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MAJOR RESULTS OF 1985 EXCAVATIONS OF EARLY MEDIEVAL SITES IN POLAND

The 75 or so sites investigated in 1985 included 30 settlements, 30 strongholds and early towns, 9 cemeteries and 5 features of Christian sacral architecture.

The results yielded by the study of open settlements were of little interest. Attention should be paid to a settlement of 6th-8th cent located near the earthwork at **Wyszogród** (13), Płock province, site 2A (W. Szymański, Z. Kobyliński and team, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Warszawa) where the first 5-year programme of study of the W part of the settlement was concluded revealing a square semi-subterranean hut of 6th-7th cent (the fifth to be discovered there), another long post building (15×4 m) and 6 shallow oval features, perhaps remains of overground houses; one of the three large pots, with wheel-made rims, broken *in situ*, proved to be of unusual interest, engraved as it was on its body with the representation of a rider on a stag (?) and of streaks of lightning (?). Of similar date are 105 features explored at **Dębczyno** (3), Koszalin province, site 53 (A. Sikorski, Uniwersytet, Poznań) with pottery of the Dziedzice-Sukow and Szczecin-Menkendorf type. Of somewhat later date is site III at **Czekanów** (14), Siedlce province (B. Zawadzka-Antosik, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) where settlements of 10th-13th cent., coeval with a previously explored inhumation cemetery, continued to be uncovered; the discoveries included 14 settlement features with abundant materials such as belt buckles, arrowheads, an awl, spindle-whorls of Volhynian slate, fragment of an Easter clay egg with a yellow and greenish glaze, a quernstone.

As in the previous season, also in 1985 a number of earthworks and associated settlements were explored in the area inhabited by West Baltic tribes. Investigations of a complex of three Old Prussian earthworks of 12th-mid-13th cent were continued at **Weklice** (5), Elbląg province (A. Pawłowski, Muzeum Zamkowe, Malbork); two building phases were detected at the earthwork on site 2: an earlier with a moat and a single rampart (with a tower-gate explored last year), and a later with a moat and another rampart added on the outer side (wooden gate in the rampart, a wooden bridge across the moats); the investigations begun on site 1 in order to verify the excavations of 1925 revealed a close pavement in the enclosed empty space (maidan) and traces of fire that had destroyed the timber construction of the rampart, probably stone-faced on the inside. At **Rajsyty** (6), Elbląg province, site 1 (A. Pawłowski, Muzeum Zamkowe, Malbork), on the Prussian-Slav border, an earthwork of 12th (?) cent with a two-phase rampart was explored: the earlier rampart, 5 m wide at the base and 3 m or so high, was built of boxes, stone-faced on the inside, and the later, 15 m wide at the base and 5 m high, was in the crossed logs construction; part of a semi-subterranean hut with a stone hearth, built in the inside slope of the rampart, was uncovered. The enclosed empty space (maidan) of a Sudovian earthwork with several layers of stone pavement was explored at **Jegliniec** (7), Suwałki province, site I (G. Iwanowska, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa); the cultural layer yielded numerous objects such as 2



Fig. 1. Map of Early Medieval sites in Poland excavated in 1985

penannular brooches, a series of ornamented finger-rings and pendants, a chain of 14 links of bronze band.

Three earthworks from other parts of Poland merit attention. At **Zawada** (18), Tarnów province, site 1 (A. Cetera, J. Okoński, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Tarnów), the barrier rampart (rampart III) continued to be explored revealing only a strongly levelled base, 5 m wide, with only Lusatian materials; the top of the rampart contained an irregular row of postholes and 2 pits, 1 m or so in diameter, each with remains of a post fixed with stones. On the outside was a moat, 4.5 m wide and 2.8 m deep, and on the inside, a Lusatian layer was intersected by early medieval dwelling features containing pottery partly finished on the wheel, a glass bead, a bucket handle; 9th (?)–11th cent. The second season at **Wieleń** (8), Piła province (E. Wilgocki, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Szczecin) yielded an earlier habitation level of the stronghold built around 11th/12th cent.: houses built on block principle or on the frame of vertical posts, with timber floors; lower parts of 2 wells, identified in previous year, lined either with thick vertical boards (well 2) or with horizontal boards strengthened with transverse ribs (well 1); their fills contained fragments of timber windlasses, a stave bucket with iron hoops and handle and remains of iron chains. Investigations of the quay of the port town were concluded at **Wolin** (1), Szczecin province, site 1 (W. Filipowiak, J. Wojtasik, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Wolin); the discoveries included the revetment of the quay of 9th/10th cent., represented by a wall-palisade of thick boards

driven into the peaty subsoil and anchored by horizontal ties which kept the wall in position; streets passing into bridges led to the quay.

