

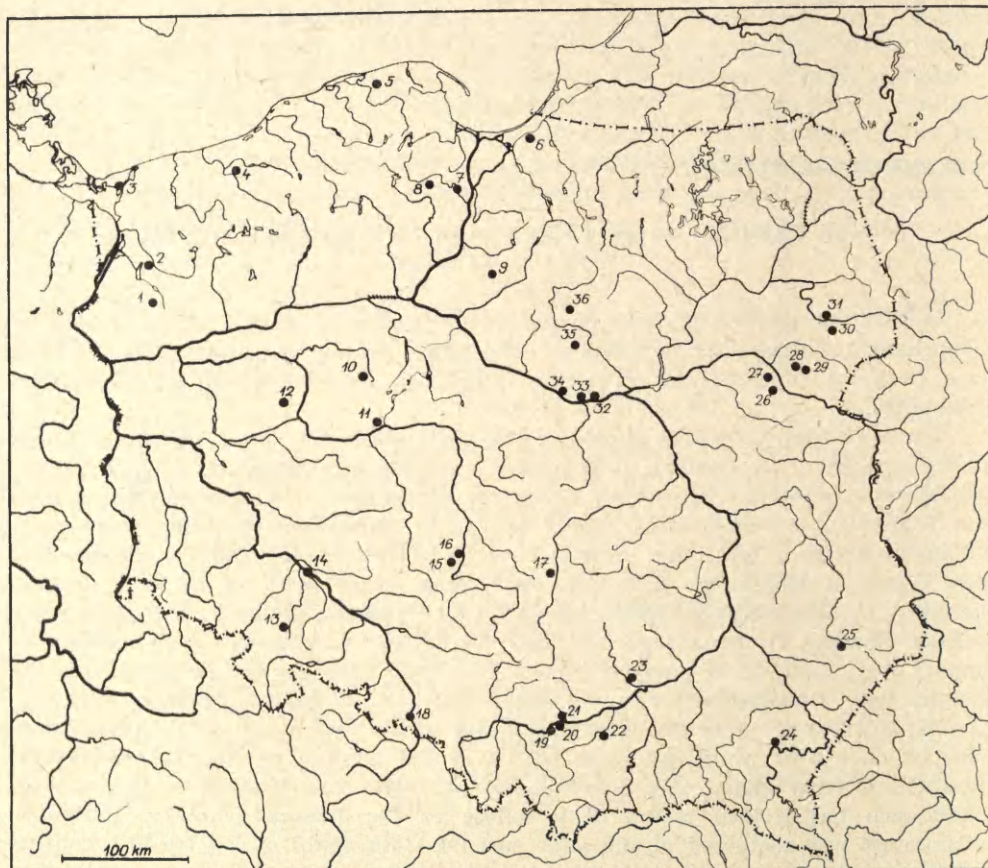
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## MAJOR RESULTS OF 1972 EXCAVATIONS OF EARLY MEDIEVAL SITES IN POLAND

In 1972 the number of early medieval sites explored was limited to around 80, comprising 27 villages, 26 fortified or early urban complexes, some sacral features (one from the pre-Christian period), 6 cremation cemeteries and 12 inhumation cemeteries.

