

ZENON WOŹNIAK

## A SURVEY OF THE INVESTIGATIONS OF THE BRONZE AND IRON AGE SITES IN POLAND IN 1980

### *The Lusatian culture*

In 1980 excavations were conducted on about 50 Lusatian sites (cemeteries, settlements and earthworks) representing various chronological phases and territorial groups. The number of expeditions which explored, either simultaneously or successively, a settlement and an associated cemetery was fairly large, yet in most cases the fieldworks were limited in extent.

In the course of interdisciplinary studies pursued in the environs of the earthwork at **Sobiejuchy (11)**, Bydgoszcz province (J. Ostoja-Zagórski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań, J. Strzałko, Uniwersytet Poznań) a cemetery (site 3) which had preceded the stronghold, was located (5 graves from BA III-IV); moreover the attempts to reconstruct the ancient natural environment were continued. Another interdisciplinary expedition continued exploration of the lake settlement of production and cult character at **Grzybiany**, site 1 (27), Legnica province (Z. Bukowski, J. Gajewski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa). The final part of a casting shop (traces of ovens), covering an area of some 180-190 sq. m. and active in habitation phase II (Ha D), was uncovered. In another place the final part of a wide timber foot-bridge from phase I was explored on the lake shore; moreover, investigations were carried out of a small coastal isle with a defensive rampart and a hypothetical cult place; the discoveries made there included remains of a basket of birch-bark with a large amount of cereals. Palynological and geomorphological investigations were also carried out.

Of the cemeteries explored the following ones yielded more important results: **Pleszew**, site 2 (14), Kalisz province (E. Pudełko, Muzeum Okręgowe Ziemi Kaliskiej, Kalisz) where a further 10 cremation graves from BA IV — Ha were uncovered, revealing a bronze object defined as a damaged mirror; **Niechmirów-Mała Wieś (18)**, Sieradz province (A. Kufel-Dzierzgowska, Muzeum Okręgowe, Sieradz) — a further 33 urn graves, BA III — Ha, **Madely**, site 1 (16), Sieradz province (Z. Kaszewski, Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne, Łódź) — the IVth season of excavations uncovered 35 cremation graves of various types, mostly with stone settings; **Kietrz**, site 1 (28), Opole province (M. Gedl and team, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków) — exploration of the earliest part of the cemetery was concluded revealing over 30 graves from BA III, including 3 burials in large wooden coffins; **Krzanowice**, site 1 (29), Katowice province (M. Pawliński, Muzeum Górnośląskie, Bytom) — the Vth season of excavations uncovered a further 51 graves from BA III (total — 200 graves), mostly in urns and a burial in a large wooden coffin; **Baczyn (31)**, Kraków province (J. and A. Krauss, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Kraków) — the VIIIth season of excavations revealed a further 29 graves (3 inhumations) from Ha, mostly under stone pavements, occasionally with stone settings.

Investigations were also continued of the earthwork from Ha D at **Strobin**, site 2 (17), Sieradz province (Z. Kaszewski, Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne, Łódź) where during the VIIIth season of fieldwork the further part of the rampart, of a different crossed logs build, was uncovered;





in the central part of the enclosure a hut with a hearth and 7 pits have come to light. Excavations were also continued of the earthwork at **Świnoujście-Lubin**, site 8 (1), Szczecin province (A. Hamling, Muzeum Narodowe, Szczecin) where a rampart of timber construction with numerous stones, from Ha D, was explored. The fieldwork continued at **Witów**, site I (34), Kielce province (J. Rydzewski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Kraków) revealed 28 pits from BA III/IV and one from BA V/Ha C as well as part of a big ditch whose relation to two other ditches uncovered on this site is not yet clear.

Of considerable scope were the investigations of the following settlements: **Biskupice** (25), Warszawa province (D. Rudnicki, S. Woyda, Muzeum Starożytnego Hutnictwa Mazowieckiego, Pruszków) where 144 BA features were revealed; **Jeziorsko**, site 5/5A (22), Sieradz province (T. Łaskiewicz, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Poznań) — area excavations of over 100 features from BA V — Ha D; **Tądów Dolny**, site 2 (20), Sieradz province (E. Wilgocki, R. Rogosz, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Szczecin) — over 100 features of various types (post buildings, pits, hearths) from BA IV-V.

