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Tomasz Jurek

**More recent historical studies into the history of Poland in the 12th and 13th c.**

*Summary*

The paper aims to summarise the research on the history of the 12th and the 13th centuries undertaken in the course of the last twenty-thirty years (the starting point being not a particular date but the first appearance of the most important views discussed today). The presented outline is selective due to a considerably large number of relevant publications. In Polish historiography, the two centuries in question were viewed jointly as a period of “regionalisation” of Poland (“feudal fragmentation” according to Marxist historiography). The criterion taken into account was political history. More recent studies, however, have indicated that the collapse of the central authority and emergence of self-governing provinces took place as late as at the end of the 12th c. In this perspective, the unity of the fragmentation period falls apart and the two centuries become separate entities. The 13th c. is frequently described as “revolutionary”. Detailed studies have revealed that it was a time of a wide range of economic, social and cultural changes, propelled to a large extent by German colonisation. These transformations, which determined accelerated adoption of Western patterns (“occidentalisation”), marked one of the most important civilizational turning points in Poland’s history. The 12th c., in turn, was seen until recently as part of a “ducal law” period characterised by an immutable continuity of institutions and developments set up already during the earliest phase of the Piasts’ state. However, this picture (drawn on an overused retrogression) should be revised. Although the sources are scarce and many issues escape our cognition, the research shows dynamic changes taking place in this period (growth of huge land ownership, increase in minting activity, rebuilding of stronghold-based organisation, emergence of early urban complexes, etc.), which signalled fundamental breakthrough of the next century. These findings restore to some extent a unity to the period, which, still, is not a clearly distinctive entity in Poland’s history. The review of the relevant literature presented in this paper shows the scarcity of regional research and synthetic overviews, and it points to the need of constant reference to comparative studies..

Andrzej Buko

**Archaeology of the Polish lands in the 12th and 13th c.:**

**a survey of research questions**

*Summary*

The period covering the 12th and 13th c. can be described as a time of both intensive development and reorganisation of settlement structures. In the first half of the 12th c. the organisation based on fortified settlements was being replaced by principalities and a new system of economic management of the state. During that time in other regions Christianisation had already been considerably advanced. We can observe significant changes in craft production and spatial organisation of towns and village settlements. Finally, the mid-13th c. marked the time of Tatar raids after which towns entered a new stage of development, i.e. an organisation based on foundation charters under the Magdeburg law. In the second half of the 13th c. construction of strongholds rapidly declined to be successively replaced with first stone and then brick castles.

Combined stronghold-town centres from the time between the 12th and mid-13th c. mark a transition stage in the development of Polish towns – between those founded by the first Piast rulers and those established in the charter period. Archaeological definition of micro-scale structural elements of the early towns is far from easy. These include the localisation of objects mentioned in written sources, such as inns, trading stalls, mills or marketplaces and also churches as yet archaeologically unidentified.

The 12th c. brings qualitatively new developmental elements into the topography of pre-charter towns. First and foremost those were the increasingly numerous churches. That was the time of monumental edifices, with stone as the building material. Along with churches, in the pre-charter towns of the 12th c. appeared cemeteries. They still maintained many features of the pagan ritual, such as equipping the dead with weapons, ornaments, amulets and objects of everyday use.

Studies of burial rituals give rise to questions to which archaeology as yet knows no indisputable answers. They involve such issues as the burial places of church dignitaries in the 13th c., the obligatory orientation of the dead in the cemeteries, progress in Christianisation and the complex problems concerning the duration and disappearance of row burials in the 12th c.

Around the mid-13th c. and shortly afterwards towns founded on charters appeared in the Polish landscape. But again, there are unsolved questions: what is a charter-founded town for an archaeologist? Were the areas in which land plots were demarcated previously free of any buildings? What was happening at that time on the peripheries and in the former centres of pre-charter towns? There are also questions concerning the multi-ethnicity of town dwellers and the new models of housing development.

Another problem involves castellan strongholds, and equally intricate issues of the growth of hybrid forms – constructions half way between a stronghold and a castle, as revealed by research realised in Dobrzyń and Chełmno lands. As opposed to towns, the 12th and 13th c. village settlements have not been the subject of separate studies so far, not to mention long-term research projects. Their dispersal over the land makes them also difficult to identify.

In Poland there are practically no integrated research projects of village settlement forms in the perspective of transformation they underwent over the centuries. Thus, the examination most often involves selected elements of buildings (dwellings and outbuildings), with only occasional forays into their settlement context. Due to deep ploughing and erosion processes village sites as a rule lack continual strata. Defining the chronology of finds still remains a problem. As opposed to town centres, diversified in terms of culture and status (sometimes the origins) of their inhabitants, in the countryside time had a different dimension. It was not the arrival of newcomers nor changes in building patterns or material culture but the stability of deep-rooted socio-cultural systems, the durability and immutability of settlement structures that characterised the majority of mediaeval settlements.

