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RESULTS OF 1970 EXCAVATIONS OF EARLY MEDIEVAL SITES IN
POLAND

In 1970 a further limitation was noted in the excavations of Early Medieval sites. Among the 84 or so Early Medieval sites examined, strongholds and early urban complexes, followed by unfortified villages dominate in number (40 and 25 respectively), whereas inhumation and cremation cemeteries (15 and 6), and relics of cultivated field (1) form a less numerous group.

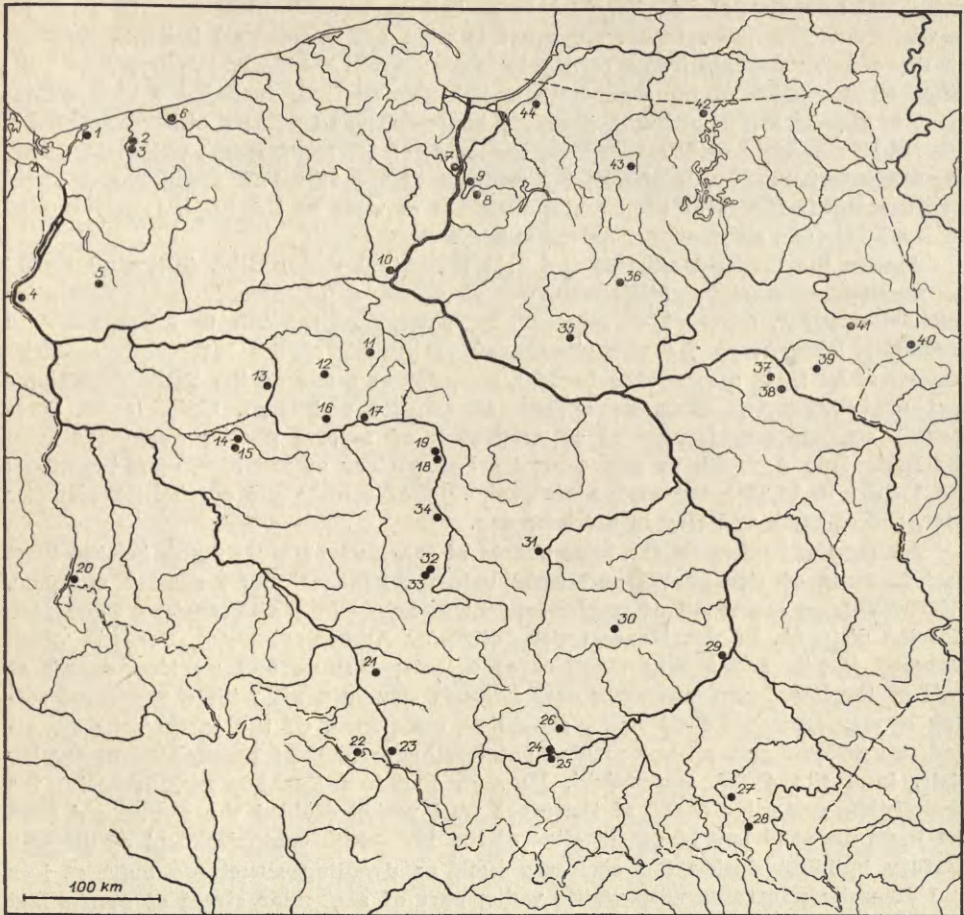
Materials from the earliest phases of the Middle Ages were found in two villages in Western Pomerania. The third season of excavations at **Dziedzice** (5)¹, Myślubórz distr. (A. Porzeziński, Muzeum Pomorza Zachodniego, Szczecin), revealed a further 21 semi-subterranean huts and rubbish pits, irregularly scattered over an area of 4000 sq. m and orientated SW—NE; they contained a lot of hand-made pots, mostly eggshaped and big-bellied of the 6th—7th century type, vessels for coruroasting, spinning whorls, iron knives and fragment of a casting mould of clay. Seven years' excavations of a complex of sites from the Roman and Medieval periods were brought to end at **Lubieszewo** (2), Gryfice distr. (R. Wołagiewicz, Muzeum Pomorza Zachodniego, Szczecin); site 9 (a settlement of the 6th—7th with pottery of Dziedzice type and of 8th—10th cent.) yielded two elongated semi-subterranean huts of the later phase, with hearths at the longer walls, perhaps covered with roofs made of boats (?); small finds included fragment of an Arabic dirhem. Important results were also obtained in the third season of excavations of a settlement dated 5th/6th to the mid—6th century at **Osieczna** (15a), Krosno Odrzańskie distr., site 1 (E. Dąbrowski, Muzeum Ziemi Lubuskiej, Zielona Góra), where further earth huts, hearths and pits (some with traces of smelting) came to light; they contained a lot of pottery which on the one hand showed links with the Prague type pottery and on the other was reminiscent of the Late Roman forms (vase-like, miniature and barrel-shaped vessels with inverted rims, sherds of "grey" thin-walled pots, boss-ornaments, etc.); other finds consisted of bronze objects such as a finger-ring, a fragmentary plate with point ornament, and hemispherical rivet-heads. Pottery which was dated by the explorer to the 5th—6th centuries was found in a layer underlying an earthwork of the 12th—14th centuries at **Widoradz** (33), Wieluń distr. (B. Abramek, Muzeum Ziemi Wieluńskiej, Wieluń). Among a further 8 unfortified sites which showed habitation traces of the 8th to 11th century, two deserve to be mentioned: **Barkowice Mokre** (31), Piotrków Trybunalski distr. (J. Kamińska and team, Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne, Łódź), where

