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MAJOR RESULTS OF 1971 EXCAVATIONS OF EARLY MEDIEVAL SITES
IN POLAND

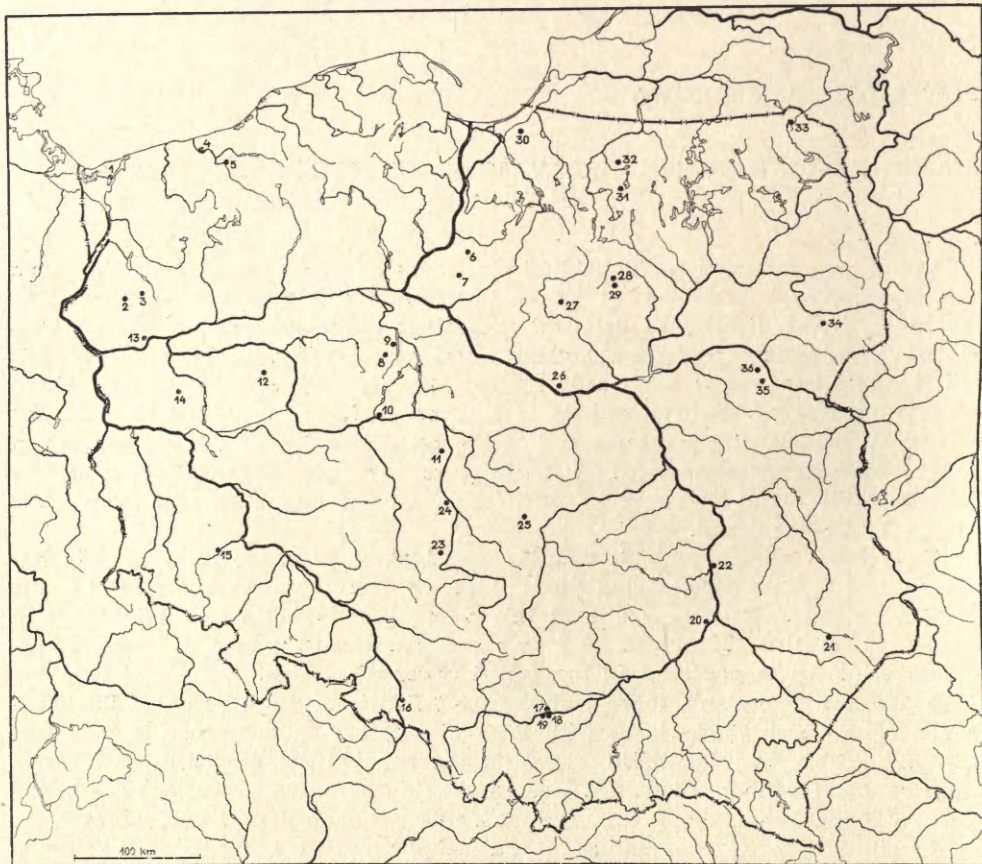
Remains of early medieval habitation, sometimes accompanied by relics from other periods, were examined on 120 or so sites. In this season much effort was devoted to the verification of assumed sites, their chronology and character. This has provided valuable data for archaeological cartography. In activities of this kind the area explored is necessarily limited. Because of this and of the restricted research programme the excavations of 1971 have yielded only few clues to the solution of fundamental problems and to the reconstruction of various spheres of life of contemporary population. Of the 85 or so settlement sites (including 35 fortified ones), 10 sacral sites and 22 cemeteries (4 of the cremation type) about 30% deserve to be mentioned.

The relatively most valuable results were obtained from the study of only few villages and 2 strongholds from phase I of the Early Medieval period, i.e. the 6th—7th centuries. Each new site of this period greatly helps to fill in the still numerous blanks on the habitation map and to recognize the basical outline of the cultural situation in our land in the period under discussion.

In Western Pomerania there emerges the *Dziedzice* culture group of the 6th—7th centuries which shows links with the contemporary *Sukow* group in Mecklenburg and which was identified owing to the excavations at **Dziedzice** (3), and **Derczewo** (2), Myślubórz distr. (A. Porzeziński, Muzeum Narodowe, Szczecin), and earlier at *Lubieszewo* site 9 (cf. „Sprawozdania Archeologiczne” vols. 22 and 23). The fourth season of excavations at *Dziedzice* revealed a further 6 habitation features (semi-subterranean hut) with hand-made pottery only; at *Derczewo*, a village covering 1 ha was discovered, revealing 7 domestic and habitation features with pottery of the *Dziedzice* type, occasionally ornamented and dated as the 7th century.

