

HELENA ZOLL-ADAMIKOWA

MAJOR RESULTS OF THE 1979 EXCAVATIONS OF EARLY MEDIEVAL SITES IN POLAND

Investigations were conducted of about 60 sites of the Early Middle Ages and of about 20 sites of the High Middle Ages and modern times. In the group of early medieval sites settlements were numerically dominant (48 including 21 strongholds or early towns), followed by cemeteries (10) and hypothetical cult places (2).

From the earliest phase of the early medieval Slav culture (6th-7th cent.) of special interest is **Szarbia** (20), Kielce province, site 1 (B. Baczyńska, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Kraków) where the discoveries included 3 square huts (2 with hearths in NE corners) with pottery of the advanced Prague type (some vessels were decorated, 7th cent.?), covered by an accumulation layer over 1 m thick, which in addition to a large amount of pottery from various phases of the Early Middle Ages contained also a hut dated by a comb to the turn of the 10th/11th cent. **Osiecznica** (10), Zielona Góra province, site 3 (E. Dąbrowski, Muzeum Ziemi Lubuskiej, Zielona Góra) yielded 4 pits of which one contained hand-made pottery of 6th century date (?) and the remaining three had pottery of 11th century date.

Next phase is represented by a number of settlements with traces of iron production. These include: **Sulejów-Piaski** (14), Piotrków Trybunalski province, site 4 (M. Góra, Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne, Łódź) — 2nd half of the 9th to 10th cent.; 12 pits including 5 dwelling features, large amount of iron slag; **Pruszcz Gdański** (4), Gdańsk province, site 5 (L. J. Łuka, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk) — 53 features of a two-phase settlement (9th-10th and 11th-12th cent.), large amber beads, combs, pins and awls of horn and bone, knives, hooks and nails of iron, quernstones, a quantity of animal and fish bones; **Maly Płock** (8), Łomża province, site 2 (E. Twarowska, Uniwersytet, Warszawa) — open settlement of the 12th-13th cent, centred round a stronghold, 17 features including semi-subterranean huts with hearths in corners, 1 pit-dwelling, cellars and 9 hearths with remains of iron smelting and working (slag, tools, half-finished products, raw material), one feature showed traces of horn and bone working; **Wojnowice** (11), Leszno province, site 2 (D. Jankowska, Uniwersytet, Poznań, and Leszczyńskie Towarzystwo Kulturalne, Leszno) — further densely situated features of the 12th-13th cent., some with numerous pieces of slag and with walls occasionally covered by a layer of daub or lined with wattle.

Interesting features were revealed at: **Radom** (16), site 2 (E. Cwiertak, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Łódź) — fragment of a road of boards and beams fastened with vertically driven stakes, 2 square block-houses (sides of 2.75 and 4 m respectively), with floors of boards and with porches, 12th-early 13th cent.; **Krzesek-Królowa Niwa** (18), Siedlce province, site 3 (B. Hensel, Uniwersytet, Warszawa) — 7 features in the W part of the settlement of the 11th-13th cent. including one semi-subterranean hut with a domestic function, sunk to a depth of 1 m below the ground, with bottom and walls lined by boards and daub;



Map showing important archaeological sites of the Early Medieval Age, investigated in 1979. Number of the point on the map corresponds to the number after the place-name in text

Koło (9), Zielona Góra province, site 4 (G. Domański, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Wrocław) — a timber-lined well of the 10th-13th cent.

Only few strongholds of the earlier phases were explored. At **Żochowo** (3), Słupsk province, site 21 (D. Jankowska, Uniwersytet, Poznań) the defensive system of the stronghold of the 7th/8th cent. was recognized; the site was protected on three sides by a rampart and on the fourth by a steep scarp of the river bank; the rampart was built of timber alternating with clay and covered by sand; at its outer foot a gate and a drive were localized. Investigations of a two-phase stronghold (8th to early 10th and 10th to early 11th cent.) were continued at **Moraczewo** (13), Poznań province, site 1 (G. Strzyżewski, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań), revealing a well preserved stone facing of the older rampart and further parts of 2 large overground buildings associated with the earlier and the later habitation horizon.

The constructions of ramparts from various phases of the Early Middle Ages were also examined at the following sites: **Jedwabno** (6), Toruń province (J. Grzeškowiak, Uniwersytet, Toruń) — construction of crossed logs, partly perhaps of

wooden boxes, 9th-12th cent.; **Winnica** (21), Tarnobrzeg province, site 1 (E. Twarowska, Uniwersytet, Warszawa) — the base of a rampart, 10 m thick, consisted on the inner side of boxes, 4×4 m, filled with clay and sand and supported by a row of poles (spaced every metre), with adjoining domestic buildings, and on the outer side of a not yet identified timber-earth construction reinforced by stakes and a berm of clay; traces of two fires of the rampart; within the enclosure 11 features of the two-phase habitation of the 11th-12th cent.; **Kraków** (19), Wawel Hill (Z. Pianowski, Kierownictwo Odnowienia Zamku Królewskiego na Wawelu, Kraków-Wawel) — the base of the rampart from the tribal period (8th to mid-10th cent.) constructed of wooden boxes filled with stones and clay, was uncovered *in situ* and for the first time identified; **Szczebrzeszyn** (23), Zamość province (Z. Hoczyk-Siwkova, Uniwersytet M. Curie-Skłodowska, Lublin) — a rampart with its inner facing composed of several layers of stone and with a row of posts forming a palisade on top; **Czermno-Kolonia** (24), Zamość province (J. Gurba, L. Gajewski, Uniwersytet M. Curie-Skłodowska, Lublin) — within the stronghold (site 1) a clay oven from the later habitation phase and numerous metal objects, including a chape of a sword-sheath and a silver-plated iron spur, 13th cent. came to light; at the *suburbium* of the 12th/13th cent. (site „Mały Zameczek” — „Little Castle”), a rampart, 7 m wide at the foot, raised on a base of peat and tree-bark was explored; between the two features remains of a timber road, overlying the box construction of an earlier rampart, were uncovered.

