

HELENA ZOLL-ADAMIKOWA

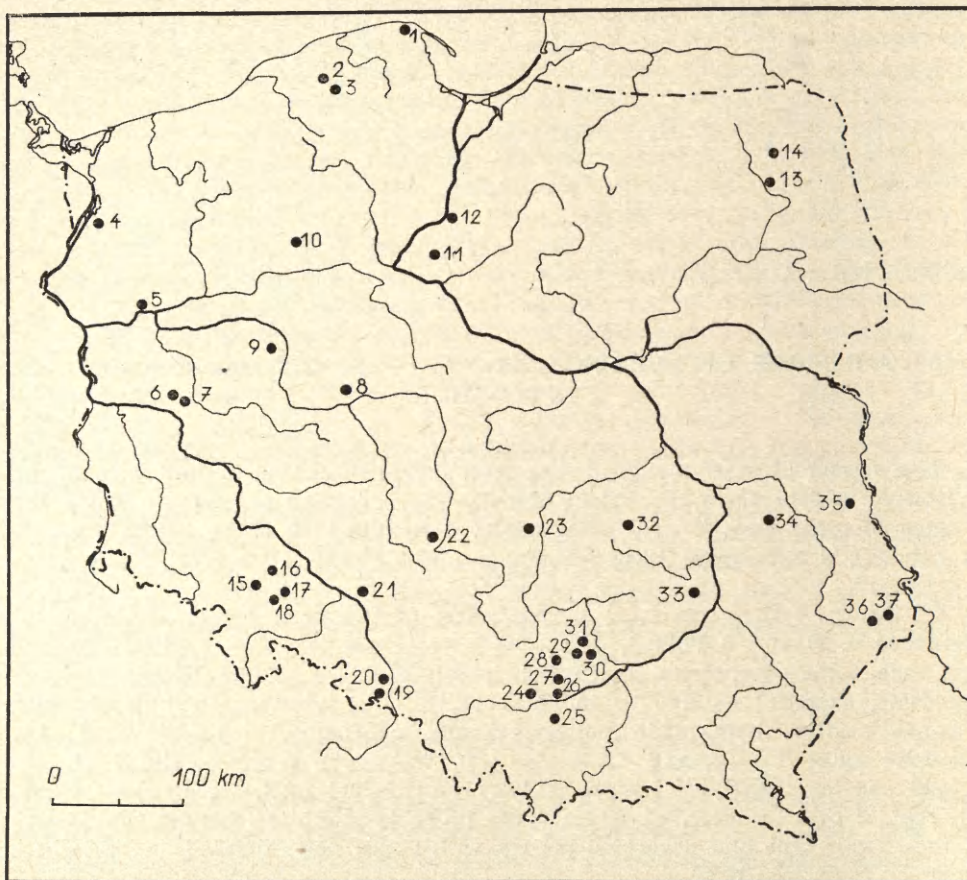
MAJOR RESULTS OF 1975 EXCAVATIONS OF EARLY MEDIEVAL SITES
IN POLAND

The number of early medieval sites investigated in Poland in 1975 was around 90, though in 20% cases the object of excavations carried out was to study the remains of other periods. The sites explored included 62 or so settlements (26 strongholds), 21 cemeteries (16 of inhumation and 5 of cremation type), 1 gold-mine and 1 hoard.

Of the few settlements from the beginning of the Early Medieval period, investigated in W and S Poland, of special interest are two sites explored for the first time, namely **Łobożany** (1), Szczecin province, site 1 (A. Porzeziński, Muzeum Narodowe, Szczecin) — 6th/7th to 8th cent., 4 semi-subterranean huts, 20 pits, 11 open hearths, hand-made pottery, usually unornamented (85—90%) of the Dziedzice (Suków) type, and **Chwałków** (15), Wałbrzych province, site 1 (J. Łodowski and team, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Wrocław) — 6th to 7th cent., 5 oval features, of which 4 are probably dwellings, hand-made pottery of the Prague type and decorated pottery with upper parts finished on the wheel, fragment of an iron bowl.

A separate group of this phase is represented by the settlement of the Old Prussian culture at **Franknowo** (35), Olsztyn province (I. Dąbrowska, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej, PAN, Warszawa), where six-year excavations of the settlement from the 6th to 9th cent were concluded, revealing a further 47 features including 2 rectangular dwelling features (remains of a hypothetical stone workshop, a spur from the early 9th cent.); the N and S extent of the site was established; and **Jaroty** (34), Olsztyn province, site 1 (W. Ziemińska-Odojowa, Muzeum Warmii i Mazur, Olsztyn) — first season of rescue excavations, cultural layer and features of the 6th to 9th cent., a lot of pottery, a spur and an iron finger-ring.

