

KRZYSZTOF TUNIA

## MAJOR RESULTS OF 1976 EXCAVATIONS OF EARLY MEDIEVAL SITES IN POLAND

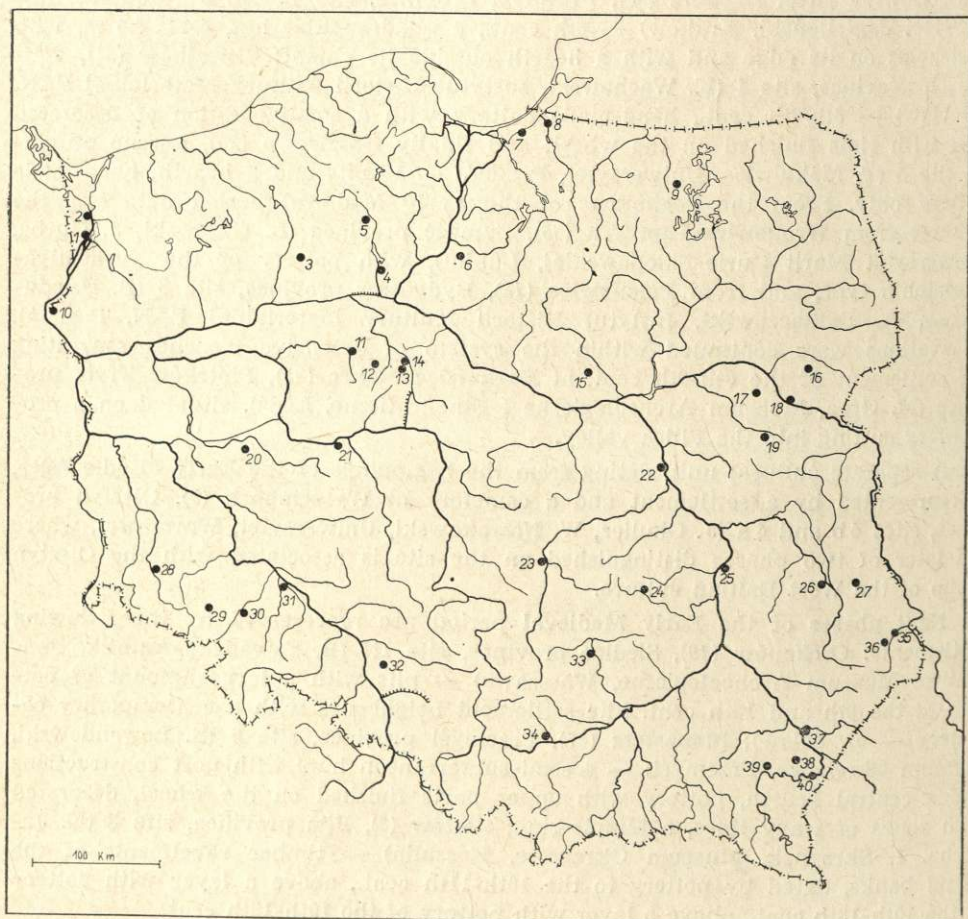
Materials dating from the earliest phases of the Early Middle Ages with pottery of the Prague type were found during excavations of settlement features at the following sites: **Bachórz** (39), Przemysł province, site 16 (M. Parczewski, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków) — 6th cent., a quadrangular hut, 4.4 × 4.4 m, with post-holes on its edge and with a hearth outside its extent; **Chwałków** (30), Wałbrzych province, site 1 (K. Wachowski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Wrocław) — 6th/7th cent., hand-made pottery with a small addition of decorated pots with rims finished on the wheel; and finally **Gniewowo** (20), Leszno province, site 3 (T. Makiewicz, Uniwersytet, Poznań) — 10 pits and a hearth, hand-made pottery only. From the beginnings of the Early Medieval period date also the features from **Wronowice-Paprzyca** (35), Zamość province (L. Gajewski, J. Gurba, Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin), with pottery of the Tushemlya-Kolotchin type, and from **Polanowice** (13), Bydgoszcz province, site 3 (B. Dzeduszycka, A. Dymaczewski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań). Excavations were continued within the system of defensive trenches separating the settlement of the 6th-9th cent. at **Barkowice Mokre** (23), Piotrków Tryb. province (M. Góra, Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne, Łódź), situated on a promontory cutting into the Pilica valley.

