting, 20 February 1981. The author's archive.

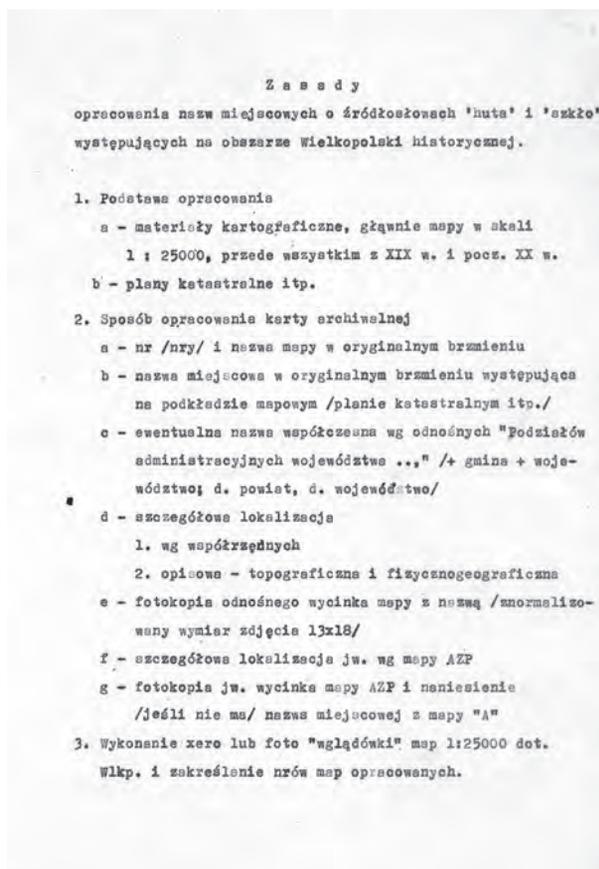


Fig. 4. 'Zespół do Badań Dziejów Szkła w Wielkopolsce' (the Group for the Study of History of Glass in Greater Poland): The principles of elaborating place names originated from words 'huta' (glassworks) and 'szkło' (glass). 1981. From the collection of J. Kaczmarek.

Centre of Documentation of Glass Manufacturing [Ośrodek Dokumentacji Szklarstwa] within the Centre of Documentation of Artefacts in Warsaw [Ośrodek Dokumentacji Zabytków, in short ODZ] was successful, Glass Study Team would coordinate its activities with the latter. Referring to the planned field verification of glassworks, docent Olczak outlined the principles of elaborating place names originating from words 'glassworks' and 'glass' occurring in Greater Poland (Fig. 4). On the initiative of Barbara Stolpiak the Glass Study Team decided to ask the management of the project 'Archeologiczne Zdjęcie Polski' (AZP; the Polish Archaeological Record project) to record glassworks sites dating to the period from the Middle Ages to the 18th/19th century. Preparation of the instruction for the participants of AZP was entrusted to Barbara Stolpiak. The project of the 'register card of glass artefacts' was largely completed, while the discussion on the project of the 'register card of a glasswork site' was postponed to the next meeting, at which two papers were to be presented: by Bolesław Panczenko and

Alicja Turno – both concerning the main objectives of articles prepared by the speakers.<sup>3</sup>

The next meeting was held on 25 April – the protocols are not preserved, so I can only refer to the memory of the participants. Alicja Turno presented a paper about glass artefacts discovered in Novae (in Bulgaria); in the following meeting Bolesław Panczenko showed a reconstruction of a window-sash from the castle in Kruszwica, Inowrocław district, and I – an article about Romanesque floor tiles from Trzemeszno, Gniezno district (Kaczmarek 1983). The discussion continued on the projects of register cards, however, the main emphasis was placed on the review of the military survey maps and other cartographic sources in terms of place names associated with glass manufacturing. Each member received a set of maps, which had to be returned with a list of the said place names and their location. At the end of this work Bolesław Panczenko left our team, preferring participation in an equally fascinating project of the Polish Archaeological Record (AZP).