A peculiar group of early-state settlements is represented by so called service villages. Many researchers believe that this type of settlements in the Polish lands was an “import” of an idea whose origins may be found in the Carolingian world. “Industrial villages” have so far been poorly investigated, too. These were settlements specialising in mining and processing of natural resources. Sometimes they date back to the 11th and 12th c., and in a number of cases a continuation of mining industry well into the modern times can be noted.

As in the case of towns, village courtyard cemeteries remain important and inspirational archaeological sources. The research concerning the burials involves the analysis of local populations, including their intravital features, and family and cultural relationships.

In the village setting, the 12th and 13th c. is a period of continuing old traditions, but also of inevitable changes in the mentality of village dwellers following the expansion of parish networks. As yet unchartered waters in our country, though already implemented in Western Europe, are the attempts to identify the sites of economic activities, such as animal husbandry, production workshops or arable lands – fields and pastures. That was also a period of qualitatively new sacral (religious) architecture connected with the arrival of many monastic orders in the Polish lands. Burials found on the premises of monasteries are also explored. In the case of a convent church no less relevant issues concern the placement of the burial (presbytery, crypt, aisle area), its form (interment in a wooden or stone-slab encasing), elements of the burial rite such as the presence or absence of grave goods and their particular characteristics (including the presence or absence of the attributes of secular or ecclesiastical power), mutual positioning of the burials, the question of their number (whether single or multiple) and many others. Settlement in the vicinity of monasteries is also an object of interest. Here, the study involves the remains of workshops which functioned on the monastery’s building site as well as those which produced various supply goods.

Differently from other regions of our country, the territories situated east of the Vistula for long years stayed outside the mainstream of Polish archaeology, including studies focused on the 12th and 13th c. The lands of Warmia and Mazury are yet to set down future exploration tasks for archaeological research into that period, even though many expeditions carry out research in this region every year.

In Mazovia the research has been more concentrated on issues related to human settlement and the burial ritual. A peculiar element of the local burial rite includes graves with stone constructions; even though many questions remain to be solved, the hypothesis of an outside inspiration of the phenomenon still holds. The key research problems concerning eastern Mazovia are ethno-cultural issues considered in the context of ideological changes that were taking place during the 12th – 13th c., including the pressure of Eastern and Western Churches and paganism.

In the case of Chełm land and Przemyśl land one must emphasise the multifaceted problem of investigating pre-communal towns whose development followed their own unique patterns that show distinct features of the urbanisation models of Kievan Rus. They are well reflected in long-term studies concerning Chełm under the Romanovich dynasty (the end of the 12th – 13th c.). A parallel area of research involves the strongholds of the former Polish – Rus borderland. They are characterised by a variety of forms, chronology and duration never found in other regions of our country. Despite shifting political affiliations of these lands, some of the frontier strongholds were developing uninterruptedly from the 9th to 14th c.

The issues presented above demonstrate attractiveness of the research as well as many fundamental problems and questions that need to be resolved. That is why the archaeology of the 12th and 13th c. has the opportunity to map out the main trends of Polish mediaeval archaeology, just as it did decades ago for the study of the beginnings of the Polish state.

Andrzej M. Wyrwa

**Stone and brick architecture in the 13th-14th c. Poland.**

**The state and perspectives of research. Some introductory remarks**

*Summary*

In our discussion we have tried to consider the state of architecture in Polish territories and its developmental dynamics, drawing on the conclusions produced to date by historians of architecture historians of art, and by historians basing indirectly on the former’s findings, as well as by archaeologists who provide new objects for the relevant chronological framework.

True to the title, the time framework covers the 12th - 13th c. period. This particular time phase constitutes a peculiar compact entity. However, it must be remembered that cultural phenomena involving all architecture-sensitive issues are not a closed chapter. All relevant issues draw on the past and their consequences affect the periods to come. The time span considered includes a number of significant cultural trends whose consequences are well reflected in all problems associated with architecture. One of the key phenomena we face is the regional division in the first third of the 12th c. with its resultant dynamic process of political, social and cultural changes.

