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## MAJOR RESULTS OF 1984 EXCAVATIONS OF EARLY MEDIEVAL SITES IN POLAND

About 80 early medieval sites were investigated, including 30 strongholds and early towns, 30 settlements, 15 cemeteries, 3 features of sacral Christian architecture and 2 presumed places of pagan cult.

Important results were yielded by the study of several settlements from the early phases of the Early Middle Ages. Excavations were continued on a settlement of the 6th-8th cent., situated near an early medieval stronghold at **Wyszogród** (13), Płock province, site 2a (previously site 13) (W. Szymański and team, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa). The discoveries included 3 square semi-subterranean huts with domed stone ovens in corners, 1 long post-building, numerous tub-shaped features; small finds included only hand-made pottery (in hut no 1) or with upper parts finished on the wheel, a comb with a triangular projection on its back, a segment bead of glass. Moreover, an enigmatic groove feature, shaped as the letter U (with arms 7 m long) has come to light; its fill contained animal bones, a vessel with remains of organic substance, and fragments of 2 vessels, one with the mark of a cross, another with an undetermined one. The investigations at **Dębczyno** (2), Koszalin province, site 38 (A. Sikorski, Uniwersytet, Poznań) comprised a semi-subterranean hut, 3 hearths, 16 domestic pits and 31 postholes of a two-phase settlement: of the 6th-7th cent. with pottery of the Dziedzice-Sukow type, and of the 9th-9th/10th cent. with pottery of the Szczecin-Menkendorf and Wolin-Fresendorf type. Rescue excavations of a multiculture settlement at **Kraków-Nowa Huta-Branice** (25), site 76 (J. Rydzewski and team, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Kraków) revealed 3 features with hand-made pottery of the Prague type: a rectangular hut with a stone hearth in a corner and with 2 posts, and an oval pit with an adjacent hearth on the outside. Eight pits (6 regarded as remains of dwelling features) and 1 hearth with fragments of hand-made vessels, vessels with upper parts finished on the wheel, and a few potsherds of the Przeworsk culture of the Late Roman period (in secondary position?), 6th-8th (?) cent., were investigated at **Walków** (21), Sieradz province, site 3 (B. Abramek, Muzeum Ziemi Wieluńskiej, Wieluń).

Among the strongholds of special interest is the two-phase feature of the 8th-10th/11th cent. at **Podeblocie** (22), Siedlce province, site 1 (J. Gąssowski and team, Uniwersytet, Warszawa). The foundations of the older rampart consisted of a row of quadrangular timber block constructions (with a quantity of complete vessels inside). The younger rampart consisted of vertical posts and timbering of boards, supporting a fill of sand; the whole was surrounded by a system of deep moats. The 4th season of excavations revealed a hypothetical gate of the older stronghold, further semi-subterranean huts with domed ovens of clay and stone in the NW or NE corner; at the entrance to one hut a spur of the older type with in-turned hook-like terminals was found.

The great strongholds of Little Poland are represented by **Tuligłowy** (27), Przemysł province (M. Cabalska, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków) where a box construction of the transverse rampart dividing suburb II and III, 11th (?) cent., was revealed; and by **Zawada**



(26), Tarnów province, site 1 (A. Cetera, J. Okoński, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Tarnów) where the inner rampart surrounding the central stronghold was investigated (the early phase with a clay core, an outer moat and a bridge-shelf on the inside; the later phase with a clay-timber bank and an inner moat); moreover investigations were begun on one of the three barrier ramparts defending access on the one gentle slope; the whole defensive system covering an area of about 10 ha is dated to the 9th(?)–11th cent.

Investigations were continued in the port town of **Wolin** (1), Szczecin province, site 1 (W. Filipowiak, J. Wojtasik, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Wolin) where successive levels from the 2nd half of the 9th and 9th/10th cent. were explored, revealing a street leading from the town to the quay, buildings, part of a keel.