In June 1981, at the meeting of the Polish Committee for Museums and Glass Collections ICOM (International Council of Museums) in Warsaw, the Commission for Development of Museology of Glass in Poland presented a 'program for the development of museology of glass and research on the history of glass and glassmaking in Poland'. They planned to establish a Museum of Polish Modern Glass, outlined the direction of further research on the history of glass in Poland, and decided to create the Centre of Documentation of Glass for recording any information concerning this material. The relevant resolution stated that the Centre of Documentation of Glass was not created in Warsaw, but, as previously proposed by Jerzy Olczak, in Poznań, due to the already existing Group for the Study of History of Glass in Greater Poland, whose members realized a similar, although limited territorially, program (Stolpiak 1982: 159–160).

When in the summer 1981 employees of the Department of Archaeology (including Maria Mucha) began their surface survey in search of glassworks in the area of Kalisz, they represented Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań and realized the program from 1974 (Mucha 1984: 84). Already in 1981, on the last meeting of Glass Study Team, docent Olczak informed us that he would suspend our meetings, emphasizing that this did not mean suspending the activity, but merely a temporary change in its form. For then, we had to deal with the most important task – carrying out field research on glassworks and collecting the relevant literature. Archival research was to be suspended until the approval and printing of the final version of the

<sup>3</sup> Report of the 3rd meeting, 28 March 1981. The author's archive.

register card (it has never been undertaken again). We were to return to our normal order of meetings after we finished field surveys. We also learned that docent Olczak planned the registering of our Group in the Polish Committee for Museums and Glass Collections ICOM. In fact, however, he registered the Group for the Study of History of Glass in north-western Poland [Zespół do Badań Dziejów Szkła w Polsce północno-zachodniej], including, apart from Glass Study Team from Poznan (further called Ekspedycja Wielkopolska – the Greater Poland Expedition), the team of researchers from Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, called Pomeranian Expedition [Ekspedycja pomorska] (Olczak 1984: 60–61). The programs of these two expeditions overlapped only partially. The field verification began, but almost to the end of work I was posted on business trips by the Archaeological Museum in Poznan as a member of a formally non-existent Group for the Study of History of Glass in Greater Poland. Maria Mucha started to use the name Group for the Study of History of Glass in north-western Poland, however, only in publications from 1990s onwards (see Appendix 2), when the details of the initiative which started in Greater Poland began to fade in memory. Years later, when the Team ceased to exist even in Torun, the achievements of Maria Mucha and Barbara Stolpiak were sometimes attributed to the Unit for the History of Glass of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, the head of which was Jerzy Olczak (e.g. Dekówna 2005: 7).

After obtaining her doctorate in April 1982, Barbara Stolpiak started work in the Library of the Institute of Prehistory, becoming the second member of the Team employed at Adam Mickiewicz University. At that time we began the field research, which involved also areas located outside Greater Poland, including Silesia and Pomerania. Until the beginning of 1990s a dozen of such expeditions took place, once-twice a year on average. All the expeditions were directed by Maria Mucha, who arranged the routes in terms of research and logistics, calculated costs and produced reports. The composition of the team was changing. Alicja Turno left the group, as she emigrated, and years later she published her article written for the Glass Study Team in a German magazine (1989). At the same time, we received support from the volunteers: Danuta Minta-Tworzowska (now professor at Adam Mickiewicz University) and two students, former participants of excavations conducted by Maria Mucha: Danuta Butka-Filipczak (doctorate on the Lusatian Culture, currently the director of the Treasury Control Office in Warsaw) and Bogumiła Twardosz. The employees of the Archaeological Museum in Poznan received non-pay delegations, the university provided an off-road vehicle and necessary materials (artefact register cards, bags, stationery, etc.), while costs of accommodation, allowance and analyses were

covered by the Centre of Documentation of Artefacts in Warsaw, where the reports from expeditions were to be submitted. The results of these investigations became the subject of Maria Mucha's doctoral dissertation. At the same time, Maria Mucha carried out excavations at selected glassworks sites; they were funded by Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, District Office in Słupca, The Provincial Protection and Conservation Service of Cultural Heritage in Konin, Kalisz and Gorzów, and the Province Office in Poznan. At the end of 1980s, the funds began to run out.