To define the current state of knowledge we have tried to consider the period’s architecture within a multifaceted discussion of jointly wooden, stone and brick architecture, and then mainly in strictly statistical terms (cf. Figs 1, 5, 6, 8, 9). Such an approach allows to increase the awareness of our cognitive gaps and to show a more dynamic picture of what we know, what and how we still have to examine and where we should aim our further deliberations to gain in-depth conclusions that would produce a truer picture than we seem to possess at the moment.

In the second half of the 10th c. and the beginnings of the 11th c., in the tradition of central and eastern Europe, Polish territories included, stone and brick architecture was practically an absolute novelty. The building convention of the region, partly due to huge swathes of forests, predominantly meant wood and had been present here for centuries. Thus, following the conversion to Christianity, the dawn of the new era saw the encounter of two building practices – the old one, based on wooden architecture, and the new one, based on brick or stone, derived from the traditions of western and southern Europe. In this paper, besides the data presenting the advance of stone and brick architecture, for the sake of a fuller picture and drawing on written records we have also tried to show the development of wooden architecture that co-existed with stone/brick constructions and which was massively predominant (cf. Figs 6, 8, 9). Even though we have signalled only a few of the problems involved, with most of them requiring more detailed studies, we can state that our current knowledge about, e.g., the number and character of sacral (religious) objects in Polish territories is selective and incomplete. Hence, the area of research is still open for further considerations. Yet, independently of detailed architectural and inventory analyses, as well as of comparative ones, of particular stone/brick objects (sacral and secular), there is a need of a deepened reflection, by archaeologists in particular, about wooden architecture – involving both research and documentation. All available specialist research methods should also be applied. A more comprehensive – analytic and synthetic – view of all construction work (in wood and stone and brick; sacral and secular) is urgent as well. The present research procedures, irrespective of the knowledge and experience of individuals tackling particular architecture-related issues, in fact enforce the creation of research teams consisting of experts in various fields (historians, archaeologists and specialists in natural science), the results of their studies allowing an elaboration of the postulated theses and an escape from the vicious circle of problems frequently produced by a purely intuitive knowledge of a given topic (Figs 10, 11 show the results of applying some of the specialist research). Even though we know quite a lot, the ways to fully perceive the architecture in our lands remain open. It is only to be hoped that we shall choose the right track so as to wisely recognise and navigate the space into which it is leading us.

Michał Brzostowicz

**Greater Poland of the 12th and 13th c. in archaeological sources**

*Summary*

The main focus of this paper is the change of settlement patterns in Greater Poland (Wielkopolska) in the period between the 12th and 13th c. The study of the subject is based largely on archaeological material from phases E and F. Chronologically they cover a longer time span, between the mid-11th and the first half of the 14th c., a fact that – considering a large number of rather imprecisely dated complexes – makes following the dynamics of changes difficult, particularly during the two centuries in question, yet, on the other hand it allows to get a broader context. The analysis is based on several hundred relatively well dated archaeological sites including strongholds, open settlements, monasteries and burial grounds.

The examination of spatial distribution of archaeological sites from phase E (second half of the 11th c. – first half of the 13th c.) reveals a concentration of settlement in eastern and southern areas of Greater Poland and its considerable scarcity in the region’s western and northern parts. This clearly corresponds to the settlement network from the period of the first Piasts’ monarchy (mid-10th – first half of the 11th c.) rebuilt after the crisis of the1030s. The similarities mentioned become even clearer in relation to the spatial distribution of fortified settlements (Fig. 2). The modifications consisted solely in the abandonment of strongholds in the south-eastern parts of the region, decline of Grzybowo stronghold and erection of several new fortified settlements (among them, Biechowo, Przemęt, Radzim and Zbąszyń). The tendencies were maintained to concentrate fortified settlements in the central part of Greater Poland (the old hub of the Piasts’ state) and distribute single strongholds in its southern, western and northern frontiers. This situation, despite abandonment and restructuring of some settlements, basically did not alter even in the 13th c. (Figs 3 and 4). A number of strongholds continued into the early 14th c., and those on the Noteć river, used for defending the border against the Brandenburgians, functioned the longest.

New elements to appear in settlement setting of the 13th c. Greater Poland were towns (Fig. 5). The circumstances of their foundation varied, but the majority appeared in the central part the region, where the Piasts’ state originated and developed. Urbanisation of the time was connected with a gradual departure from the system of fortified settlements, with a noticeable tendency for maintaining the more important centres (Gniezno, Poznań and Kalisz) in the ducal hands. The fate of other settlements varied, although as a rule they were joined to the land owned by the church, monasteries and the chivalry.

A prominent place in the new settlement structure was taken by monasteries. It can be noted that towards the close of the 13th c. congregations of the Benedictines, Cistercians and Norbertines were located in the borderlands of Greater Poland, while the Franciscans and Dominicans settled in towns concentrated mostly in the centre of the region. The first group of orders, apart from purely missionary work, played the role of local centres of facilitating cultural development and economy.