Excavations were continued of a yet undetermined early medieval cultural complex in the northern part of Lower Silesia and in *Ziemia Lubuska*; this complex, with pottery which shows links (?) with the Late Roman period, precedes here the settlement of the *Tornow-Klenica* group. At **Nowy Dworek** (14), Świebodzin distr. (E. Dąbrowski, Muzeum Ziemi Lubuskiej, Zielona Góra), the continued exploration of a village of the 5th (?) to 6th century yielded 12 features (2 semi-subterranean huts, hearths, smoking pits, etc.), 2 ornaments of silver sheet, a bronze finger-ring, hand-made pottery (e.g. low cups, biconical, bagshaped and “Prague” vessels), wheel-made pots (of the “grey ware” type), numerically inferior, as well as decorated vessels shaped by hand and finished on the wheel.

New villages from phases I and I/II and earthworks of early date continue to appear in northern and north-eastern Poland. These include: **Czekanów** (35), Sokołów Podlaski distr. (B. Zawadzka-Antosik, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) — inhumations of the 12th—13th centuries and a hut (?) with hand-made pottery of the 6th to 7th century; **Niewiadoma** (36), Sokołów Podlaski distr., settle-



Map showing important archaeological sites of the Early Medieval Age, investigated in 1971. Number of the point on the map correspond to the number after the place-names in text.

ments on sites 2 and 4 (M. and J. Miśkiewicz, Uniwersytet, Warszawa) — pits and hearths, some with pottery of the 7th to 9th century (hand-made pots, partly finished on the wheel, some decorated, imprints of wheel-axle). At **Nidzgora** (27), Zuromin distr. (J. Gąssowski, Uniwersytet, Warszawa), exploration was begun of a stronghold of the 7th to 8th century, located on the site of an earlier settlement of the 6th—7th centuries (a semi-subterranean hut, a hearth, a rampart built of boxes, a gate stone-faced on the inner side and diagonal to the axis of the rampart, approached by a paved road through surrounding bogs). Excavations were continued of a 6th century fortified site of undefined function (linked with a cult?)

at **Hački** (34), Bielsk Podlaski distr., site 1 (W. Szymański, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa) where a fence was examined and an assumed gate entry, linked either with the settlement or with the superimposed stronghold of the 10th—12th centuries, was discovered. Moreover in this part of Poland two settlements of the Balt culture of the 5th to 9th century continued to be excavated. Of these attention should be paid to **Franknowo** (32), Biskupiec Reszelski distr. (I. Dąbrowska, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa) where 26 features of the 7th—9th centuries, including 10 pit dwellings or semi-subterranean huts were discovered on the western margin of the settlement (in one of these a granite stone with traces of cuts, possibly a table, was discovered next to the bottom of a clay oven).

Of the other fortified sites of the pre-state period attention should be drawn to the newly discovered earthworks (A. Kola, Uniwersytet, Toruń and R. Boguwołski, Muzeum, Grudziądz), i.e. **Melno** (6), Grudziądz distr. site 1 — a stronghold of the 8th—9th and 10th—11th centuries with houses probably along the rampart, still 4 m high, located on the site of a settlement of the 7th century (in the earlier phase the rampart was of limestone with a timber base, 8 m wide, and in the later phase it was less wide with a clay core and a timber construction, now burnt); and **Ryńsk** (7), Wąbrzeźno distr., a horseshoe-shaped earthwork and an open settlement of the 8th—9th centuries, and an ellipse-shaped earthwork of the 13th—14th centuries. At **Smulsko** (11), Turek distr., site 3 (T. Poklewski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Łódź), exploration was concluded of a stronghold ultimately dated as the 8th—9th centuries, with a rampart of crossed oak beams revetted on the outside with a double row of posts set at the base. A habitation complex was explored at **Guciów** (21), Zamość distr. (H. Zoll-Adamikowa, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Kraków), where in addition to five cremation barrow-grave cemeteries of the 7th—9th centuries, formerly explored, two settlement sites of the 8th—10th centuries and a hill for were discovered. The oval-shaped fort was surrounded with five ramparts still partially preserved (the innermost of undetermined timber construction, the outermost showing two phases: the earlier with a rather loose core, and the later, of the 10th/11th—11th century, with a yet unrecorded stone structure in its outer bottom part which consisted of 3 to 4 step-like stone piles similar to boxes that formed perhaps a forewall or a foundation of the timber structure now destroyed). At **Rękoraj** (25), Piotrków Tryb. distr., site 1 (A. Chmielowska, Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne, Łódź), four-year excavations were concluded of a stronghold of the 10th—12th centuries with two ramparts, an open central space, probably paved, and remains of buildings probably of post construction located along the rampart (built of 24 successive levels of timber and clay); traces of habitation in the space between the ramparts.