During the first stage of the expeditions, while setting the routes we were guided by information acquired from maps and relevant literature. After the training conducted by Maria for the participants of the Polish Archaeological Record (AZP) project, our Team began receiving the reports about the finds. My AZP group discovered glassworks in a village adjacent to Bierzwnik, Choszczno district in Pomerania. We carried out research among the locals and supplemented our knowledge through a field survey conducted in the surrounding area, where we found some further remains of furnaces. We collected material from the surface, made the planigraphy and other kinds of documentation. As a result of the surface-verification research we discovered and recorded in total 89 glassworks dating to the 16th–19th century and four supposed archaeological sites (Mucha 1996). In addition, the Institute of Prehistory of Adam Mickiewicz University carried out excavations at three glassworks sites located in three villages in Greater Poland: Bukowe and Huta Łukomska, Słupca district (Fig. 5), Stara Huta, Konin district.

One of the activities of the Team was participating in various conferences and presenting papers concerning glass/glaze. The first such conference,



Fig. 5. Maria Mucha at the excavation of a glassworks site in Huta Łukomska. 1979. From the collection of J. Kaczmarek.

titled *Contemporary research methods in the study of glass history* was organized in Sosnowiec on 17–18 October 1983 by the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun and the Museum of Modern Glass. Papers were presented by all the members of the Glass Study Team (five papers, see Appendix 1). The group from Poznan included four persons. In my paper, titled *Glazed pottery from Wielkopolska until the 13th century – methods of research and interpretation of the results*, I presented some parts of the thesis of my doctorate, which had already been at a quite advanced stage. Finally, although my presentation was well received, docent Olczak concluded that it was not good enough for him to keep our agreement. Years later, for various reasons unable to benefit from great kindness of docent Jadwiga Chudziakowa, I put my almost complete text on the shelf and had to take up other issues.

In the following two conferences dedicated to the history of glass, which took place in Torun (1986) and Vienna (1991), the Team was represented by Maria Mucha and Barbara Stolpiak, each with a paper (see Appendix 1), and in Torun additionally by Joanna Sawicka, who joined our team later. Until 1991, members of the Glass Study Team presented 12 papers, including the paper by Maria Mucha read during the meeting of the Polish National Committee 'Association Internationale pour l' Histoire du Verre' in Warsaw, the training for the participants of the Polish Archaeological Record (AZP) project, and my lecture presented in the middle of 1980s.

Already in 1986, Bogumiła Twardosz, who was a former volunteer of the expeditions for verification of glassworks sites and apprentice of Maria Mucha, defended a master's thesis supervised by docent Aleksandra Cofta-Broniewska (1926–2013), titled *Medieval and Modern glass from Lubiń in Leszno province, sites 1 and 1a*. She did not join formally the Glass Study Team, but she continued her work as a volunteer. For some time she worked at the Museum of the First Piasts at Lednica, but in 1989 she got a position at the Department of Faculty of Modern Languages and Literatures of Adam Mickiewicz University. In 2003, she started her work as the director of the Main Library of the University of Arts in Poznan.

As already mentioned, in the early 1990s, funds for field verification of glassworks obtained by docent Jerzy Olczak began to run out; therefore, our expeditions became one-day trips taken by private car in our free time. With the closing of the scientific-technical vacancy at the Institute of Prehistory and Maria Mucha moving in 1993 to the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Educational Studies, Poznan lost the only formal place for the study of the history of glass. The activity of

the Glass Study Team and even the Greater Poland Expedition was also suspended by then.