The main elements of settlement system in Greater Poland of the 12th and 13th c were village settlements. Unfortunately, the unsatisfactory state of research into the subject makes it difficult to resolve a number of issues, such as the character of settlements, forms of buildings, changes taking place or continuation of traditional arrangements. Yet, the analysed material reveals the examples of villages focused on production, sites possibly related to knights’ settlement, as well as instances of applying new building techniques and examples of complex relationships between the “old settlements” and villages founded under the Magdeburg law.

A rewarding field of study that enables the following of changes in Greater Poland at the time involves burial grounds. We can observe that the period produced a relatively small number of cemeteries located in the immediate vicinity of monasteries and churches, though the cases of Ląd on the Warta river and Ostrów Lednicki point to a drift towards elimination of village cemeteries and placing burials within the confines of the fortified settlements, in courtyards located by Christian churches. This process is reflected in a considerable drop in the number of furnished graves.

In conclusion, it should be stated that archaeological material gives an opportunity to follow a slow departure from the system of fortified settlements, as well as the development of land property, construction of small strongholds and monasteries that took on the role of centres for the growth of local settlement and foundation of towns and villages with new rights and privileges. It seems that the frame of the new settlement organisation in the region was shaped in the early 14th c., towards the end of the regionalisation period. The course of the process was undoubtedly determined by the policy of Greater Poland’s dukes. It involved a tendency to abandon old strongholds and to found towns, and then to allocate land to members of the chivalry and the Church alongside with maintaining the ducal hold on the main centres of the Greater Poland province (Gniezno, Poznań and Kalisz), to preserve strategically important border strongholds over long periods and decide the fate of former settlement centres (whose condition was very unequal). This tendency involved also supporting Christianisation, as demonstrated by, for example, a careful location of monasteries and creating or supporting colonization activities. Almost each of these phenomena is reflected in archaeological material. Hence, its further analysis can extend our knowledge of settlement changes that took place in Greater Poland in the examined period.

Wojciech Dzieduszycki

**Transformation in the 12th-13th c. Kujawy**

*Summary*

The paper aims to describe changes that occurred in the 12th – 13th c. in the Kujawy region, particularly in Kruszwica, which from the second half of the 10th c. had been one of the state’s principal strongholds. In the period specified in the title the examined region was a field of conflict between the Piasts of Mazovia and the Piasts of Greater Poland. It was a time of dramatic socio-cultural, political, military and economic changes. Significant was also establishing two dioceses, in Kruszwica and Włocławek, associated with the state investment projects aimed at Christianisation of Pomerania. Important in terms of settlement and economy were transformations in village settlement network that were taking place between the second half of the 11th c. and the 13th c. The period saw the arrival of foreign groups of people, i.a. from Pomerania, Mazovia and Rus. The transformations that occurred in Kujawy and Greater Poland showed certain similarities. The fundamental change involved reorganisation of political system and structure of the Polish state, which was reflected in decentralisation of authority and adaptation of ideas from the West and other parts of Europe. Fragmentation of power triggered a need for introducing various organisational changes within particular duchies, involving administration, culture and economy. These efforts were aimed at the manifestation of the ruler’s prestige and legitimisation of his reign. The resulting conditions became the founding stones for the later idea of the unification of the Kingdom.

Sławomir Moździoch

**Transformations in the 12th-13th c.  
Silesia as revealed by the castellan strongholds research**

*Summary*

It seems indisputable for both historians and medieval archaeologists that the Piasts’ rule in in the 11th-12th c. was based on the system of strongholds. The studies focusing on the changes of the 12th and 13th c. involve investigations concerning the fortified settlements which are best recognised in terms of available archaeological evidence: Wrocław, Opole, Bytom Odrzański and Ryczyn.

Long-term excavations carried out at a stronghold located in Bytom Odrzański have revealed that it had been inhabited by at least two separate communities: a wealthier one, professionally linked with the military and trade (treasury), dwelling in “castrum minus”, and the other one, settled in “castrum maius”, different in terms of consumption profile and material culture. Both groups of knights lived within the stronghold together with their families, as attested by finds of ornaments and toys as well as numerous spindle whorls that indicate spinning activities.

The bipolar socio-topographical model of an early Piasts’ fortified settlement, based on the analysis of the available archaeological data from Bytom Odrzański site has its analogies in facts verified during the investigation of other Silesian strongholds, including the stronghold located on Ostrów Tumski in Wrocław and on Ostrówko in Opole. About mid-12th c., with the fiscal system based on tributes and servicing that catered for the strongholds’ crew and the ruling elite slowly coming apart, the model began to change dramatically.