#### *The Pomeranian (Wejherowo-Krotoszy<sup>n</sup>) culture*

The study of this culture, which until recently was represented by cemeteries only, is now marked by a distinct increase in the number of uncovered settlements. Of the nearly 20 sites explored, attention is claimed by the known settlement at **Brześć Kujawski**, site 4 (12), Włocławek province (R. Grygiel, Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne, Łódź) which yielded 2 post houses



and 10 pits from the later phase of this culture as well as samples for radiocarbon dating; and by **Kartoszyno**, site 7 (4), Gdańsk province (I. Wolanin-Szułdryńska, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Gdańsk) where the newly discovered settlement yielded about 130 features (post houses, hearths, pits and a stone-lined oven).

The following cemeteries have yielded interesting results: **Rybno**, site 3a (5), Gdańsk province (Z. Żurawski, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Gdańsk) — 2 graves from Ha C (a house urn in one) as well as 2 graves, 3 pits, a hearth and 3 rather small stone circles from Ha D; **Główczewice** (6), Bydgoszcz province (K. Walenta, Uniwersytet, Łódź) — 1 cist grave under a pavement and a barrow of stones, a rare find in this culture, with a robbed cist grave, Ha D/LT A; **Wilkowice** site 2 (23), Sieradz province (J. Błaszczuk, Uniwersytet, Łódź) — the newly recorded site yielded 25 graves including 6 cist graves and 6 burials beneath inverted urns (bell graves) (Ha D/LT A), among small finds was probably an iron mount of a sword-sheath.

#### *The Przeworsk culture*

In 1980 excavations of about 10 cemeteries and over 20 settlements of this culture in various areas of its extent were carried out. Interesting results were yielded by the known cemeteries at: **Modla**, (10), Ciechanów province (A. Grzymkowski, Muzeum Ziemi Zawkrzeńskiej, Mława) where the Vth season of excavations revealed a further 30 cremation graves (total 161) of the urn and pit type, usually from phase B<sub>2</sub> of the Roman period, one grave contained 2 chair-shaped spurs of iron and 2 game dices; **Suchodół**, site 1 (24), Płock province (A. J. Tomaszewski, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) yielded 44 poorly furnished pit burials from the Late pre-Roman period (phase II) — on this site the burial tradition probably dates back to the preceding times; **Zadowice**, site 1 (15), Kalisz province (E. Kaszewska, Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne, Łódź) where the XIth season of excavations uncovered 2 pit graves from the Late pre-Roman period and 4 graves from the Early Roman period and further parts of the stone circle and stone pavements; **Niechmirów-Mała Wieś** (15), Sieradz province (A. Kufel-Dzierżowska, Muzeum Okręgowe, Sieradz) — a further 7 graves including a burial of the Late pre-Roman period with a sword, a shield boss and a spearhead as well as another grave of this period, containing a sword and covered with a stone pavement; **Zawada**, site 1 (36), Tarnobrzeg province (J. Michalski, Uniwersytet, Warszawa) — a richly furnished grave surrounded by a rectangular groove, dating from the beginnings of the Late Roman period (the earliest complex with wheel-made pottery found in Poland).

Very interesting results were yielded by excavations of settlements associated with iron smelting. The newly discovered site (no. 1) of this kind at **Pękosławice** (37), Kielce province (K. Bielenin, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Kraków) yielded 3 smelting workshops, 3 slag blocks, heaps of debris left by smelting furnaces, a large amount of pottery and a bronze brooch of A 68 type. This is the first so well dated smelting site recorded in the area of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains. The Vth season of area excavations pursued in the smelting centre at **Biskupice** (25), Warszawa province (D. Rudnicka, M. Woyda, Muzeum Starożytnego Hutnictwa Mazowieckiego, Pruszków) revealed 4 semi-subterranean huts, over 200 pits (1 with cereals), and in the vicinity remains of a further 169 smelting furnaces (Late pre-Roman period to phase C<sub>1</sub> of the Roman period). The investigations at **Psary**, site 1 (13), Leszno province (H. Mamzer, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Leszno) revealed a further 33 furnaces forming 3 concentrations (irregular rows); in the habitable part of the settlement a lime kiln with stone walls and other features of the 3rd cent. A. D. were examined. Remains of 7 charcoal piles of the Roman period were uncovered at **Blotnica Strzelecka**, site A (30), Opole province (K. Macewicz, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Opole).