Officially, however, none of us wanted to end the project and for some time we waited for a good moment to realize further points of the program. The members of the old Glass Study Team consisted of two librarians, one archivist and one manager of a dean's office. For a while, each of us tried to go our own ways. Barbara Stolpiak carried out excavation in the area of a medieval post-Cistercian monastery complex in Bierzwnik, Choszczno district (she also studied modern glassworks located in this area), and she was writing articles concerning glass. Maria Mucha published articles in the journal of Jerzy Olczak, who in the meantime released his habilitation dissertation concerning settlement and in 1992 received a title of professor. As for me, in 1993 I submitted to the guidance of professor Zofia Kurnatowska – this mythical 'best dissertation supervisor' from the old stories of Jerzy Olczak, and I wrote a work on the history of archaeology (Kaczmarek 1996).

Having no place in Poznan to exchange research experiences, Maria Mucha, Bogumiła Twardosz and I initiated in the first half of the 1990s regular gatherings, in which we discussed the problems of glass, presented our views, and supported each other in our study activities. In January 1999, we decided to give our group a playful name: the Glass Sect. The name derived both from the group of people focused on a certain cause, meeting informally in a specific place and from a German word 'Sekt' (champagne). The formula of meetings referred to ancient Greek symposia. In the members' homes or in chosen interesting places, with exquisite food and drinks, we discussed glass, sometimes late into the night. We informed each other about our interests, achievements, or problems, exchanged and consulted our views, and recalled our old stories. The aim of the meetings referred to the program of the old Group for the Study of History of Glass in Greater Poland – they were meant to support individual research undertaken by the members and mobilize them to complete the already started work. For various reasons, the meetings took place once a year, sometimes more rarely, but if needed there was always a possibility of contact and solidarity.

The mutual support brought a positive effect in the form of two doctorates on glass, both at Adam Mickiewicz University. The first was obtained by Maria Mucha: *Glass manufacturing in eastern Greater Poland in the period between the 17th century and the beginning of 19th century* (in 2001) supervised by professor Jerzy Olczak. Bogumiła Twardosz started writing her doctoral dissertation *Glass in the culture of Poznan inhabitants from the Late Medieval Period to the first half of the 19th century*

under the supervision of Jerzy Olczak, but because of his death she finished it in 2008 under the guidance of professor Hanna Kóčka-Krenz. We participated in conferences, presenting five papers dedicated to glass and glazing and we published articles (see Appendix 1 and 2).



Fig. 6. Joanna Sawicka presenting a paper at a conference in Bierzwnik, 2008. From the collection of M. Mucha.

In March 2008, the meeting of the Glass Sect was attended also by Barbara Stolpiak and Joanna Sawicka. The latter worked at a science-technical position in the Polish Academy of Sciences, and she returned to the study of glass. Whilst maintaining the formula of symposium, we decided to re-activate the Glass Study Team; the issue of the name was left for our further consideration. We decided then to support Barbara Stolpiak in organizing a conference in Bierzwnik, Choszczno district, on occasion of the 400-year anniversary of the founding of local glassworks and we produced the relevant papers (Fig. 6). In the following meetings we discussed various proposals of activity, our own research, etc. We supported Joanna Sawicka in her work on a doctoral dissertation, which is now almost ready (supervisor – dr hab. Teresa Stawiarska). We wrote articles and took part in various meetings dedicated to the history of glass. We met irregularly because of the family situation of some of the members, however, the Team still exists and probably has not said the last word (Fig. 7).