One of the archaeological indicators of this phenomenon is a considerable shortage of building material recorded in the 12th c. layers of Wrocław and Opole settlements. This was not caused by environmental changes (e.g. clearing of oak forests), but resulted from the collapse of the servicing system that provided for the strongholds’ crew. In Wrocław, to compensate for the shortage of building material, the wood was obtained from dismantled fortifications. The very fact of such a possibility provides yet more evidence of a system-under-transformation, with fortified settlements changing their military-levying functions into residential ones. This was accompanied by a gradual move of the stronghold-based warriors to the villages granted by the ruler. The emptying fortified settlements gradually became seats of the wealthy.

The 12th and 13th c. strata in Wrocław and Opole the process is visible in the emergence of manor houses - complexes usually containing a fenced residential house and an outbuilding. Changes in construction methods were accompanied by the disappearance of any traces of domestic crafts (leather processing and weaving) that characterised the earlier households of stronghold-dwellers, while the finds of military and tradesmen’s equipment along with the remains non-ferrous metal working were growing in number. The rise in social status of strongholds’ inhabitants during the 12th-13th c. was reflected in changing consumption patterns, with the increasing preference for wild meat, including wild boar, deer and aurochs. In the 13th c. the space left by departed stronghold knights was built over with brick secular edifices (the Opole castle) or sacral (Wrocław, Głogów) buildings.

The analysis of archaeological sources from the Silesian strongholds confirm the hypothesis about the 12th-13th c. change that occurred in the way the ruling elite was supported and maintained, which no longer consisted in distribution of goods obtained by the levying system among the beneficiaries via fortified settlements and their dweller-knights.

Dominik Nowakowski

**Local centres of ducal rule in the Silesian Lowland, the 12th – 13th c.**

*Summary*

The examples of northern Silesian centres of ducal rule described in the paper demonstrate the extent to which their structural transformations were influenced by socio-cultural changes of the 12th-13thc. To provide a possibly complete picture of this issue the author focuses on several settlements developing from the time of inclusion of Silesia into the Polish state at the close of the 10th c. (Głogów, Krosno Odrzańskie) and then, the centres that grew between the 12th and the first half of the 13th c. within the autonomous Silesian duchy (Żagań, Nowogród Bobrzański, Lubin), and finally, an example of a castellany functioning in the second half of the 13thc. (Tarnów Jezierny), established by the local ruler duke Henryk III of Głogów.

The history of the majority of the centres in question shows that the process of socio-cultural changes that led to the creation of communal towns had a long-lasting character. The period from the turn of the 11th c. until the first half of the 13th c. was a time of development of polycentric settlement complexes with growing participation of trade settlements. In some cases parish churches were erected (Głogów, Żagań). Roughly at the same time, as can be inferred from written and archaeological sources, a reorganisation of the local authority must have taken place. Documents from the late 12th and early 13thc. contain the first mentions of castellans and other previously unknown clerks of ducal administration. Defensive structures, previously absent, were being erected (e.g. Żagań, Nowogród Bobrzański and Lubin). Old strongholds also underwent transformation. Distinct traces of reorganisation of the internal space are visible in the Głogów fortified settlement, where in the 12th c. a church with a western gallery was built. The oldest hub of such early medieval settlement complexes was the stronghold round which there would gradually develop one or more open settlements, and the final stage was the communal town based on the German (Magdeburg) law. In the Silesian Lowland the only town founded under the German law in the first decades of the 13th c. was Krosno Odrzańskie, established next to the old settlement complex. The foundation charter for Głogów, the regional capital, dates fairly late, to the mid-13th c., probably due to better developed pre-charter settlement and a complicated situation connected with land ownership.

An almost analogous model of settlement organisation based on a fortified structure functioned in the second half of the 13th c., as exemplified by the castellany of Tarnów Jezierny. It developed at the Silesian-Greater Poland borderland, possibly to subjugate a small settlement enclave that was growing around Sławskie Lakes. The castle probably provided protection for the undergoing colonisation of the area. The final stage that somehow concluded the colonisation process under the German law was the founding of a small town of Sława, the centre of a minor town district. More cases of internal and external colonisation propped up by the castle are known from both northern and southern Silesia.