The investigations of a number of major fortified urban centres of the Piast State yielded important results. The exploration in **Kalisz-Zawodzie** (18) (T. Baranowski and team, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa) revealed ruins of the oldest rampart of the 9th(?)–10th cent., of crossed logs and box construction, levelled in the 11th–12th cent. during the erection of St. Paul's collegiate church. No remains of the church walls were found, the only discoveries consisting of sandstone ashlar, fragment of a small column and glass fragment of a stained-glass window (?), found in secondary position. Activity of a smith and goldsmith (casting spoon, small hammers) and glass production were recorded

and numerous military objects came to light (spurs, boltheads, and a bone lining of a quiver?); another find was a lead pendant-amulet representing a dragon. The search for a church within the central stronghold was continued at **Łąd** (11), Konin province (M. Zeylandowa and team, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań) where only slight traces of the church foundations of unworked stones without mortar came to light (1.8 m long and 1.1 m wide); the rampart in the N part of the stronghold continued to be explored: the older timber-earth rampart propped upon step-like notches in the natural slope, the younger rampart of crossed logs. Excavations of a stronghold of the 11th-12th cent. were conducted in the isle of Ostrów Lednicki at **Lednogóra** (9), Poznań province (J. Górecki, J. Wrzesiński, Muzeum Pierwszych Piastów na Lednicy). The features explored included bottom layers of the younger rampart (just above the top of the older rampart was a cross-coin of the 11th cent.), a strip of stone revetting the lake shore outside the older rampart, domestic and dwelling features within the enclosure (one with foundation offering), and further inhumation burials in the cemetery adjacent on S to the pre-Romanesque sacral building. An unexpected discovery was made in **Gniezno** (10), Poznań province, site 15d (T. Sawicki, Muzeum, Gniezno) where a store of ceramic tiles, arranged in regular rows and piles came to light at the outer slope of the rampart of the early medieval stronghold; S and W part of the concentration, 45 sq m in size, was disclosed. Unglazed, probably mainly floor tiles were mostly unfired. Four types have been distinguished: two kinds of decorated tiles (anthropo- and zoomorphic motifs, rarely plant motifs), and two kinds of unornamented (including a group of thin tiles with a hole in a corner — perhaps roofing tiles). Nearby were remains of a small kiln, possibly for pottery firing. The tiles were accompanied by potsherds and a denarius of Bolesław the Curly (1146-1173), which date the find to the 2nd half of the 12th — early 13th cent.

Of the settlement sites from the late phase of the Early Middle Ages attention is claimed by the earthwork at **Wieleń** (6), Piła province (E. Wilgocki, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Szczecin) where exploration of the latest layers, 12th/13th cent., revealed dwelling features of timber and 2 timber wells differing in chronology (stratigraphical sequence) and in technique of building. The multi-culture site at **Wilkowice** (19), Sieradz province, site 1 (J. Błaszczuk, Uniwersytet, Łódź) yielded 2 hearths and 4 huts; 4 denarii of Bolesław the Curly found in one of the huts date them to the 2nd half of the 12th cent. The stratigraphy and topography of a Slav or Old Prussian motte were recognized at **Bachotek** (5), Toruń province, site 2 (K. Grażawski, Muzeum, Brodnica). An artificially made elevation, with the top 17×35 m, yielded 2 settlement layers of the 12th/13th to mid-13th cent. with a pottery kiln and 2 semi-subterranean huts, and of the mid-13th to mid-14th cent. with burnt remains of a timber tower in the E part of the enclosure; small finds included numerous metal tools (e.g. an axe, a hoe, a draw-knife, a finishing-spear), military objects (a spearhead, horseshoes, bits), a penannular brooch with animal head terminals; traces of bone and horn working were recorded.

In comparison with previous years the number of the West Baltic culture sites was relatively high. Attention is claimed by a Yatvingian settlement situated at the foot of an early medieval earthwork at **Rostek** (4), Suwałki province, site 2 (W. Brzeziński, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) which yielded a pit, a hut with a semicircular hearth of stone, and pottery of the 7th-10th cent. Two Old Prussian refuge strongholds, 2nd half of the 12th to 1st half of the 13th cent., were explored at **Weklice** (3), Elbląg province (A. Pawłowski, Muzeum Zamkowe, Malbork); site 2 yielded traces of a square gate-tower with a side 4 m long, built of oak (?) logs over a probably double-lane drive, and fragment of a building of post and wattle construction with a stone hearth; site 4 revealed 4 posts of a gate-tower, 2.5×3 m in size, with a rampart on one side and a palisade running along the edge of a precipice on the other.