¹ Figures following the place-names in the text correspond to the numeration on the map.

a cultural layer with hearths and a large number of 9th to 10th century vessels with upper parts turned on the wheel was located in an area of about 500 squ. m; **Boleszyn** (18), Turek distr., site 1 (T. Poklewski and team, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Łódź), where a four-year study of villages of the 8th—10th and 12th—13th centuries and of associated fields was completed revealing traces of Early Medieval plough-marks which covered the whole area of the former island (about 8 hectares); the field strips were found to be about 3—3.6 m wide with 11 to 12 furrows on each side running back and forth; moreover, differences were noted between soils cultivated since the 8th and 12th—13th centuries as well as since modern times (soil study by B. Manikowska, Uniwersytet, Łódź).

One of the earliest Slav fortified sites in Poland was examined at **Hańki** (41), Bielsk Podlaski distr. (W. Szymański, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa); a systematic exploration was commenced there of a high platform with traces of a surrounding palisade, and of a cultural layer of the 6th century (partly displaced or levelled by the later stronghold of the 10th—12th centuries) which contained scattered hearth-stones; small calcified pieces of bones regularly distributed; organic remains (e.g. lumps of charred substance mainly composed of millet grains); hand-made pottery, found in quantity; clay whorls; a clasp and a bronze mounting, and remains of casting (fragments of casting moulds of stone, small lumps of bronze, parts of ornaments). At **Lubomia** (23), Wodzisław Śląski distr. (J. Szydlowski, Muzeum Górnośląskie, Bytom), a five years' exploration was completed of a large stronghold of the 8th/9th to the close of the 9th century and of an earlier unfortified settlement dating from the 7th—8th centuries. In 1970 no habitation traces came to light outside the enclosure and within the additional rampart on the NE side. In addition to new data concerning the construction and destruction of the main rampart, and the layout of the central part of the enclosure, certain clues have been obtained which suggest that the unfortified settlement originated already in the second half of the 6th century.

Of other Early Medieval fortified sites the results obtained at following six should yet be mentioned. At **Mymoń** (28), Sanok distr. (M. Cabalska, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków), 5 pits (perhaps parts of post-buildings) with materials of the 8th to 10th century and a rampart of wooden boxes revetted with posts were examined. At **Strzelce Dolne** (10), Bydgoszcz distr. (C. Potemski, Muzeum L. Wyczółkowskiego, Bydgoszcz), five years' study was completed of a stronghold from the 7th/8th to the first half of the 12th century, surrounded by a rampart built of crossed logs with a clayey core and faced with beams on the inside; the discoveries included traces of buildings along the inner side of the wall, and plenty of objects (including hand-made pots or pots with upper parts turned on the wheel). At **Niedów** (20), Zgorzelec distr. (J. Pyrgała, L. Gajewski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa), continued excavation showed absence of habitation on the platform-forewall on the N side, four phases in the layers of the E part of the rampart (the earliest with pottery of the 6th—10th centuries and the later of the 11th—13th centuries), traces of smelting production during the earlier phase and remains of a timber house of the later phase, with two containers from tree-bark filled with some 100 kg of grain each. The exploration continued at **Smulsko** (19), Turek distr. (T. Poklewski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Łódź), included the rampart of crossed logs with a double palisade on the outside; evidence obtained suggests that the stronghold originated in the 8th—10th centuries and not in the 11th—13th. At **Bruszczewo** (15), Kościan distr., site 13 (S. Jasnosz, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań), three years' excavations were