The paper devotes considerable space to the 12th-13th c. chronology in the Silesian Lowland, mainly to pottery material. The described archaeologically surveyed settlement centres reveal that the characteristic feature of pottery assemblages from the turn of the Early and Late Medieval period is the co-occurrence of traditional and colonisation products. A certain regularity can be inferred from preliminary observations alone. In centres with relatively early settlement under the German law, such as Krosno Odrzańskie, mixed assemblages with a large participation of traditional pottery are characteristic for the first half of the 13th c. A large participation of traditional pottery can be noted in the material from a settlement functioning in the vicinity of the Lubin stronghold. At the same time, the castellany stronghold in Bytom Odrzański and the left river bank settlement in Głogów contained almost exclusively traditional pottery. In the second half of the 13th c. large town centres (Głogów, Krosno Odrzańskie – the castle) contained a relatively modest percentage of traditional pottery while in identically dated layers of the Tarnów Jezierny castle the participation of pottery with early medieval features was still considerable. These observations indicate that in the peripheral regions traditional pottery vessels were still quite commonly used in the second half of the 13th c. and continued into the beginning of the following century, while in large settlement centres the items linked with the late medieval pottery-making prevailed.

Jerzy Sikora

**Peripheries in the centre of the divided Kingdom. Archaeology of Central Poland  
in the 12th and 13th c.**

*Summary*

For many years the 12th and 13th c. were marginalised by archaeological research. This probably resulted from a number of factors, but one of them seems to be a dividing line set on the year 1250, rooted in chronological systems functioning in Polish archaeology. It determined the focus and separation of interests of researchers studying the Early and Middle Ages, while the period in question was left on the peripheries of investigations undertaken by these two groups. Although field research, both of planned and rescue character, carried out over the recent years as well as monographs and synthetic overviews (eg. Kajzer 2003; 2007; Sikora 2009) have noticeably extended our knowledge, the subject of the 12th and 13th c. transformations can hardly be considered to have been exhausted.

Out of the seven fortified strongholds described in the Bull of Gniezno that would create the foundations of the administrative-territorial organisation in the 12th c. Central Poland, the field research allowed to identify the settlements in Tum, Spicymierz, Sieradz, Rozprza and Żarnowo. Objects in Wolborz, Skrzynno and Małogoszcz have not as yet been recognised in the field. On the other hand, the list of strongholds operating in the 12thc. is supplemented by the sites of Chełm, Okopy and Rękoraj, unknown from written sources. Even though the archaeological recognition of these settlements is far from complete, there is no doubt that until the 14th c. military architecture in Central Poland was limited to developing the early medieval model of earthen-and-wood fortifications. The growth of brick or stone constructions began only with the 14th c. The only novelty that appeared during the period was the use of a motte-type model of strongholds. This applied both to modernization of older settlements (Rozprza, Spicymierz) and to construction of new ones, the latter constituting private property. From the mid-13thc. motte-type structures were used increasingly frequently by members of nobility - in response to the demands ensuing from the growth of private land property. The research conducted over recent years, however, has indicated that the early (13th c.) chronology determined during older field surveys from 1960s to 1980s need to be verified.

The region’s backwardness against the leading provinces of the country is apparent in funerary rites and the development of brick and stone architecture. Until the mid-13th c. the predominant funerary rite in Central Poland was typical of the earlier phases of the Middle Ages, with burials equipped with a number of items (elements of dress, ornaments, and even weapons and vessels) and cemeteries situated with no clear association to sacral buildings. The custom disappeared only in the second half of the 13th c., alongside the growing number of churches with surrounding churchyards. Some observations (from Żarnowo and Łęczyca) seem to suggest that in the early phases ornaments (temple rings, among others) were deposited in graves even in churchyard cemeteries. Very few brick and stone churches were built in Central Poland until the turn of the 12th c. (Tum, Góra św. Małgorzaty, Inowłódz). Their number increased only in the 13th c., involving both ducal and private foundations. However, the expansion of the network of churches that would become a basis for the parish system in fact took place only in the 14th century.

The 12th-13th c. saw a considerable growth of settlement sites. There appeared specialised production villages, a phenomenon previously absent in the region. The city foundation movement reached Central Poland in the second half of the 13th c. The emerging towns (Sieradz, Łęczyca, Wieluń) were founded in the area of older, early mediaeval settlements. Their fortifications were set in brick and stone only in the 14th and 15th c. and were limited to just a few crucial centres (even Sieradz, a regional capital, apparently did not have a complete rampart enclosure until the end of the Middle Ages). Although the early structure of these centres has been very poorly recognised, it can be assumed that they played a major role in spreading new patterns of material culture, particularly of pottery production (in reduction-firing technology).