The described history of Group for the Study of History of Glass in Greater Poland and its successors may lead to the conclusion that despite various difficulties, a determined group of enthusiasts can achieve a lot even if they work as volunteers. We verified through



Fig. 7. ‘Zespół Szklarski’ (the Glass Study Team). 2015. Standing, from the left: Barbara Stolpiak, Maria Mucha; sitting, from the left: Danuta Minta-Tworzowska (former volunteer), Joanna Sawicka, Bogumiła Twardosz. From the collection of M. Mucha.

field surveys a large number of glassworks in Greater Poland, wrote 45 articles on glass or glaze, and soon we will be able to boast of three doctorates concerning the problem of glass manufacturing. The achievements of our team are not the only ones concerning this field of study in Poznan; the subject of glass was also explored by Aleksandra Cofta-Broniewska, and recently several master theses on this topic were written. However, the impact of the Glass Study Team on popularizing subject of the history of glass is undeniable. Maria Mucha has contributed the most to the research on modern glass manufacturing in Greater Poland, and everyone who would like to study this problem has to reach for her works. However, her extended study was possible only with the results of our shared work that facilitated the growth of data. Each of the Group members has achievements in this field; however, they are more modest, since based on voluntary work. All in all, it is regrettable that interesting plans to create an institutional unit for the study of the history of glass did not produce lasting results.

Translated by Agata Kowalska

## Appendix 1

### The participation of the members of the Group for the Study of History of Glass in Greater Poland (Zespół do Badań Dziejów Szkła w Wielkopolsce) in conferences:

#### a. The Group for the Study of History of Glass in Greater Poland

1983. Sosnowiec. Conference: 'Współczesne metody badań dziejów szkła' [Contemporary research methods in the study glass history], organized by The Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Nicolaus Copernicus University and the Museum of Modern Glass. Papers:

- B. Stolpiak, *Klasyfikacja pradziejowych wyrobów szklanych*.
- B. Stolpiak, *Karty informacyjne jako wstępna dokumentacja źródłowa do badań nad historią szkła*.
- M. Mucha, *Badania archeologiczne jako metoda rozpoznania nowożytnego hutnictwa szkła w Wielkopolsce*.
- A. Turno, *Analiza morfologiczna szyb z okresu rzymskiego wskaźnikiem techniki ich wykonania*.
- J. Kaczmarek, *Ceramika szkliona w Wielkopolsce do XIII wieku - metody badań i sposobów interpretacji ich wyników*.

1986. Torun. The 2nd International Symposium of Archaeologists and Historians of Glass 'Stan i perspektywy badań nad dziejami szkła w Polsce' [The

state and perspectives of the study into the history of glass in Poland]. Papers:

- M. Mucha, *Stan badań nad średniowiecznym i nowożytnym hutnictwem szkła w Polsce*.
- B. Stolpiak, *Stan i perspektywy badań nad szkłem pradziejowym w Polsce*.
- J. Sawicka, *Stan badań nad importami szklanymi*.

1991. Vienna. 12 Congrès de l'Association Internationale pour l'Histoire du Verre. Papers:

- M. Mucha, *Die Glashütten in Grosspolen im 17. und 18. Jh. auf Grund archäologischen Untersuchungen*.
- B. Stolpiak, *Prehistoric beads in North-West Poland*.

1991. Warsaw. Meeting of the Polish National Committee 'Association Internationale pour l' Histoire du Verre'. Paper:

- M. Mucha, *Huty szkła w Wielkopolsce w 17 i 18 wieku na podstawie badań archeologicznych*.

#### b. 'Glass Sect'

1995. Warsaw. Conference 'Importy ceramiczne naśladownictwa - produkcje lokalne: metody rozróżnień i analizy' [Pottery imports - imitations - local productions], organized by The Commission for the analysis of Sources of the Pre- and Protohistoric Sciences Committee, the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Group for the Study of Pottery. Paper:

- J. Kaczmarek, *Wczesnośredniowieczna ceramika szkliona Wielkopolski - import czy produkcja miejscowa*.