Traces of intensive habitation of the open type of the 8th (?) — 10th and 11th—13th centuries were revealed at **Kraków-Dębniki** (18) (M. Fraś, Państwowe Zbiory Sztuki, Kraków-Wawel): pits with a lot of pottery (including white-clay pots of Little-Polish type, imprints of wheel axle), 2 spurs of the 10th—10th/11th centuries, fragment of a bronze bracelet. At **Piotrawin** (22), Opole Lubelskie district, site 1 (M. Sułowska, Katolicki Uniwersytet, Lublin), further elements of a two-phase settlement were revealed, the earlier phase dating from the 8th—9th centuries (a semi-subterranean hut with a lot of pottery, a large spindle-whorl, 11—12 cm across, with the representation of the sun-disc (?), and the later of the 12th—13th centuries (2 semi-subterranean huts connected by a corridor, an overground building with planks housed into the slots in vertical corner posts — the "post-yoke" con-

struction, white pottery of eastern type, 2 silver finger-rings, shears, a lot of fish scales and bones, bones of wild animals, snail shells).

Of the numerous sites with traces of open settlements of the 10th—13th centuries the following should be mentioned: **Smolniki** (33), Suwałki distr. (K. Chilmon, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Białystok) — an overground post building, pits and a cultural layer with a quantity of fish and animal remains, potshered, some with wavy ornament; **Lupowo** (13), Gorzów Wielkopolski distr. (T. Seniów, Muzeum, Gorzów) — a hearth, a lot of small finds including fragment of a leather sword-sheath with lead mountings, slags, 10th/11th century; **Komorowo** (12), Szamotuły distr., site 1 (T. Malinowski, E. Naumowicz, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań) — a lake island with an earthwork of the Lusatian culture and traces of intensive habitation of the 10th—13th centuries (fragment of a glass vessel); **Broniewice** (9), Mogilno distr., site 4 (E. Krause, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Poznań) — several features of the 12th—13th centuries, 2 ornamented combs, a horn object with plaited decoration, a clasp, a pointed object with a circle.

Of the early urban organism, studied in this season, we should mention **Wolin** (1), site 1 (W. Filipowiak, J. Wojtasik, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Wolin) where the centre of the early medieval trading town was explored; layers VI, VII and VIII (the oldest with a coin from the second half of the 11th century) revealed fragment of a road, 1.85 m wide, built of long beams, planks and fascine, with adjoining houses mostly of wattle and daub, whereas small finds, discovered in quantity, included crucibles for smelting non-ferrous metals, slags, beads and pendants of glass and amber, parts of footwear, etc. Investigations at **Białogard** (5) (E. Cnotliwy, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Szczecin) revealed 3 habitation levels with well preserved large block houses of the mid-10th-early 11th century, a rampart of crossed logs with hooks, between the rampart and the buildings an open space paved with planks, scarcity of small finds, no evidence of production of any kind. Investigations were continued of an early urban complex and stronghold at **Sandomierz** (20) (S. Tabaczyński and team, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa) where the details of the 11th—13th century fortifications on *Wzgórze Zamkowe* were fully revealed (on the edge of the hill a rampart of boxes and at its foot an outer rampart with a palisade and an abatis). On the site of the former *Collegium Gostomianum* two occupational phases different in character were distinguished: an earlier, represented by an open settlement associated with the stronghold, 2nd half of the 10th—11th century, and a second beginning at the end of the 11th century, represented by a churchyard (grave goods including a few ornaments and parts of dress), located near a sacral building (either a rectangular one with buttresses, discovered in former seasons, or an earlier building, now destroyed, and attested by only few architectural details). The eighth season of investigations at **Łąd** (10), Słupca distr. (M. Zeylandowa, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań), revealed the defensive construction of an 11th century stronghold (oak logs with hooks transverse to the direction of the rampart) as well as the eastern limit of a churchyard (?) located within the stronghold (burials with heads to W, absence of grave goods); in the *suburbium* exploration was continued of a rectangular church with an apse and a hypothetical centry on the S side, surrounded on S and W by an inhumation cemetery (63 graves with temple-rings of the 12th-mid 13th century). Important results were obtained from the study of a stronghold of the 10th—11th century with a Benedictine cloister complex at **Mogilno** (8) (J. Chudziakowa and team, Uniwersytet, Toruń): the discoveries included Romanesque foundations of an apse, a transept and a nave (?)

of the 11th century (stones bound by clay) as well as medieval layers revealed under the foundations of a surviving Romanesque west crypt (suggesting its later rebuilding ?), whereas the east crypt contained an abbot's grave with a tin crosier and a male burial in a tomb of the oldest, early Gothic brick, furnished with a richly decorated Romanesque vessel, so-called *aqua manilla* in the shape of a stylized horse (12th century?).