The above phenomena seem to demonstrate that despite geographically central location, the discussed region remained a cultural periphery in the 12th-13th c. Although in the result of political decisions Central Poland became an important place in the fragmented state, there was no significant acceleration of development. The marginal status of the area was consolidated in the 13th c. and only due to historical circumstances did a local duke Władysław Łokietek become a ruler who finally unified the state and restored the dignity of the monarchy.

Maciej Trzeciecki

**Mazovia in the 13th century – an archaeologist’s perspective**

*Summary*

The 13th c. was a turning point in the history of Mazovia (Mazowsze). In a longer perspective, the political events as well as social and economic processes that took place at the time occurred to be decisive for the future history of the province. The reign of Konrad I, which spanned almost the whole first half of the 13th c., was a period of prosperity. The 1262 Lithuanian raid brought about a demographic catastrophe and a temporary collapse of administrative structures. The main sources of knowledge about political history of Mazovia at that time are chronicles. Reconstructing settlement network, forms of social life and cultural patterns, on the other hand, belongs to the domain of archaeology. However, the period in question remains beyond the scope of interest of archaeologists, who concentrate more on the beginnings of the early Middle Ages or the establishment of the structures of the Polish state.

The analysis of data available in publications allows for revealing the potential of research issues concerning the discussed period. In this paper it is demonstrated through the study into the structures of spatial organization in both macro-scale (covering the whole region) and micro-scale (analysed on the basis of several selected central settlements). An attempt to demonstrate the dynamics of changes concerning spatial organization is based here on the analysis of development of stronghold centre networks. Prior to the beginning of 13th c. the most outstanding in terms the number of strongholds was Płock region, with the seat of the ruler and the diocese. The remaining area of Mazovia was characterised by scattered settlement clusters sometimes accompanied by fortified settlements. The fundamental change that took place over the 13th c. was the construction of a network of strongholds in the region south-west off the middle Vistula.

The transformations in settlement patterns are linked with Mazovia’s early urbanisation. The analysis of spatial structures in better recognised centres (Płock, Czersk, Pułtusk, Błonie) reveals that hardly any of them would meet the “early urban” criteria. Płock, whose position both within the region and within the whole kingdom was special, stands as the only exception. It seems that in the 13th c. Mazovia there was no need for the functioning of centres with characteristics of early towns. The role of political and administrative centres was performed by strongholds backed by small village settlements, self-sustaining and requiring no large investments. The actual process of urbanisation began after 1300, following the granting of the city foundation charter to Warsaw. It would appear, however, that this belatedness did not resulted from Mazovia’s “long-time” backwardness but from the region’s specific political and economic conditions.

Wojciech Chudziak

**The castellany of Chełmno against the background of Vistulian Pomerania**

**in the 11th-13th centuries**

*Summary*

According to Polish historiography, the beginnings of Chełmno Land (Ziemia Chełmińska) covering the area between the Vistula, Drwęca and Osa rivers trace back to 1220s, particularly to the initial period of the Teutonic Order rule in the region. The oldest reliable document defining the borders on these rivers is the agreement signed in 1235 between duke Konrad of Mazovia and the Teutonic Knights, granting to the Teutonic Order “all the land called Chełmno territory, as closed between the Drwęca and Osa rivers length and width” (Powierski 1973: 43). However, Chłmno Land as an organizational-territorial unit of the Piasts’ state may have emerged already at the end of the 10th century or, more probably, at the beginning of the eleventh century. The crucial role was played at that time by an area located at the intersection of two main far-reaching routes: the Vistula route (both via the river and land) and a route passing from Russia, through northern Mazovia to Pomerania. It was at the crossroads of these routes (recorded in archaeological evidence from as early as the middle of the 10th century) that emerged a settlement complex in Culmine, which was mentioned in later written sources, and which should be considered the main political-administrative and religious centre of the region. The name Culmine derived from a characteristic hill located in the area (in modern times called the Mount of St. Lawrence), similarly as the name given to the whole surrounding territory (terra culmensis).

Most probably the castellany of Chełmno was created during the rule of Bolesław Chrobry in the years 1112-1116, after the annexation of Pomerania. Initially, it covered the area of north-western Pojezierze Chełmińskie (Chełmno Lake Land), comprising 7-8 previous settlement centres. The only two-segment stronghold at that time was Chełmno, the remains of which have been discovered at the foot of the Mount of St. Lawrence in Kałdus (phases VIII-IX). This was a settlement complex bearing the characteristics of an early town with developed crafts and trade, with an inn, a market place and local transport obligations. The years 1216-1217 witnessed the emergence of the castellany of Radzyń (created probably in part from the castellany of Chełmno) with a network of strongholds-guards(?) located on the border with Prussia. After the destruction of Chełmno and the nearby strongholds, this area became the place of the crusade of dukes of the Piast dynasty. In addition, an attempt was made to rebuild the main settlement centre owned previously by a Prussian bishop Christian. This stage of existing of the castellany closed with the donating of Chełmno Land to the Teutonic Knights in 1228 and the founding of the town Chełmno in 1233.