Among the remaining settlements the following ones merit attention: **Tądów Dolny**, site 7 (20), Sieradz province (R. Rogosz, E. Wilgocki, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Szczecin) where remains of numerous features such as semi-subterranean huts, post houses, hearths and pits came to light; some of these date to the Late pre-Roman period, the majority however belong to the Late Roman period; small finds included iron sickles, a spearhead, a quernstone; of particular interest is the discovery of a one-chamber pottery kiln with the fire grate supported by a conical base and of a stone hearth covered with a thick layer of lime. The investigations at **Tądów Górny**, site 3 (21), Sieradz province (T. Łaskiewicz, J. Trocha, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków,



Poznań) yielded nearly 1000 various features (huts, hearths, pits) from the whole period of the Przeworsk culture, including a hut of the Early Roman period serving probably as a horn workshop and 2 pottery kilns of the Late Roman period (one with the batch of pots partly preserved). The XIth excavation season at **Strobin**, site 3a (17), Sieradz province (B. Abramek, Muzeum Ziemi Wieluńskiej, Wieluń) revealed a further 2 huts and a large separate complex of stone hearths (82) of the Roman period. The VIIIth season of excavations at **Siemiecchów**, site 2 (19), Sieradz province (M. Jażdżewska, Muzeum, Pabianice) brought to light more features of the Late Roman period (3 huts, 2 hearths, some pits). Five features and 5 rotation quernstones of the 4th cent. A. D. were discovered at **Rytro**, site A (35), Nowy Sącz province (R. Madyda-Legutko, K. Tunia, Komisja Archeologiczna Oddziału PAN, Kraków).

#### *The Wielbark culture*

In the season under discussion over 10 sites of this culture, mostly cemeteries, were explored. Of particular interest are the results obtained at the following sites: **Grzybnica** (2), Koszalin province (R. Wołągiewicz, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Koszalin) — the VIIth season of excavations of the barrow cemetery brought to light a pit grave surrounded by a circular ditch filled with ash and a number of inhumation and cremation graves mostly from phase B<sub>2a</sub>; **Czarnówko**, site 5 (3), Słupsk province (D. Rudnicka, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk) — 6 inhumation burials (part in tree-trunks) and 2 urn graves of the Early Roman period.

In the XVth season of excavations at **Odry** (7), Bydgoszcz province (T. Grabarczyk and team, Uniwersytet, Łódź) the oldest part of the barrow cemetery was explored, revealing 8 inhumation graves, 5 urn graves and 17 pit burials from phase B<sub>2</sub>; moreover 5 barrows were examined (2 with inhumation graves, 1 with an urn grave, 1 with an inhumation burial and an urn grave in the pavement, 1 destroyed with a double circle of stones). **Nowy Targ**, site 6 (8), Elbląg province (E. Kazimierzak, E. Wichrowska, Muzeum Zamkowe, Malbork) — in the VIth season of excavations 13 inhumation graves and 13 pits from phases B<sub>2</sub> and B<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>1</sub> of the Roman period were uncovered. The excavations of the earlier cemetery of the Przeworsk-culture at **Modła** (10), Ciechanów province (A. Grzymkowski, Muzeum Ziemi Zawkrzeńskiej, Mława) revealed an inhumation grave of a child from the 3rd cent. A. D., containing a small stone with an engraving which according to the excavator is the topographic design of the environs of the site. **Nadkole**, site 1 (26), Siedlce province (T. Urbańska, T. Dąbrowska, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) — in the IIIrd season of excavations the northern fringe of the site was explored, revealing 9 pit graves from phase C<sub>1</sub> of the Roman period and 2 glass beakers (including one of „Egg 192” type).

#### *Other cultures*

In the area of the Tyniec group excavations were continued of the settlement at **Kraków-Krześlance**, site III (32) (G. Kałka-Toboła, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Kraków-Nowa Huta) revealing a large number of pits, hearths, semi-subterranean huts, remains of a smelting furnace, numerous series of painted Celtic pottery, amber beads and a brooch of A 18 type. A post house with „grey” and Celtic graphite pottery was uncovered on a new settlement of this culture at **Kokotów-Strumiany** (33), Kraków province (K. Reguła, Muzeum Żup Krakowskich, Wieliczka).

Of the few sites of the Oksywie culture investigated in 1980 of special interest is that at **Krosno** (9), Elbląg province (J. Okulicz, and team, Uniwersytet, Warszawa) where a cremation place — a large pit with the preserved arrangement of crossed logs for the cremation pyre — was uncovered.

Important discoveries were made at **Masłomęcz**, site 22 (39), Zamość province, where a settlement of the Zarubinty culture from the close of the Late pre-Roman period was recorded and at nearby **Czerniszyn**, site 20 (38) (A. Kokowski, Uniwersytet M. Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin) where 3 graves of this culture came to light. In this region excavations were carried out of the sites of the Tchernikhov culture, namely at **Masłomęcz** (39), (A. Kokowski, Uniwersytet M. Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin) where site 9 yielded traces of buildings and a clay oven, and site 15 revealed 4 cremation and 13 inhumation graves (some without skulls) of this culture, arranged regularly; the dead were dyed with ochre; a bronze brooch in the shape of a flying bird was found.