The sites from the early phases of the Early Medieval period include a village of the mid-6th to 7th century at **Dziedzice** (1), Myślubórz distr., site 4 (A. Porzeziński, Muzeum Narodowe, Szczecin), where the continued excavation revealed a further 3 semi-subterranean huts and 7 pits with hand-made pottery, occasionally ornamented, and a few other objects such as knives, spindle-whorls and whetstones. Traces of habitation from the same period were disclosed in the following localities in Gdańsk Pomerania: **Pinczyn** (8), Starogard Gdański distr. (Z. Hołowińska, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk) — 6th century hearths with hand-made pottery and fragment of an iron brooch (?), a pit with pottery of the 7th to 9th century date; **Pelplin-Maciejewo** (7), Tczew distr. (A. Wapińska, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk) — a semi-subterranean hut with hand-made pots, some hand-shaped on a slow wheel, an arrowhead, a knife, worked antlers. The excavation of site 5 at **Niewiadoma** (27), Sokolów Podlaski distr. (M. Miśkiewicz, Uniwersytet, Warszawa) has yielded traces of a village of the 7th-8th centuries; moreover, exploration was continued of the later part (9th-10th cent.) of the 7th-10th century village on site 4 (10 pits with lot of pottery). New materials were obtained in southern Poland where the excavations at **Bachórz** (24), Brzozów distr., site 16 (M. Parczewski, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków) revealed 12 features (remains of overground houses, semi-subterranean huts, pits) from phases I and II of the Early Medieval period; small finds consisted of pottery including hand-made pots reminiscent of the Prague type and decorated vessels, hand-shaped with the use of the slow wheel. Investigations were continued of 2 settlement sites within Great Cracow (M. Fraś, Z. Woźniak, H. Zoll-Adamikowa, Komisja Archeologiczna Oddziału PAN, Kraków), i.e. at **Kraków-Dębniki** (20) — 9 pits and remains of overground hearths (?), 8th to 12th century, complexes of mostly intact preserved vessels, 2 spurs, a two-sided comb; and at **Kraków-Tyniec** (19) — 4 pits, 7th to 8th century (?), with numerous objects such as hand-made pottery similar to the Prague type and decorated hand-made pots with upper parts finished on the wheel, a pot-base with an impression of the wheel-axle.

In northern Poland exploration was continued of fortified sites from the beginning of the Early Middle Ages. The investigations at **Nidzóra** (36), Żuromin distr. (J. Gąssowski, Uniwersytet, Warszawa), have confirmed the chronology of the village and the stronghold (6th-8th centuries) and revealed further details of the construction of the rampart i.e. a high earthen mound topped by boxes of thick logs, and a box at the gateway, placed diagonally to the course of the wall. At **Haćki** (30), Bielsk Podlaski distr., site 1 (W. Szymański, Instytut Historii Kultury



Map showing important archaeological sites of the Early Medieval Age, investigated in 1972. Number of the point of the map correspond to the number after the place-names in text.

Materialnej PAN, Warszawa) further traces of 6th century habitation were revealed under the remains of a stronghold of the 10th to 12th century; the traces included concentrations of field stones, a burnt layer (which contained broken and calcified bones, potsherds, fragments of casting moulds, fragment of a comb, a bracelet and a belt-buckle, both of bronze), two parallel rows of post-holes on the edge of the platform and a heap of logs on its slope.

The investigations of proto- and early urban organizations from the tribal and early state period were mainly concentrated in Western Pomerania and south Poland. At **Bialogard** (4) (E. Cnotliwy, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Szczecin) under the relics of a stronghold of the mid-10 — early 11th century, discovered in the previous seasons 5 levels of earlier defensive construction of crossed logs were revealed: the oldest level (rampart 5 and traces of a settlement following the course of the rampart) — end of the 7th — early 8th century; the next two levels (ramparts 4 and 3) — 8-th-9th centuries, and finally two further phases that followed a short break in habitation around the mid-9th century (including rampart 1,

remarkable for its size, and three layers of large block houses from the end of the 9th to mid-10th century, when the stronghold enjoyed greatest prosperity). Excavations continued in the centre of medieval **Wolin** (3), site 1 (W. Filipowiak, J. Wojtasik, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Wolin), were confined to three habitation layers of the 10th/11th centuries (houses, a narrow street of planks laid on ground beams). At **Stargard** (2) (R. Rogosz, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Szczecin) the second season of excavations conducted in the northern part of the oldest town revealed 6 levels from the 9th-12th centuries, including well preserved timber-lined streets, block or wattle houses, and groups of hearths connected with production and smith's work. Excavations were resumed at **Wrocław** (14) (J. Kaźmierczyk, Uniwersytet, Wrocław) in order to study the area of the early medieval *suburbium* (or *suburbia*); the early Gothic layers uncovered there contained a number of valuable objects such as glass pieces of gold-covered mosaic, a concentration of stained-glass panels (remains of a workshop), and 12th century layers, of which only a part was explored, yielding box constructions (a rampart or domestic buildings), a building with a layer of charred corn, a gilt spur, a writing style of iron and other objects. The same excavator has obtained a series of 9th-13th century elements for the reconstruction of the layout and fortification of the stronghold, *suburbium* and village at **Niemcza** (13), Dzierżoniów distr., revealing two phases of the *suburbium* ramparts from the 9th-10th centuries, and a 10th century wall built of stones embedded in clay, surrounding the castellan's castle. At **Gniezno** (10) (G. Mikołajczyk, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gniezno) two-season reconnaissance was concluded of a refuge (?) stronghold, so-called „Gniezinek” (site 18), from the 10th-12th centuries; moreover excavation was continued of a known capital stronghold on the „Lech Hill” (site 15) from the 8th-12th centuries, revealing an assumed passage in the rampart that divided the stronghold from the *suburbium*, a burnt layer detachable at latest to the 8th century, uncovered under the rampart, and at another place the point where the rampart which surrounded the stronghold joined that enclosing the *suburbium*.