1997. Warsaw. Meeting of the Polish National Committee 'Association Internationale pour l' Histoire du Verre'. Paper:

- B. Stolpiak and M. Mucha, *Nowożytny kompleks hutnictwa szklarskiego rejonu Bierzwnika, dawniej Marienwalde, XVII-XIX w.*

2003. Gniezno. Conference 'Początki architektury monumentalnej w Polsce' [The beginnings of monumental architecture in Poland]. Paper:

- J. Kaczmarek, *Początki architektury sakralnej w Kruszwicy*.

2003. Poznan. Conference 'Powstanie i rozwój Starego Miasta w Poznaniu w średniowieczu' [The beginnings and development of the Old Town in Poznan], organized by the Archaeological Museum in Poznan. Paper:

- B. Twardosz, *Średniowieczne szkło poznańskie*.

2006. Warsaw. Meeting of the Polish National Committee 'Association Internationale pour l'Histoire du Verre'. Paper:

- M. Mucha, *Badania nad hutnictwem szkła XIX w. na terenie Wielkopolski, ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem źródeł archeologicznych*.

c. The Glass Study Team

2008. Bierzwnik. Conference '400 lat tradycji szklarstwa w Bierzwniku i okolicy' [400 years of glass making tradition in Bierzwnik and its area], organized by the Commune Office in Bierzwnik, the Institute of Prehistory of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, the Association for the Protection of Post-Cistercian Heritage in Bierzwnik. Papers:

- B. Stolpiak, *Szkło witrażowe u cystersów na przykładzie opactwa w Bierzwniku*.
- J. Kaczmarek and J. Sawicka, *Szkło w średniowiecznej architekturze sakralnej*.
- M. Mucha, *Narzędzia z nowożytnych hut szkła w Wielkopolsce*.
- B. Twardosz, *Szkło w kulturze mieszkańców średniowiecznego i nowożytnego Poznania*.

2009. Warsaw. Meeting of the Polish National Committee 'Association Internationale pour l'Histoire du Verre'. Paper:

- B. Twardosz, *Naczynia szklane z badań archeologicznych w Poznaniu z okresu od późnego średniowiecza do pierwszej połowy XIX wieku*.

2010. Rzeszów. National Interdisciplinary Conference 'Dzieje szkła w Polsce' [The History of Glass in Poland], organized by the Regional Museum in Rzeszów. Papers:

- J. Sawicka, *Kwestia pozostałości wczesno-średniowiecznego warsztatu produkującego szklione płytki posadzkowe na Górze Lecha w Gnieźnie*.
- B. Twardosz, *Zagadnienia pochodzenia późnośredniowiecznych i nowożytnych wyrobów szklanych z Poznania*.
- M. Mucha, *Nowożytne piece szklarskie w Wielkopolsce. Między archeologią a 'Rozmową o sztukach robienia szkła...' Józefa Torzewskiego*.

2014. Wrocław. 1st International Symposium on Pottery and Glass 'Ceramika i szkło w kulturze antyku i średniowiecza europejskiego' [Pottery and Glass in Ancient and Medieval European Culture], organized by The Centre for the Study on the Culture of Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages of the Institute

of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Fine Arts in Wrocław, the Department of Conservation and Restoration of Pottery and Glass. Papers:

- M. Mucha, *Średniowieczna huta szkła w Wielkopolsce, w Sokołowie Budzyńskim, gm. Budzyń*.
- J. Sawicka, *Średniowieczne pracownie szklarskie w Międzyrzeczu*.
- B. Twardosz, *High glasses from Poznan*.