The next phase is represented by a large overground house, 8.5 m long, with a cellar, an inside hearth and an outside oven, discovered at **Czekanów** (29), Siedlce province, site 1 (B. Zawadzka-Antosik, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa), on the spot of the later cemetery of the 12th—13th cent (see below); the fill contained a bucket handle, a fragmentary spindle-whorl, 3 objects of amber, and a large amount of pottery from the 8th cent. At **Stary Zamek** (16), Wrocław province, site 6 (J. Łodowski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Wrocław), exploration was continued of two parallel ditches of unknown function, dated by pottery to the 8th—9th/10th cent. Apart from the settlements, also three earthworks from this phase claim attention. These are: **Przemęt** (12), Leszno province, site 1 (D. Durczewski, W. Śmigieński, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych and Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań) — a rampart of



Map showing important archaeological sites of the Early Medieval Age, investigated in 1975. Number of the point on the map correspond to the number after the place-names in text

earth from the 8th/9th cent., strengthened by a fence of posts interwoven with branches and reed; a widened rampart from the middle or end of the 10th cent.; built in the crossed logs construction with hook-ended transverse logs secured by diagonal posts; semi-subterranean huts in the earlier phase and overground post or block houses in the later; **Tuligłowy** (20), Przemysł province (M. Cabalska, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków), where exploration was commenced of an upland earthwork of many parts; the central part revealed 3 huts containing mixed ceramic materials from the 8th to 9th and 11th to 12th cent.; and **Chodlik** (22), Lublin province, site 1 (S. Hoczyk-Siwkova, Uniwersytet M. Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin), where excavation was resumed of a large earthwork from the 7th to 9th cent., revealing more data relating to the construction of the defences; moreover the absence of any traces of earlier settlement below all three ramparts was established.

Intensification of studies on the central strongholds of the early Piast Monarchy and on the monumental architecture of this period should be noted. At **Kruszwica** (7), Bydgoszcz province, site 2 (W. Hensel and team, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań), exploration of layers from the 11th cent.,

continued on the second *suburbium*, revealed two levels of streets paved with planks and two levels of houses often with offerings under corners or floors (whole animal skeletons or their parts). The higher level had block houses (two with containers for millet), and the lower, wattle and daub ones; a large number of objects from organic materials, such as toys, musical instruments, parts of a weaving loom, fragments of footwear and garment came to light. Excavations were resumed at **Giecz** (10), Poznań province, site 1 (M. Grabska, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań), where an 11th—12th cent rampart raised on a timber foundation with the core presumably of boxes, was explored between the stronghold and the *suburbium*. Further investigations of the castellan's stronghold at **Łąd** (9), Konin province (M. Zeylandowa, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań), revealed new data relating to the reconstruction of the later rampart (11th cent.) with a stone core, faced on the outer side by a wall of beams parallel to the rampart course and fixed by hook-like endings of diagonally set transverse beams. Important results were obtained during the fourth season of excavation of a *suburbium* by the cathedral, inhabited by specialized artisans and noblemen in **Wrocław** (17) — **Ostrów Tumski** (J. Kaźmierczyk and team, Uniwersytet, Wrocław), where four habitation levels from the 11th cent were uncovered, each with 5 to 9 buildings (including two feudal manors, workshops of goldsmiths, jewelers, a corn store); in the latest level from the 4th quarter of the 11th cent part of a rectangular market place came to light. Small finds included numerous valuable objects such as a spur covered with gold sheet, part of a saddle or shield with zoomorphic representations, a stylus, goldsmith's crucibles, raw material and waste connected with the production and working of glass and non-ferrous metal. In **Kraków** (18) on the **Wawel Hill** (S. Kozieł, J. Niżnik, Państwowe Zbiory Sztuki, Kraków—Wawel) exploration of layers in the S part of the stronghold near the pre-Romanesque church B was concluded (2nd part of the 10th—early 13th cent.); moreover investigations were commenced in the W section of the defences where the debris of the older rampart revealed relics of a wall whose construction and material are characteristic for the youngest series of pre-Romanesque architecture on Wawel. Excavations conducted within the **town** (T. Radwańska, E. Zaitz, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Kraków) revealed further evidence for the earliest settlement in the part of the so-called **Okół** (town from before the „locatio”), very intensive in the period from the mid-9th to 10th/11th cent (overground structures, 2 dwelling pits) and less so from the early 11th to the 1st half of the 13th cent.; within the **Dominican monastery** the lower part of a portal and a wall of a Romanesque building (now refectory) and early medieval culture pits have come to light.