Map showing important archaeological sites of the Early Medieval Age, investigated in 1970. Number of the point on the map correspond to the number after the place-names in text.

completed of a stronghold of the 7th to early 10th century, measuring 30 or so m. in diameter, with the rampart polygonal in plan and a forewall built of boulders on the outside; possible traces of a gate-tower on the E side and remains of buildings on the inside of the wall came to light; small finds included a rich assortment of objects (e.g. spurs with inwardly bent ends) and pottery either hand-made (ca 10%) or finished on the wheel. At **Baldram** (9), Kwidzyń distr., site I (M. Haftka, Muzeum Zamkowe, Malbork), the rampart of the 9th—10th century stronghold was examined; it was of timber and earth, 16 m wide at the base, stone-revetted on the inside and clay-covered on the outside.

Among the fortified sites of the Balt (Prussian) culture the following should be mentioned: **Bogdany** (44), Braniewo distr. (R. Odoj, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Olsztyn) — continuation, pottery of the 7th to 9th century in secondary layer (from the stronghold?), an earthwork of the 12th—13th centuries (among small finds a horseshoe brooch), a Medieval castle of the Teutonic Knights and **Węgielsztyn** (42), Węgorzewo distr. (J. Okulicz and team, Uniwersytet, Warszawa), sondage examination of an earthwork of several phases (materials from the Early Iron Age, 6th to 11th centuries and pottery of the Masovian type from the 11th/12th to 13th century), a rampart built of timber and earth in the earlier part, and of earth and clay in the later one.

Among the studies on the later phases of the Early Middle Ages, i.e. the Piast period, those of strongholds and early urban organisms merit special attention. Of the villages examined of special interest is only site 4 at **Przysieka Stara** (14), Kościan distr. (A. Prinke, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Poznań), which revealed 41 pits and 3 concentrations of objects; 2 spurs and an iron dagger as well as the lower part of quernstones lying *in situ* in a pit with a preserved setting of clay-cemented field stones should be mentioned. Of the earthworks examined, the following five have yielded noteworthy results. At **Kamień Pomorski** (1), distr. loco, site 4 (W. Garczyński, Muzeum Pomorza Zachodniego, Szczecin) the exploration was commenced of the inner wall which divided the stronghold from the town (three phases of construction of the 10th—12th centuries) and of the 12th century buildings inside the enclosure such as dwelling structures built of logs and domestic structures with wattle walls; part of a circular street of planks laid on logs and running along the inner base of the rampart was also examined; small finds included a wheel-hub, a wooden stool, fragments of boat sides, and netweights of stones. At **Raciaż** (35), Sierpc distr. (B. Buczek-Piachtowa, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Warszawa), exploration was continued of the partly charred constructions of the entrance to the 10th—12th century stronghold (pavement, ruins of some structure, perhaps a gate?, assumed traces of entrance barricade) and of indistinct traces of some structures (of posts ?) inside the enclosure. **Lednica** (12), Gniezno distr., site 2 (J. Łomnicki and team, Muzeum Początków Państwa Polskiego, Lednica), the examination of the suburbium was continued; the search for the eastern bridgehead on the island was unfruitful; changes in the morphology (i.e. increase in surface) of this part of the island were noted and timber constructions of the 10th—13th centuries revealed. At **Cieple** (7), Tczew distr., site 3 (E. Kuszewska, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk), three levels of cultural layers of the 11th century were revealed inside the enclosure (at a distance of several hundred metres another 11th century stronghold was initially examined). At **Damic** (26), Miechów distr. (T. Radwańska, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Kraków), a sondage was made of the rampart debris and of the cultural layer on its inner side (a hearth, a stone casting mould for crescent pendants).