Of the other sites with remains of architecture of early and later medieval date attention should be drawn to **Legnica** (15) (J. Rozpędowski, C. Lasota, Politechnika, Wrocław) where under the existing church dedicated to the Virgin Mary and dated as the 2nd half of the 14th century remains of two older sacral buildings have come to light; i.e. a Romanesque one (12th century ?) built of red sandstone ashlars with one nave, a square presbiterium and a semicircular apse, and the other of early Gothic date (ca mid-13th century) built of brick, with three naves and a two-span square presbiterium. The investigations continued of the fortified complex (end of 11th—end of 14th century) and of the castle (14th to 18th century) at **Sieradz** (24), *Wzgórze Zamkowe* (K. Nowiński, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Warszawa) produced the negative of the ceiling found 2 m above the „floor” of a brick rotunda of the 13th century (discovered in former seasons). In **Kraków-Wawel** (17) (A. Zaki, S. Kozieł, Państwowe Zbiory Sztuki, Kraków-Wawel) further parts of walls of a pre-Romanesque sacral building (so-called church B) or of adjacent buildings and an inhumation cemetery were uncovered in the S part of the hill.

Apart from the cemeteries at Sandomierz, Kraków-Wawel, Mogilno, Łąd, and Czekanów, mentioned above, attention should be drawn to the following inhumation cemeteries unassociated with churches, i.e. **Kraków-Zakrzówek** (19) (E. Zaitz and team, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Kraków) — continuation, in the N part of the cemetery all burials with heads to W, poor furniture (later part of the cemetery or part used by a poorer population ?); **Masłowice** (23), Wieluń distr. (B. Abramek, Muzeum Ziemi Wieluńskiej, Wieluń) — a further 25 graves of the 11th to 12th century, furnished with clay pots (9 burials), a wooden bucket, a steel for fire striking, whetstones, temple-rings, beads of semi-precious stones and glass (2 with gilded foil), 3 coins; **Podgórze-Parcele** (26), Płock distr., site II (K. Przybysz, Uniwersytet, Warszawa) — excavation was commenced of a multi-level cemetery dated by the excavator as the 12th—13th centuries (?), the skeletons mostly E-oriented, the grave goods including a sickle, a spindle-whorl, a steel for fire striking, temple-rings, an ear-ring, vessels, coins; **Tańsk-Przedbory** (28), Przasnysz distr. (L. Rauhut, L. Długopolska, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa), 38 inhumations, end of 11th—12th century (one collective burial and several double), usually in stone settings, numerous objects of everyday use and ornaments (one of the female graves contained a set of silver ornaments and bloodstone beads probably in a sort of a purse), weapons, wooden buckets; two unfurnished cremations in pits dug into pavements which overlay inhumations.

On the cremation cemetery at **Świelubie** (4), Kołobrzeg distr., site 2 (W. Łosiński, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Szczecin), a further 4 cremation barrows of the 9th century, 2 flat cremation graves and one partial inhumation beyond the barrows were examined. The investigations at **Kęsocha** (29), Przasnysz distr., site 2 (J. Okulicz, Uniwersytet, Warszawa), included 3 barrows with stone structures and cremations, perhaps of early medieval date, and flat (?) pit cremations under pavements of the 11th—12th centuries. The excavations at **Racibórz-Obora** (16) (E. Dąbrowska, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Kraków)

comprised 2 barrows of the 8th—9th centuries (?) with a burial in the mound (?) and on top of the barrow, and an assumed cremation pit burial in an oblong ditch.

Moreover two cemeteries of the Balts were examined. At **Tumiany** (31), Olsztyn distr., site 1 (K. Dąbrowski and team, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa), exploration was concluded of a cemetery of the 5th—8th centuries, which in this season produced 15 poorly furnished human cremations (11 in pits, 1 in urn) and 6 skeleton horse burials, one with a complete bridle on the head of the horse, i.e. a bit, a set of rosettes and bronze plates with rivets, which decorated the straps, 2 bronze claps and 2 bronze strap-ends and an iron claps at the level of the belly. The cemetery of the 5th—6th centuries at **Nowinka** (30), Elbląg distr., site 1 (M. Pietrzak, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk), yielded 9 human cremations in pits (only one furnished with 2 brooches, 2 bronze bracelets and an iron knife), and a skeleton of a horse with an iron bit and bronze mountings of the bridle-straps.