The object of the excavations in the below mentioned places was to study the pre- or early Romanesque architecture: **Mogilno** (8), Bydgoszcz province, site 1 (J. Chudziakowa and team, Uniwersytet, Toruń) — investigations of the Benedictine monastery church from the 11th cent were concluded (a three-aisled basilica with a transept, three apses and a tower revealed in the west part); the building was located within a settlement dating from the 8th/9th cent., fortified in the 10th cent.; **Lubiń** (13), Leszno province (A. Dymaczewski, S. Skibiński, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN and Uniwersytet, Poznań) — initial investigations uncovered presumably Romanesque foundation of a Benedictine monastery on the N side of the present church (with surviving part of Romanesque walls); **Wąchock** (23), Kielce province (K. Białoskórska, Wojewódzki Konserwator Zabytków, Kielce) — in 1974—1975 the many-years' investigations of the Cistercian abbey from the 1st half of the 13th cent revealed the foundations and their negatives of an earlier three-aisled sacral building form the 2nd (?) half of the 11th to 1st half of the 13th cent., with three bays and a gallery in the W part, surrounded by

an inhumation cemetery; the discovery was made in the cloister garth and in S and E cloisters. **Dzikanowice** (19), Kraków province (A. Jodłowski, Muzeum Żup Krakowskich, Wieliczka) — the foundations of the west wall of a Romanesque church pulled down during Gothic rebuilding, and a fragment of a wall perpendicular to it and of unidentified function were uncovered. **Przemysł** (31)-Zamek (K. Szuwarowski, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Przemysł — fragment of an arch with external radius of 3.5 m built of limestone and sandstone slabs, destroyed in the 14th cent., was discovered in the NE wing of the castle

Of the fortified sites dating from the later phases of the Early Medieval period the following strongholds claim attention: **Blonie-Osiek** (25), Warszawa province (A. Niewęłowski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa) — the construction of the rampart of the 12-th-14th cent, was disclosed; **Rociaż** (5), Bydgoszcz province (J. Kmiecinski and team, Uniwersytet, Łódź) — dwelling and farm buildings in the form of a block, 30 × 5.5. m, with their long wall adjoining the internal face of the rampart, a castellan's manor-house separated from the other buildings, two phases of destruction by fire, presumably in 1256 and around 1300; **Plemięta** (6), Toruń province, site 1 (R. Boguwolski, Muzeum, Grudziądz) — a motte from the 14th-early 15th cent., further parts of a building with rich assortment of metal objects including part of a balance, military finds (a sword, axes, mail-shirts, parts of a cross-bow), horse's harness (bits, stirrups, mounts) and tools (hoes, spade mounts, axes, smith's tongs). **Bialogarda** (2), Słupsk province (E. Skarbek, Muzeum, Lębork) — earthwork of the 12th-13th cent., farther parts of a smithy, discovered in 1973, numerous iron finds, 35 crucibles, lumps of slag and limestone.

Moreover investigations were commenced of relatively well preserved remains of a gold mine dating from the 11th to 13th cent., 3 km east of **Lwówek Śląski** (14), Zielona Góra province (J. Kaźmierczyk, Uniwersytet, Wrocław), where the features explored included 4 shafts, 1 outcrop working, 7 rinsing-bowls for gold-bearing sand, 5 heaps of rinsed output, 2 dwelling pits, 1 hearth.