One of the most fascinating and enigmatic features of the Early Middle Ages is studied at **Sandomierz** (29) in the area of the former *Collegium Gostomianum* (S. and E. Tabaczyński, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa). The two years of excavations revealed most of the surviving foundation and partly overground walls of a rectangular sacral building with slant buttresses in the corners and upright ones at the walls, built in the *appareil allongé* technique with the use of mortar. Because of the combination of the Gothic form and the pre-Romanesque technique the dating of the buildings remains an open question. The discoveries of 1970 included inhumation graves with temple-rings of the 11th—12th centuries, the graves being disturbed by the church walls which in this part showed traces of rebuilding (a slight turn in the axis, a different masonry pattern, secondary use of Romanesque architectonic details); accordingly, the *terminus post quem* of erecting the church or rather of its rebuilding has been obtained, the latter alternative being more plausible for the explorers.

Of the remaining nine sites with remains of strongholds or embryo towns the following five should be mentioned on account of the relics of stone or brick architecture produced: **Łąd** (17), Słupca distr. (M. Zeylandowa and team, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań) — excavation continued of the *suburbium* revealed habitation pits, remains of an assumed stone dam over the moat (gold bead and denarius of Władysław II) and outlines of a rectangular structure, 7 by 8 m, in the shape of an earthen floor with plenty of mortar lumps, broken stones and a few ashlar, and with remains of an assumed apse on the east side, surrounded with an inhumation burial ground. At **Sieradz** (34), distr. loco, Wzgórze Zamkowe (K. Nowiński and team, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Warszawa) — the circular brick structure which was revealed in 1969 has been identified as a rotunda because of an apse found at its east end; it probably dates from the 1st half of the 13th century and abutted on a rampart of wooden boxes of two periods of construction (end of the 11th to early 13th cent. and early 13th — end of the 14th cent.). At **Mogilno** (11), distr. loco (J. Chudziakowa, Uniwersytet, Toruń), archaeological and architectonic works were commenced of a Benedictine monastery, disclosing a window in the eastern, Romanesque crypt; the window bricked up in the 14th century shows that primarily the crypt was higher and the surviving barrel vault is not original; moreover a 12th century lay cemetery (male, female and children's burials), partially destroyed by a Medieval stone wall parallel to the crypt was examined. In **Poznań** (13), Garbary street 75/77 (W. Błaszczuk and team, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań), systematic investigation was begun of an 11th to 13th century village at St. Gothard's church and of the Dominican monastery complex of the 13th century; the northern limit of the village was established; other discoveries included a section of an assumed marketplace and parts of Romanesque foundations (possibly of St. Gothard's church of the 12th century), a 12th—12th century inhumation church-yard (with most burials in coffins), a tile floor of the cloister garth, and walls of the monastery dating from the mid-13th century and later as well as walls of the location town from the 2nd half of the 13th century. **Kraków-Wawel** (24) (A. Zaki and team, Państwowe Zbiory Sztuki, Kraków-Wawel) — between the west wing of the castle and the presbytery of the Gothic cathedral remains of a wall of limestone slabs joined by mortar probably with gypsum came to light; the wall, sunk in the layer from before the 11th century, may be a relic of the Romanesque cathedral I (ca 1020) or of a yet earlier structure.

In addition to the inhumation churchyards at Sandomierz, Łąd, Mogilno and Poznań-Garbary, mentioned above, the following churchyards can yet be mentio-

ned: **Kielce** (30), the Cathedral (J. Kuczyński, Muzeum Świętokrzyskie, Kielce), the exploration of graves from the last quarter of the 12th to the 1st half of the 13th century revealed four female burials noteworthy for the abundance of ornaments, only very occasional in cemeteries situated in the close neighbourhood of a church; they contained namely necklaces composed of 28, 50, 609 or 146 beads of glass and sometimes of bone, amber or rock crystal. **Cedynia** (4), Chojna distr., site 2 (H. Malinowska-Łazarczyk, Muzeum, Cedynia) — further exploration of an extensive churchyard revealed 190 graves on 200 sq. m, the dead with heads to SW, some in coffins, two in settings of field stones, furnished with parts of garments, ornaments, knives, steel-strikes, needles and numerous 13th century coins. Excavations at **Klasztorek** (8), Kwidziń distr., site 2 (E. Kuszewska, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk), yielded graves, partially disturbed by the Gothic church built in the 13th—15th cent., their only furnishing consisted of belt parts found in two graves.