Investigations were continued of the pre- and early Romanesque monumental architecture which usually occurred on the sites of the above described group. The site at **Kraków-Wawel** (21) (A. Żaki and team, Państwowe Zbiory Sztuki, Kraków-Wawel) yielded 4 stone slabs with plant and zoomorphic ornament typical of the architectural decoration of Romanesque cathedral I; the slabs were found in secondary position in the area of the present-day cathedral. During the investigations at **Wiślica** (23), Busko Zdrój distr. (Z. Wardołowska, Uniwersytet, Warszawa), conducted on the „Regia” hill in the area of the palatial complex from the 11th to 11th/12th centuries, the extent of the buildings and of the inner courtyard was established. At **Czerwińsk** (32), Płońsk distr. (T. Mroczo, K. Ciuk, Uniwersytet, Warszawa) during the second season of investigations of the cloister of canons regular a number of architectural details of a Romanesque church were uncovered and the absence of an assumed crypt under its main nave was established.

Among the other strongholds of the 10th-13th centuries, investigated in 1972, the following should be mentioned: **Bialogarda** (5), Łębork distr. (E. Skarbek, Muzeum, Łębork) — during continued excavations the rampart of the 11th-12th centuries was explored (a kind of crossed logs constructions; the beams were more densely set at the inner and outer face, whereas in the centre the timber elements that joined the two structures were scanty); **Osieczek** (9), Wąbrzeźno distr. (R. Boguwolski and team, Muzeum, Grudziądz) — the first season of excavation revealed the construction of the rampart (wattle-riveted earthen core), the stratigraphy of

the enclosed part of the stronghold of the 10th-11th centuries, and the originally stone-paved courtyard; the discoveries at **Raciąż** (35), Sierpc distr. (B. Buczek-Płachtowa, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Warszawa), included further part of the driveway, 3 m wide, built of beams and passing through a rampart of crossed logs build, and fragment of an inner circular street, 10th-12th centuries. Four-year excavations were concluded at **Lapezyca** (22), Bochnia distr., site I (A. Jodłowski, Muzeum Żup Krakowskich, Wieliczka); as a result the date of the stronghold has been finally established as the 10th/11th to mid-13th century, and the existence of fortifications in the older settlement of the 7th to 9th century has been excluded.

Of the numerous late earthworks, including mottes and medieval castles, the following deserve attention: **Dąbrówka** (12), Poznań distr., site 1 (E. Naumowicz, T. Malinowski, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań), where the first season of excavation revealed a rampart of crossed logs, a moat, strengthened with fascine, a three-channel industrial oven and a building on frame of vertical posts, 7 by 7 m (dwelling tower ?) within the enclosure, end of the 12th — early 14th century; and **Majkowie** (17), Radomsko distr. (A. Chmielowska, Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne, Łódź) — two mottes on sites 1 and 2 (the first dated as the end of the 13th to 14th century, surrounded by a circular moat and a rampart, possibly of boxes).

Only settlements from the later phases of the early medieval period were examined. The only one to merit attention consisted of assumed salt-making installations from the end of the 12th to 13th century at **Białobrzeg** (11), Września distr., site VII (A. Jodłowski, Muzeum Żup Krakowskich, Wieliczka, and Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań).