The number of investigated cemeteries from the earlier phase of the Early Medieval period is still limited. In NE Poland (Podlasie) excavation was concluded of a large barrow at **Miodusy-Pokrzywno** (28), Łomża province (K. Burek, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Białystok) — stone construction partly in the form of the core and partly pavement, pothered from the 18-th-10th cent., and in the surrounding ditch pottery from the 10th-11th cent. Pottery (together with cremated bones) of similarly differentiated chronology was found on the surface of the mound and in the ditch surrounding barrow 1 at **Janówek Lisowo** (30), Białystok province, site I (K. Chilmon, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Białystok). In SW Poland where so far only two concentrations of cremation cemeteries have been recorded important results were yielded by the initial excavations of the barrow cemetery situated within the early medieval settlement complex of Sobótka-Ślęza at the village of **Bądkowice** (16a), Wrocław province, site 15 (H. Śledzik, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Wrocław) — 5 barrows with cremation burials scattered over- or underneath quadrangular stone structures (two barrows had combined stone- and timber-structures); all monuments dated to the 8th-9th cent.

Of the Old Prussian cemeteries attention is claimed by site 1 at **Nowinka** (4), Elbląg province (B. Wiącek, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk), which yielded a further 15 features (nos. 55-69) including human cremation burials in pits (furnished with brooches, a bracelet, a sword, spearheads) which formed rows over skeleton burials of horses buried in either standing or lying position with contracted legs and heads to S (the inventory comprised bits and parts of harness); 5th to 7th cent.

Apart from the cemetery at Wąchock, mentioned above, other inhumation cemeteries associated with churches were mainly explored in N Poland. At **Czersk** (24), Warszawa province (J. Rauhutowa, B. Suchodolski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa), on site 1, Zamek, 23 graves were discovered at a cemetery that existed between the destruction of the stronghold (mid-12th cent.) and its rebuilding (13 th cent.), and on site 3 „Księża Góra” 1 grave was explored at the cemetery presumably situated near a church, indicated by limestone slabs discovered in secondary position. Similarly, the discovery of inhumation graves (the oldest two from the 12th cent.) on site 9 at **Słupno** (26), Płock province K. Przybysz, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa), may perhaps confirm the existence of the church mentioned in 1185. At **Świećk Strumiany** (27), Łomża province, site III (D. Jaskanis, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Białystok), the remaining 1/5 of the cemetery situated round a (sacral?) building of wood was explored yielding 177 burials arranged in several layers, oriented to W (1 to E), with scanty grave goods, mostly in female burials (ornaments), 11th (?) 12th to 13th cent.

Also in N and NE Poland a considerable number of inhumation cemeteries not associated with churches and with characteristic Masovian-Podlasie graves under pavements and in stone-settings, were examined. The cemeteries explored in this season date from the 12th—13th centuries. These are: **Smolugi** (33), Białystok province (L. Rauhut, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) — a further 24 graves oriented to SW, furnished with axes, spear- and arrowheads, fire-steels, temple-rings, glass beads (some with set-in gold plate), bracelets, a few cremated bones in two graves; **Dołubowo** (32), Białystok province, site 1 (L. Długopolska, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) — a further 25 burials (1 cremation), oriented to W (1 to N), a sword, an axe, spearheads, temple-rings, glass beads, a finger-ring; **Czarna Wielka** (31), Białystok province, site 1 (U. Perlikowska, H. Młynarczyk, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Warszawa) — many years' excavations were continued revealing 13 graves oriented to W (1 to E); **Czekanów** (29), Siedlce province, site I (B. Zawadzka-Antosik, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) — determination of N, W and SE limits of the cemetery, discovery of 12 pit of unidentified function, contemporary with the burials, and of a further 7 graves (1 female, 6 children burials), temple-rings of tin an ear-ring, a neckring of tin, glass beads, a bracelet, a finger-ring, eg 9 shells (in child's grave); a loosely found ending of an undefined object in the shape of an auroch head of iron with a tang.

The following sites from other parts of Poland deserve to be mentioned: **Pruszcz Gdański** (3), Gdańsk province (M. Pietrzak, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk) — termination of fieldwork, 11th cent., 1 cremation pit grave, 10 inhumation graves oriented to E, N and S, some in coffins (tree-trunks?), poor grave goods (a small temple-ring, 2 finger-rings, a knife and fragment of a silver denarius); **Komorowo** (11), Poznań province (T. Malinowski, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań) — second season of excavations of a cemetery from the end of the 10th and early 11th cent., 20 graves, all furnished with knives, some with buckets and spurs; **Sary Zamek** (16), Wrocław province, site 5 (J. Lodowski and team, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Wrocław) — commencement of excavations of a cemetery from the end of the 10th to 12th cent., 30 graves, mostly W-oriented, poor grave goods (temple-rings, knives, occasional buckets), certain grave pits have sides set with stones or timber-clad, 2 burials pressed down with large stones.