Among the group of cemeteries not associated with church four sites in Masovia and Podlasie, with graves usually encircled by stones or under pavings, merit special attention. These are: **Łączyno Stare** (36), Przasnysz distr. (L. Długopolska, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa), 2nd half of the 11th to 2nd half of the 12th century, 20 graves, the dead with heads to SE and W (furnishing consisted of an arrowhead, tools, numerous beads); **Niewiadoma** (37), Sokołów Podlaski distr. (M. and J. Miśkiewicz, Uniwersytet, Warszawa), continuation, 11th—12th centuries; **Czekanów** (38), Sokołów Podlaski distr. (B. Zawadzka-Antosik, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa), further exploration revealed 22 graves of the 12th—13th centuries, with dead mostly in coffins, usually orientated W, furnished with 130 objects such as fragment of a spur, pottery, tools, ornaments; **Czarna Wielka** (39), Siemiatycze distr. (M. Pikulińska-Ciuk, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Warszawa), further exploration revealed 7 stone settings without traces of burials and 6 skeletons without any furnishing, found under a modern road. From the sites of the type described above the following merit attention: **Kraków-Zakrzówek** (25) (W. Morawski, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Kraków) further exploration of a cemetery from the 2nd half of the 11th to the 1st half of the 12th century disclosed 15 graves, the dead usually orientated with heads to W or E, relatively poorly furnished, *int. al.* with a bucket probably fully made of an ornamented iron sheet and two coins possibly of the 12/13th centuries; the western and partial northern limit of the cemetery was established. At **Masłowice** (32), Wieluń distr. (B. Abramek, Muzeum Ziemi Wieluńskiej, Wieluń), rescue excavation revealed 40 graves in five rows, dating from the 11th—12th centuries, several coffins, ornaments, tools, pottery, a bucket and coins (one of Bolesław the Bold); the dead — save one — with head to NE. At **Bugaj** (16), Września distr., site 9 (E. Cnotliwy, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Poznań) — 12 graves of the 10th—11th centuries were revealed, mostly orientated W, furnished with temple rings, tools, a clay pot and a bucket. At **Lubieszewo** (3), Gryfice distr., site 13 (R. Wołagiewicz, Muzeum Pomorza Zachodniego, Szczecin) — the discoveries included 9 graves of the 11th to probably 12th/13th centuries, orientated in various directions and poorly furnished (temple rings, a knife, a steel-strike and a denarius from ca 1190).

In the excavations continued of the cremation cemeteries at **Świłubie** (6), Kołobrzeg distr., site 2 (W. Łosiński, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań), 9th century barrows with pits or scattered cremations were examined, whereas at **Rozumice** (22), Głubczyce distr. (E. Dąbrowska, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Kraków), a large barrow, partially explored, revealed char-

red human bones mostly found on top and slopes as well as Early Medieval and Neolithic potsherds, the latter in quantity. Of over 100 barrows which were discovered at **Czarnorzeki** (27), Krosno distr. (J. Janowski, Muzeum, Krosno), four were examined revealing a cremation layer or accumulation of ash in the central parts of the mounds and a lot of Early Medieval potsherds in barrow no. 1. An assumed cremation barrow was explored at **Izbicko** (21), Strzelce Opolskie distr., site 2 (S. Pazda, Uniwersytet, Wrocław), revealing several concentrations of charred bones in the mound, and a gold ear-ring with a hollow pendant and granulation. Another two assumed barrows which were investigated at **Puszcza Białowieska** (40), Hajnówka distr., forest section no. 256 (I. Górska, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa), disclosed timber constructions regarded as fences in the central parts whereas no traces of burials or furnishing came to light. The only cemetery of the Balt culture was further explored at **Tumiany** (43), Olsztyn distr., site 1 (K. Dąbrowski and team, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa), producing human cremation graves (36 in pits and 3 in urns), dating from the 5th to 8th century (grave goods consisted of ornamented brooches of bronze, buckles, clasps, glass beads, silver and bronze harness mountings) as well as 6 horse inhumation burials, including 5 double ones, furnished with bridle-bits, iron shears, combs, ornaments of silver and bronze, and remains of a lavishly ornamented bridle found *in situ* on the horse skull.