## Appendix 2

### List of articles concerning glass and glaze written by the members of the Group for the Study of History of Glass in Greater Poland/the Glass Sect/ the Glass Study Team:

J. Kaczmarek

- 1983. Romańskie płytki posadzkowe z Trzemeszna, woj. Bydgoszcz. *Fontes Archaeologici Posnanienses* 32: 83–87.
- 1990. Charakterystyka ceramiki budowlanej ze Strzelna, stanowisko 1. In J. Chudziakowa (ed.), *Z badań nad średniowieczną architekturą Kujaw i Wielkopolski Wschodniej*: 89–98. Warszawa, Biblioteka Muzealnictwa i Ochrony Zabytków B, 86.
- 1995. Ceramika budowlana ze stanowiska nr 3 w Łeknie. *Studia i materiały do dziejów Pałuk* 2: 227–247.
- 1997. Early mediaeval glazed Pottery of Greater Poland: Import or Local Product? In A. Buko and W. Pela (eds), *Imported and Locally Produced Pottery: Methods of Identification and Analysis*: 63–71. Warszawa.
- 1998. Wczesnośredniowieczne przedmioty szklone związane z magią z Kruszwicy. In H. Kóčka-Krenz and W. Łosiński (eds), *Kraje słowiańskie w wiekach średnich. Profanum i sacrum*: 549–560. Poznań.
- 2004. Początki architektury sakralnej w Kruszwicy. In T. Janiak and D. Stryniak (eds), *Początki architektury monumentalnej w Polsce. Materiały z sesji naukowej. Gniezno, 20–21 listopada 2003 roku*: 311–331. Gniezno.

M. Mucha

- 1979. Badania archeologiczne na terenie nowożytnej huty szkła w miejscowości Bukowe. *Rocznik Koniński* 7: 181–199.
- 1984. Archeologiczna weryfikacja nowożytnych hut szkła na terenie Wielkopolski południowo-wschodniej. *Acta Universitatis Nicolai Copernici, Archeologia* 10: 83–118.