A separate cultural unit, dating from the beginnings of the Early Middle Ages, is represented by a settlement and a cemetery at **Wyszembork** (9), Olsztyn province, sites 4b and 4a (J. Okulicz, W. Nowakowski, Uniwersytet, Warszawa), where the later of two phases distinguished on the site is associated with the Olsztyn group of the West Baltic culture.

Next phases of the Early Medieval period are represented by the following settlements: **Czekanów** (19), Siedlce province, site III (B. Zawadzka-Antosiak, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) — pits with a large amount of pottery of the 8th and 12th cent. (the settlement neighbours with a contemporary cemetery — cf. below); **Monasterz** (37), Przemysł province, site 6 (S. Lewandowski, Muzeum Okręgowe, Przemysł) — 4 semi-subterranean huts with post constructions and a central hearth, pottery with upper parts finished on the wheel, decorated with zones of wavy lines, a temple-ring; **Złotów** (3), Piła province, site 3 (K. Janocha, I. Skrzypek, Muzeum Okręgowe, Koszalin) — timber revetments of the island banks, dated by pottery to the 10th-11th cent., above a layer with pottery of the 10th-13th cent., above a layer with pottery of the 10th-13th cent.

A relatively large number of earthworks dating from various phases of the Early Middle Ages were excavated. Investigations were continued of a large earthwork of the 8th to 11th cent. at **Tuliłowy** (38), Przemysł province (M. Cabalska, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków), where a number of houses arranged in a row

were localized in its central part. The excavations at **Czermno-Kolonia** (36), Za-  
mość province, sites I and IIa (L. Gajewski, J. Gurba, A. Kutyłowski, Uniwer-  
sytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej and Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Lu-  
blin), revealed a bridge which running over a marsh linked the stronghold with  
the *suburbium*; the finds from the stronghold are dominated by pottery of the  
12th-13th cent., in the layer of the 10th-11th cent. a small Byzantine cross of  
bronze (so-called enkolpion) was found. A village and an earthwork of the 19th-  
10th cent. were investigated at **Kłodnica** (25), Lublin province (S. Hoczyk-Siwkova,  
Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin). The stronghold surrounded by  
three circular ramparts at **Ewpole** (26), Lublin province (S. Jastrzębski, Uniwersytet  
Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin), has been assigned to the 7th/8th cent. At **Rasze-  
wy** (21), Kalisz province, site 2 (W. Śmigielski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej  
PAN Poznań), investigations were conducted at a settlement and a stronghold — the  
one surrounded by a moat, built on a circular plan with internal diameter of 30 m, latter,  
at and a timber-earth rampart of crossed logs, was established by the end of the  
7th cent., and destroyed in the 8th; it is one of the few strongholds of such early



Map showing important archeological sites of the Early Medieval Age, investigated  
in 1976. Number of the point on the map correspond to the number after the  
place-names in text  
<http://www.rcin.org.pl>

date in Great Poland. The excavations continued at **Czersk** (22), Warszawa province (J. Rauhut, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa), revealed remains of pit dwellings of the 11th/12th cent., of a cemetery (cf. below) and numerous finds including silver temple-rings and a limestone tile with negatives of spindle-whorls; the 13th century layer yielded remains of domed ovens. Investigations were concluded at **Niewiadoma** (17), Siedlce province, site 1 (M. Miśkiewicz, Uniwersytet, Warszawa), and the views on the evolutionary phases of the stronghold overlying a settlement of the 6th/7th cent. were finally verified. Two dwelling features were fully explored within an earthwork of the 11th-13th cent. at **Raciąż** (5), Bydgoszcz province (J. Kmiecński and team, Uniwersytet, Łódź). Excavations were started on a 9th century earthwork at **Dobromierz** (29), Wałbrzych province (B. Czerska, J. Kaźmierczyk, Uniwersytet, Wrocław), revealing a rampart with an interesting construction: a timber-earth core covered with stone facing, abt. 1,2 m thick, on clay mortar.