Little information about the exploration of old sacral architecture has been obtained. This group of monuments includes **Lekno** (7), Piła province, site 3 (A. Wyrwa, Uniwersytet — Instytut Historii, Poznań) where beneath a one-nave church of the 13th cent., discovered in 1983, an older rotunda with an apse was disclosed; and **Wawel-Hill** (24), in **Kraków**

(A. Kukliński, Kierownictwo Odnowienia Zamku Królewskiego, Kraków-Wawel) where the full outline of the semicircular apse of the 11th century Romanesque rotunda, discovered in 1978, came to light (cf. „Sprawozdania Archeologiczne”, vol. 31: 1979, p. 283, no 21); the whole apse was filled with foundations of an altar.

No reports have been obtained on the study of cremation cemeteries from the early phases of the Early Middle Ages. Only the multi-level inhumation cemetery used in the 11th-13th and 14th-18th cent. (numerous coins) at **Sypniewo** (15), Ostrołęka province (U. Perlikowska-Puszkarska, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Warszawa) revealed 3 concentrations of cremated human bones without any grave goods. Among the cemeteries of the 11th(?) to 13th cent. with stone-set graves in N and NE Poland, the following merit attention: **Narajki** (17), Białystok province, site 1 (L. Długopolska, A. Piotrowski, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) – a further 23 graves, the dead with heads mainly to W (a child to S), including 10 with grave goods such as 2 bronze ear-rings with beads, tin temple-rings, glass beads, bronze finger-rings, a bracelet, an iron skewer with a circlet, and a „strike-a-light”; and **Klepacze** (16), Białystok province, site I (H. Karwowska, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Białystok) – 30 inhumations (3 with heads to E, the rest to W), only 5 furnished mostly with ornaments; the dead in grave 41 had an iron clasp and 9 coins of the 15th-16th cent. near the pelvis (this is either a modern burial or an early medieval one with the „hoard” added in later times).

Interesting results were yielded by the study of a cemetery without stone-settings at **Płock-Podolszyce** (12) (T. Kordala, Muzeum Mazowieckie, Płock): 33 burials, women with heads to W, men to E, exceptionally rich grave goods which include small silver plaited temple-rings of bronze, a silver star-shaped ear-ring, necklaces of glass beads, an amethyst bead, an finger-ring of amber with ornament engraved on the inside, a glass and a metal bracelet of east Slav type, a spearhead, a battle-axe and a one-edged sabre-like weapon with asymmetric cross-guard. 11th-12th (?) cent. The other two cemeteries of the 11th-12th cent., located outside churches, were explored at **Piotrów** (20), Sieradz province, site 1 (G. Rycel, Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne, Łódź) – 23 damaged skeletons, 2 with military objects (a battle-axe, a spherhead, knives, a wooden bucket); and at **Kocanowo** (8), Poznań province, site 13 (G. Strzyżewski, Muzeum Archeologiczne Poznań) – 6 burials, in 3 graves the dead with heads to W, in 3 to E, one skull surrounded by small stones; a wooden bucket, knives, glass beads (with a clasp fastening the necklace strings).

Attention should also be called to two features possibly connected with practices of pre-Christian cult. The settlement complex (an earthwork, settlements, a cremation barrow cemetery) at **Będkowice** (23), Wrocław province (H. Śledzik-Kamińska, Wojewódzki Ośrodek Archeologiczno-Konserwatorski, Wrocław) includes an enigmatic oval stone circle (10 × 20 m) with a large single boulder in its centre. Within the oval and in adjacent area two opposite quarters were explored yielding pottery of the 8th-9th (?) cent. Another feature, possibly of the 7th/8th-11th (?) cent., has been excavated for 9 seasons at **Radzikowo Stare** (14), Płock province, site „Gaik” (I. Dąbrowska, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa). The site has been assigned to the group of „pseudo earthworks” of the Szelligi-Hački-Zimne type. At the outer edge of a lofty hill protected by steep slopes there are grouped stone pavements, open hearths, postholes and oval deep multi-level pits serving cult (?) functions as is suggested by traces of intensive fire, stone constructions, large fragments of vessels concentrated at the bottom or in lower parts of the pits, consumption remains of animal bones. The central part is empty save for groups of large erratic boulders. In the later phase (9th-11th (?) cent.) layers of earth were added at least in the N and E part, there by artificially enlarging the top platform by some 5 m. Probably also from this phase date steps leading to the top of elevation (cf. „Sprawozdania Archeologiczne”, vol. 34: 1983, p. 315 no. 10).