Among cemeteries dating from the earlier phases of the Early Middle Ages attention should be called to the Old Prussian cremation cemetery of the 5th to 7th century at **Nowinka** (6), Elbląg distr. (M. Pietrzak, Muzeum Archeologiczne, remains of the funerary pyre, reas one contained a skeleton of a horse placed in Gdańsk), where continued excavation revealed 8 flat pit burials, usually with vertical position, and above it a human burial richly furnished with several objects such as an iron sword with scabbard, 3 iron spearheads, a bronze brooch, a drinking horn mounted in decorated silver sheet and a set of belt mountings together with a plate and buckle with open-work decoration. Important data were provided by two Slav barrow-grave cemeteries, with cremations, excavated on debate of the Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Kraków, i.e. **Racibórz-Obora** (18), sites I - III (E. Dąbrowska), 6th/7th-8th/9th centuries, where 4 barrows were explored (the exploration of one begun in 1971), producing burials on top of the barrow or in the mound, a narrow groove with burnt layer outlining a rectangle at the foot of one barrow, 7 fragments of iron objects and pottery; and **Guciów** (25), Zamość distr., sites I and V (H. Zoll-Adamikowa) — two barrows: of the 9th-10th centuries (?) and from the second half of the 7th to 8th century, with urn graves on top of the barrows (on site I perhaps placed on post) and remains of timber constructions (horizontal beams and posts) on the peripheries of the barrow (site V).

The relatively largest number of inhumation cemeteries not associated with a church was examined in the region of Podlasie, characterized by the occurrence of barrows and flat graves with stone constructions. The first group includes the cemetery at **Doktorce** (31), Łapy distr. (K. Chilmon, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Białystok), where a barrow with 23 unfurnished inhumations, of which part at least dates from the Early Medieval period, was explored. Flat cemeteries were examined in the following localities: **Czarna Wielka** (29), Siemiatycze distr.,

site 1 (I. Górska, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa) — 33 graves with 171 objects, discovery of a settlement contemporary with the cemetery; **Rybałty** (28), Siemiatycze distr. (L. Rauhut, L. Długopolska, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) — 24 heavily damaged graves, including one skeleton with a secondary cremation burial, 12th-13th centuries; and **Czekanów** (26), Sokółów Podlaski distr. (B. Zawadzka-Antosik, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) — 17 burials, mostly E-oriented, one in a coffin (?); the grave goods included a bronze gilt buckle, silver and glass beads, steels for fire striking, knife-cases. Two-year excavations were concluded of an interesting cemetery from the second half of the 11th to the end of the 12th century at **Pogórze-Parcele** (34), Płock distr., site II (K. Przybysz, Uniwersytet, Warszawa) revealing a further 11 graves (total 27), including one double with skeletons placed with heads in opposite directions, men usually oriented to E, women to W; apart from two graves the remaining ones were furnished; the absence of weapons and stone-settings, characteristic of this area (Masovia) is striking. Two cemeteries explored in central Poland should be mentioned: **Masłowice** (15), Wieluń distr. (B. Abramek, Muzeum Ziemi Wieluńskiej, Wieluń), where three-year excavations were concluded revealing 85 graves of the 11th-12th centuries, with heads to W and E (in the southern part of the cemetery the western orientation is dominant); a number of graves contained remains of timber settings; the grave goods, characterized by absence of weapons (only one spearhead) included a relatively large number of ornaments, knives, steels for fire-striking, pottery, buckets, coins; **Dębina** (16), Wieluń distr. (F. Cemka, Z. Pokuta, Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne, Łódź), where rescue excavations, begun in 1971, were continued of a richly furnished cemetery of the 11th-12th centuries, which yielded a further 12 graves including one rich male burial surrounded with a sort of a circular groove.

Attention should also be drawn to continued investigations of an early medieval urban complex at **Wyszogród** (33), Płock distr. (B. Gierlach, Mazowiecki Ośrodek Badań Naukowych, Warszawa), where new elements of a 7th-9th century cult centre were uncovered, including a stone circle with two stone slabs (an altar ?) and postholes in their neighbourhood; the circle surrounded a presumably block building which contained a second burial, perhaps linked with a cult, a horse skull, 2 sickles and 2 assumed stone sculptures.