Relics of pre-Romanesque and Romanesque architecture were studied on a relatively large scale. At **Przemysł** (19), Zamek site (E. Sosnowska, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Rzeszów) work was concentrated on the complex of buildings (rotunda, palatium) from the first quarter of the 11th cent., partly uncovered during previous investigations; the discoveries included a layer of mortar which formed the usage level of the palatial aula, and foundations of 2 pilasters at the short walls of the aula, indicating its division along the long axis. The investigations on **Wawel Hill** (17), **Kraków** (Z. Pianowski and team, Kierownictwo Odnowienia Zamku Królewskiego, Kraków-Wawel) covered the area in front of the N wall of the Renaissance palace, revealing large portions of the two-phase palatium (from the middle and close of the 11th cent.), formerly known as the hall with 24 posts and dated to 13th cent.; walls with *opus spicatum* courses were partly raised on the top of the rampart of 9th/10th cent. The continuation of work in the Benedictine abbey at **Lubiń** (9), Leszno province, site 1 (Z. and S. Kurnatowski, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań), revealed 3 successive phases of the development of the *westwerk* of Romanesque church II: first (early ? 12th cent.) the nave was shorter, and the church was probably surrounded on the W side by a wall with circular towers (?); next, the nave was extended by a gallery some 3 m wide, supported by a central pillar (under the gallery, on the axis of the nave, there was a tomb of timber with a mortar cover, containing a robbed burial of a man 25 years old); finally (early ? 13th cent.) a tower, still existing, was added on the W side. There are additional data suggesting that Romanesque church I (close ? of 11th cent.) had never been completed since no traces of the N wall of the church were found in the area where it should have been, while a building, 9×5 m in size, adjacent to the S wall of church I, was also unfinished and associated with a burnt layer. The investigations begun at **Kamieniec Ząbkowicki** (16), Wałbrzych province (J. Romanow, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Wałbrzych) revealed the layout of the inner garden, cloister and refectory of the Cistercian monastery from the second half of the 12th cent. and relics of the earlier Augustinian monastery of early 12th cent., mentioned in written sources.

The study of defensive features, so-called mottes, from the turn of the Early and Late Middle Ages, and of medieval towns with timber buildings was intensified. The first group includes **Orlów** (11), Płock province (L. Kajzer and team, Uniwersytet, Łódź) where two-year investigations of a residential and defensive feature, located among wet grassland of the Bzura valley, and dated to the second half of the 13th cent., were concluded (cultural layer with traces of fire – perhaps of a timber tower – lying on timber paving); the motte was enlarged about mid-14th cent (the mound was raised by 1 m or so, a palisade was added), and abandoned about mid-15th cent. A timber built-up of the 13th-14th cent. continued to be explored at **Elbląg** (4) – **Stare Miasto** (T. Nawroński and team, Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków, Gdańsk) – further sections revealed 5 levels of houses and streets, partly destroyed by walls and latrines of later Gothic brick houses, part of the levels dated by dendrochronological method to 1250 and 1260: a rich collection of finds of 13th-15th cent., including 4 wax tablets with preserved Latin texts for rhetoric exercises, a series of flute-shaped glass and beakers, of the so-called Römer type. Very interesting finds, notably crossbow boltheads of oak, 42 cm long and 1.3 cm wide, were uncovered during removal of rubble at the former Stone Gate of 14th cent at **Świdwin** (2), Koszalin province (H. Janocha and team, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Koszalin).

Two barrows were explored at the only barrow cemetery to be excavated in 1985 at **Wojciechów-Stary Gaj** (15), Lublin province, site 1 (J. Gurba, B. Bargiel, Uniwersytet M. Curie-Skłodowska, Lublin) revealing cremated bones, an iron knife, a bell (?) and pottery of 8th-9th cent scattered in the mound.

Of the inhumation cemeteries unassociated with a church 3 sites of 11th-12th cent. claim attention: **Piotrów** (10), Sieradz province, site I (G. Rycel, Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne, Łódź) – two-year investigations were concluded yielding a further 7 graves

(30 in all) with heads to E and W; **Plock-Podolszyce** (12) (T. Kordala, Muzeum Mazowieckie, Plock), an area of 430 sq. m yielded 18 burials (2 of children) arranged in 3 rows along the N-S line, bottoms of 2 graves were stone-paved; the grave-goods included a hone with a hole, a leaf-shaped spearhead, a necklace of 17 glass beads, 2 silvered-bronze finger-rings, numerous tin and silvered-bronze temple-rings; **Dębczyno** (3), Koszalin province, site 53 (A. Sikorski, Uniwersytet, Poznań) - 3 graves in timber settings (boards, posts), furnished with bronze temple-rings, iron knives (one in a case with a silver covering), flower seeds.

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AKC. 310/86 kp
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