Long-term investigations were continued within strongholds associated with administrative centres of the early Polish state. At **Kruszwica** (14), Bydgoszcz province, site 2 (W. Hensel and team, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa), layers of the 8th-9th cent. were explored, yielding a so-called „Moravian” glass bead with a bronze socket, and the layers of the 11th cent. yielded further remains of wattle-and-daub constructions and a number of finds of organic materials such as spoons, textiles, amulets from shells of Mediterranean **Crustacea**, as well as a key and an iron stylus. At **Wrocław-Ostrów Tumski** (31) (J. Kaźmierczyk and team, Uniwersytet, Wrocław) 4 habitation phases of 1030-1050 were examined; materials from the layers following the popular rising and the Bohemian invasion of Silesia indicate certain impoverishment of the population, though they contained numerous iron objects, beads of glass and semi-precious stones, footwear, and a small goldsmith's anvil of lead. In **Kraków-Wawel** (34) (Z. Pianoski, J. Firlet, S. Kozieł, Kierownictwo Odnowienia Zamku Królewskiego na Wawelu, Kraków) the western part of the hill revealed remains of a burnt rampart earlier than the 10th cent., overlain by remains of early medieval houses and fragments of a pre-Romanesque wall in the *opus emplectum* technique, second part of the 10th cent., and above it part of an apsis of a Romanesque structure from the end of the 11th or the 12th cent., demolished in the second part of the 13th cent., probably in connection with the shifting of the fortifications of the Wawel castle. In **Kraków-Stare Miasto** (34) (E. Zaitz, K. Radwański, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Kraków) investigations were continued of early medieval fortifications of the so-called *Okół* (town before the granting of the foundation charter) and of medieval town walls. The excavations in **Szczecin-Stare Miasto** (1) (M. Rulewicz, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Szczecin) revealed remains of early medieval timber-paved streets and a number of small finds, e.g. a miniature man head of wood dated to 13th cent.

The excavations whose main objective was the study of pre-Romanesque and Romanesque architecture were continued at **Wąchock** (24), Kielce province (K. Białoskórska, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Kielce), where further remains of chapel and *palatium* of the mid-11th cent. were uncovered and further investigations of a 13th century Cistercian monastery were carried out. At **Mogilno** (12), Bydgoszcz province (J. Chudziakowa and team, Uniwersytet, Toruń), investigations within a Benedictine monastery established in the 11th cent. were continued.

Defensive sites dating from the late phases of the Early Middle Ages and from Middle Ages were investigated in the following places: **Płońsk** (15), Ciechanów province (B. Gierlach, Mazowiecki Ośrodek Badań Naukowych, Warszawa) — the stronghold showed two phases: 11th to 12th and 13th cent., the latter

documented by numerous finds including a pilgrim's badge issued by the Knights-Templars, a Teutonic bracteate, weapons and iron tools, pottery with potter's marks. **Stołpie** (27), Chełm province (I. Kutylowska, Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin) — a motte of the 12th-13th cent. with a stone tower partly incorporated into its mound. **Mokrsko Dolne** (33), Kielce province Z. Pyzik, Muzeum Narodowe, Kielce — a motte, 13th/14th cent.; **Plemięta** (6), Toruń province, site 1 (R. Boguwolski, Muzeum, Grudziądz) — a knight's motte, 15th cent. (destroyed in 1414) with a many-storied tower of post construction on a rectangular plan,  $7.7 \times 9.8$  m, with a smith's workshop on the lowest level — numerous agricultural implements and military objects (fragments of armour, a sword, spear-, arrow-, and boltheads, battle axes, spurs, fragments of harness).