Certain other earthworks explored for several seasons have revealed further data concerning their layout or the occupations of their inhabitants. **Myślibórz** (2), Gorzów province (B. Bojanowski, Muzeum Okręgowe, Gorzów) yielded a pit with unworked horn and finished knife-handles of horn, accompanied by a large number of mobile finds such as arrow-heads, iron knives and buckles, beads of glass and semi-precious stones, fragment of a comb, awls and needles of horn and bone, a silver coin from the 1st half of the 12th cent. found at the top of early medieval layers (the beginning of the stronghold goes back to the turn of the 8th/9th cent.). At **Szeńsk** (7), Ciechanów province (M. Piotrowski, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Ciechanów) features associated with the stronghold of the 11th-12th cent. were uncovered under the remains of a 16th century castle; they included 2 huts (one with a floor of birch wood laid upon groups of pegs strengthening a slimy ground), and a timber-lined rectangular well (?). Further elements of the build-up were uncovered at **Tuligłowy** (25), Przemysł province (M. Cabalska, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków): the earlier, of the 8th-9th cent. (preceding the construction of the stronghold), were represented by square and rectangular huts sunk to a depth of 1 m below the ground, with central hearths and in one case with timber walls, and the later, associated with the stronghold and dating from the 10th-11th cent., consisted of overground buildings with hearths in the SE corner. **Wybrzeże** (26), Przemysł province, site 1 (M. Parczewski, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków) yielded another square semi-subterranean hut with postholes in corners and in the middle of each wall, with an entrance on the NE side and a semicircular stone oven the W corner.

Important results were obtained at two early urban settlement complexes. The investigations at Wolin (1), Szczecin province, site 1 (W. Filipowiak, J. Wojtasik, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Szczecin) revealed a further layer (2nd half of the 10th to the turn of 10th/11th cent.) of the port town containing fragments of 2 streets (respectively 1.8 and 2.8 m wide) built of boards laid on longitudinal ground beams, a part of a timber-revetted jetty and a number of houses, one of which, built on a frame of vertical posts and with a plank floor, consisted of several rooms; objects discovered inside the house, i.e. fragment of

wood with a runic inscription, a small dragon's head in the Norman style (decoration of furniture?) and steatite vessels, indicate Scandinavian origin of the owner, perhaps a merchant. Large-scale geological investigations, supervised by archaeologists, conducted as part of the revalorization project of medieval **Kraków** (19), revealed in various parts of the town remains of early medieval habitation including a unique find at Kanonicza Street 13, consisting of an enormous hoard of iron axe-like bars regarded as monetary units (E. Zaitz, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Kraków). The bars, 4,212 in number, varied from 27 to 41 cm in length and from 0.35 to 1.75 kg in weight (the total weight of the hoard was 3.630 kg). They were hidden in a box of fir and oak wood dug into the primary ground at the outer foot of a palisade rampart from the close of the 9th and early 10th cent. (yet before the raising of the rampart).

The few cemeteries explored in 1979 included the Old Prussian cemetery of the 6th-7th cent. a **Nowinka** (5), Elbląg province, site 1 (M. Pietrzak, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk) which revealed a further 15 graves (nos. 106-120): human cremation burials (a richly furnished warrior's grave) as well as cremation and inhumation horse burial (all with iron bits and 3 with ornamented bridle mounts). Slav inhumation burials included: **Mroczków Ślepy** (15), Piotrków Trybunalski province, site (L. Tyszler, Uniwersytet, Łódź) — 10 graves including 2 with stone settings, containing 8 children's and 2 female burials, with heads to W, furnished with knives, finger- and temple-rings, 12th-13th cent.; **Czersk** (17), Warszawa province, site „Wzgórze Zamkowe” (Castle Hill) (J. Rauhutowa, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa) — apart from the rampart and block houses associated with the 13th-14th century stronghold, a cemetery of the mid-12th to 13th cent. continued to be excavated, revealing a further 78 burials in 4 levels, with heads to W, mostly in stone-setting or wooden coffins; **Lubiń** (12), Leszno province, site 1a (Z. and S. Kurnatowski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań) — under the foundations of the Romanesque church dedicated to St Leonard remains of an older stone structure came to light and in its vicinity a parish churchyard of the 13th to 18 cent. was discovered (477 graves in 4 chronological horizons in an area of about 200 sq m and 1226 individuals from the explored part of an enormous concentration of human remains accumulated there in the past from destroyed graves) — the cemetery has provided an excellent material for demographic studies of a particular spatial unit in the course of 6 centuries.

Investigations were resumed of a pagan cultic site at **Święty Krzyż** (22 — so-called Łysa Góra — the Bald Mountain), Kielce province (E. Gąssowska, Z. Woźniak, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Kielce). An inner transverse rampart composed of large stones and rubble on a base of flat stones was discovered. The space encircled by the rampart and situated below a rocky uplift has yielded a large flat polished stone carrying a vertically placed sharp-edged stone block. Other discoveries included a hitherto unknown south entrance into the area encompassed by the big rampart as well as roads marked by stone banks leading to the eastern entrance.



P 1177