- 1987. Badania archeologiczne jako metoda rozpoznania nowożytnego hutnictwa szkła w Wielkopolsce. *Acta Universitatis Nicolai Copernici, Archeologia* 12: 97–110.
  - 1991. Stan badań nad średniowiecznym i nowożytnym hutnictwem szkła w Polsce. *Acta Universitatis Nicolai Copernici, Archeologia* 18: 131–149.
  - 1993. Die Glashütten in Grosspolen im 17. und 18. Jahrhundert auf Grund archäologischen Untersuchungen. In *Annales du 12 e Congrès de l'Association Intenationale pour l'Histoire du Verre, Vienne-Wien 1991*: 479–486. Amsterdam.
  - 1994. Archeologiczna weryfikacja nowożytnych hut szkła na terenie gminy Bierzwnik, w województwie gorzowskim. *Zeszyty Bierzwnickie* 1 (1992–1993): 59–82.
  - 1996. Nowożytne huty szkła w Polsce środkowo-zachodniej w świetle badań archeologicznych (źródła). *Acta Universitatis Nicolai Copernici, Archeologia* 26: 85–138.
  - 1997. Dziewiętnastowieczne huty szkła w regionie Bierzwnika i Dobiegniewa w świetle źródeł archeologicznych. *Zeszyty Bierzwnickie* 2 (1994–1995): 59–82.
  - 2000. Badania nad technologią wytopu szkła w hutach Wielkopolski wschodniej od XVII do połowy XIX wieku. *Archaeologia Historica Polonia* 8: 247–280.
  - 2004. Hutnictwo szkła we Wschodniej Wielkopolsce od XVII do początku XIX w. *Folia Praehistorica Posnaniensia* 12: 317–322.
  - 2005. Ośrodki produkcji szkła we Wschodniej Wielkopolsce od XVII do początku XIX wieku. *Acta Universitatis Nicolai Copernici, Archeologia* 29: 77–158.
- M. Mucha and H. Kaczmarek
- 1981. Bukowe, gm. Zagórów, woj. Konin. Szelągi Jana Kazimierza z terenu huty szkła. *Wiadomości Numizmatyczne* 25: 54–55.
- B. Stolpiak
- 1980. Z badań nad wyrobami szklanymi w kulturze przeworskiej na Kujawach Centralnych. *Archeologia Polski* 25: 167–181.
  - 1982. Ogólnopolska konferencja historyków szkła. *Kwartalnik Historii Kultury Materialnej* 1982(1): 159–160.
  - 1984. Metoda archeologicznych badań powierzchniowych nowożytnych hut szkła. *Acta Universitatis Nicolai Copernici, Archeologia* 10: 65–82.
  - 1988. Szkło w kulturze społeczeństw przeworskich Kujaw – aspekt technologiczny. In A. Cofta-Broniewska (ed.), *Kontakty pradziejowych społeczeństw Kujaw z innymi ludami Europy*: 229–265. Inowrocław.
  - 1989a. Glass In the Culture of Przeworsk Communities in Kuiavia. Technology. In A. Cofta-Broniewska (ed.), *Prehistoric contacts of Kuiavian communities with other Europeans peoples*: 227–252. Warszawa.
  - 1989b. Z metodologicznych problemów klasyfikacji wytworów szklanych. *Acta Universitatis Nicolai Copernici, Archeologia* 14, *Archeologia szkła* 3: 3–11.
  - 1991. Stan i perspektywy badań nad szkłem pradziejowym w Polsce. *Acta Universitatis Nicolai Copernici, Archeologia* 18, *Archeologia szkła* 4: 17–29.
  - 1993. Prehistoric beads in North-West Poland. In *Annales du 12 e Congrès de l'Association Internationale pour l'Histoire du Verre, Vienne-Wien 1991*: 11–20. Amsterdam.
  - 1998. Paciorki naszyjnika z cmentarzyska w Inowrocławiu, stan. 58. In A. Cofta-Broniewska and J. Bednarczyk (eds), *Miejsce obrzędowe z doby neolitu i schyłku starożytności w Inowrocławiu st. 58*: 138–142. Poznań.
  - 2009. Profesor Jerzy Olczak (31 VII 1929–11 V 2007). *Folia Praehistorica Posnaniensia* 15: 457–459.
- B. Stolpiak and G. Brzustowicz
- 1997. Szkło herbowe z Bierzwnika. *Zeszyty Bierzwnickie* 2 (1994–1995): 141–144.
- J. Sawicka
- 2005. Naczynia szklane ze staropolskiego dworu w Czarnotulu koło Mogilna. In J. Bednarczyk and A. Koško (eds), *Od długiego domu najstarszych rolników do dworu staropolskiego*: 567–574. Poznań.
  - 2011. Późnośredniowieczne i nowożytne szkła z zamku kruszwickiego, z badań w latach 2007–2008. *Fontes Archaeologici Posnanienses* 47: 309–330.
  - 2015. Średniowieczne warsztaty szklarskie w Międzyrzeczu. *Slavia Antiqua* 56: 125–166.
  - 2015. Pozostałości wczesnośredniowiecznego warsztatu szklającego płytki posadzkowe z Góry Lecha w Gnieźnie. *Rocznik Muzeum Początków Państwa Polskiego w Gnieźnie* 1: 67–93.
- A. Turno
- 1989. Romische und frühbyzantinische Gläser aus Novae in Bulgarien. *Kölner Jahrbuch für Vor- und Frühgeschichte* 22: 163–170.
- B. Twardosz
- 2005. Wytworne naczynia szklane w średniowiecznym Poznaniu. In Z. Kurnatowska

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- 2009. Nowożytny kielichy szklane z Poznania. *Fontes Archaeologici Posnanienses* 45: 264–282.
  - 2011a. Szkło w kulturze mieszkańców Poznania od późnego średniowiecza do pierwszej połowy XIX wieku. *Folia Praehistorica Posnaniensia* 16: 361–369.
  - 2011b. Trzy późnośredniowieczne i nowożytny naczynia szklane z Poznania. *Fontes Archaeologici Posnanienses* 47: 303–308.
- M. Miśkiewicz, B. Twardosz, J. Dzięciołowski, J. Górecki and J. Wrzesiński
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