In 1976 the investigations of early medieval cemeteries were mainly conducted in northern Poland. Exceptional are here systematic excavations of a cremation barrow cemetery of the 7th cent. at **Izbicko** (32), Opole province (S. Pazda, Uniwersytet, Wrocław), where one barrow was fully explored yielding cremated bones, sherds of a vessel and fragmentary preserved spur, found in the surface layers of the mound; and a unique find from **Przemyśl** (40) (A. Koperski, Muzeum Okręgowe, Przemyśl) — an inhumation grave of the „Old Magyar” type of the 9th/10th cent., oriented NW-SE (head to NW), lying in an extended position on back, with the skull and lower parts of horse's limbs at the side, furnished with a collared flask with two handles, 3 iron arrowheads, 2 buckles, 2 stirrups, a bit, a flint „strike-a-light” (?) and a whetstone (?). At **Dolice** (2), Szczecin province, site 20 (S. Wesołowski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Szczecin), 2 barrows were explored in a cremation barrow-cemetery of the 9th-10th cent., the earth mounds surrounded by stones contained cremated human bones and potsherds scattered at random. Excavations of a barrow cemetery of the 10th-11th cent. were also carried out at **Janówek-Lisowo** (18), Białystok province, sites I and III (K. Chilmon, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Białystok), where 3 earthen barrows were explored yielding small potsherds and cremated bones.

A separate Prussian cultural unit is represented by a cemetery at **Wyszembork** (9), Olsztyn province, site 4a (J. Okulicz, W. Nowakowski, Uniwersytet, Warszawa) (cf. above), as well as by the cemeteries at **Nowinka** (7), Elbląg province (M. Pietrzak, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk) — 5th-6th cent., richly furnished human graves and horse's burials and at **Młoteczno** (8), Olsztyn province, site 3 (W. Ziemińska-Odojowa, Muzeum Warmii i Mazur, Olsztyn) — 6th-7th cent., the finds included cremation graves, usually without urns and without grave-goods, and a stone pavement which comprised uncremated horse's remains and cremated human burials furnished with beads, brooches, buckles, a short scythe of iron, a spindle-whorl, a coin and pottery.

The cemeteries dating from later phases of the Early Middle Ages were explored at the following sites: **Czermno-Kolonia** (36), Zamość province, site II (L. Gajewski, J. Gurba, Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin) — 12th-13th cent., 21 graves oriented W-E (head to W), two of which contained ornaments in the shape of small buttons and decorated so-called „Romanesque” spangles. **Dolubowo** (16), Białystok province, site 1 (L. Długopolska, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) — 12th-13th cent., 18 burials with stone pavements and stone-settings, oriented W-E (head to W), one contained 5 bronze pendants of which 4 bear representations of St George, part of the graves were unfurnished, the other had knives, fire-steels, temple-rings, beads, ear-rings, a battle-axe, a spearhead. **Czekanów** (19), Siedlce province, site I (B. Zawadzka-Antosik, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) — 12th-13th cent., 13 graves with pavements and stone-settings, furnished with knives, fire-steels, ornaments and parts of dress. **Czersk** (22), Warszawa province (J. Rauhut, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN,

Warszawa) — second half of the 12th and 13th cent., 11 graves arranged in a row, remains of wooden coffins or lining, several skeletons furnished with glass beads, an iron key, spindle-whorls. **Cedynia** (10), Szczecin province, site 2 (H. Malinowska-Lazarczyk, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Szczecin) — 10th to mid-14th cent., burials in pits or timber settings, oriented W-E (head to W), occasionally S-N (head to S), a child's grave containing a head-band with bronze plates, the majority of burials without any grave-goods, the rest had coins, knives, spindle-whorls, temple-rings, finger-rings.

Remains of the gold-mining centre of the 10th-13th cent. in Lower Silesia were further investigated. Apart from large-scale inventory work sondage investigations were carried out within two shafts and two rinse-out installations at **Plakowice** (28), Jelenia Góra province (J. Kaźmierczyk, Uniwersytet, Wrocław).

As concerns new research methods, attention is claimed by underwater reconnaissance conducted in the neighbourhood of the 13th century castle at **Nowy Jasiniec** (4), Bydgoszcz province (C. Potemski, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Bydgoszcz) and in the vicinity of a 14th century knight's motté at **Izdebno** (11), Bydgoszcz province (O. Romanowska-Grabowska, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Bydgoszcz).