Marian Rębkowski

**Archaeological indicators of 12th-13th c. transformations in the Duchy of Western Pomerania. An outline of the issues**

*Summary*

The chronological scope proposed by the conference organizers, covering jointly 12th and 13th centuries, was a somewhat specific period in the history of Western Pomerania, which actually decided about the inclusion of that part of the lands inhabited by Baltic Slavs into the Latin European civilisation and, consequently, their cultural occidentalisation. The two centuries in question witnessed an accumulation of various kinds of historical processes of crucial importance for the region’s future, whose course and character are reflected also in archaeological evidence. Despite still modest scale and uneven distribution of field research and scarcity of relevant studies, the data obtained so far have shed a completely new light on settlement, socio-economic, religious and cultural transformations that took place during this period.

Transformations of the 12th c. associated with settlement patterns involved the emergence of early state structures and the establishment of polycentric, early urban settlement complexes around the main strongholds of the Duchy. It can be optimistically assumed that future settlement studies will possibly provide information about the correlation between the administrative boundaries of the castellanies and provinces under their authority, and the former settlement divisions dating to the tribal period. At the same time, religious and cultural changes took place, following the Christianisation of the state beginning with the third decade of the 12th c. They are reflected in Pomerania not only in the appearance of churches but also of monumental architecture and monasteries. The changes are particularly well visible in archaeological sources of sepulchral character, including the decline of cremation and burial mounds, the spread of inhumation and the development of two only types of burial grounds – churchyard cemeteries situated within settlements and village row cemeteries.

Even more profound changes can be observed in the next century, with an almost overall reorganisation of the social space within the Duchy following the political, administrative and demographic transformations. As a result new types of settlements emerged, treated also as new categories of archaeological sites, including a charter-founded town, a charter village, a motte-type structure, and possibly even a castle. An important element of spatial changes in that period was associated with urgent need for land measurement and establishing boundaries that marked off various segments of social space. Along with the formation of the ecclesiastical structure completed, the customs connected with Christianity, such as locating the site of worship and the adjacent churchyard cemetery within the boundaries the settlement, became solidified. The period of interest saw also the spread of sacral stone and brick architecture and, in the closing decades of the century, secular burgher architecture in the largest port towns. The changes of the 13th c. are particularly well visible in archaeological sources revealing the development of new production techniques and new forms of products, the innovations associated with the transformations taking place in various areas of material culture.

Grzegorz Osipowicz, Magdalena Kalinowska, Piotr Weckwerth, Michał Jankowski

**A settlement of the Linear Pottery culture at Trzciano 40, Wąbrzeźno commune**

*Summary*

The article presents the results of complex studies into archaeological material attributed to the Linear Pottery culture (further referred to as LBK), acquired during field research carried out at Trzciano, site 40, in Wąbrzeźno commune in 2012. The results of geomorphological, soil and hydrological analyses indicate that the examined area may have been periodically inundated by the waters of Wieczno Południowe Lake, and, at times, it may have formed a separate island. The archaeological material uncovered during excavations involved 64 features, including 8 ones associated with the LBK. They can be divided into pits containing small amount of material and “rich” features, which comprised over 200 pottery fragments and several dozen flint artefacts. In the examined features altogether 500 bones were recorded.

The technological-stylistic analysis involved 537 fragments of pottery vessels attributed to the LBK. 33% of this assemblage was represented by so called kitchenware, with predominance of vase-shaped and semi-spherical vessels ornamented with stamps, pinched patterns, finger-tip or finger-nail impressions and plastic knobs. The remaining 67% of the collection comprised tableware with, characteristic of this group, open vessels decorated with incised lines or motifs resembling musical notes. Other types of ornament registered in the latter group included finger-nail and finger-tip impressions, pinched and incised decoration and plastic knobs. Characteristics of the examined pottery, including, among others: ornament in the form of bands and punctures, accentuation of incised lines (particularly bends and terminations of volutes) with depressions resembling musical notes, domination of rectilinear compositions over curvilinear ones, as well as prevalence of incised lines with „v-shaped” profile, allow for dating this material to the 3rd phase of the LBK development in Chełmno land (4200-3900 conv. BC).

The excavations carried out at Trzciano, site 40 have yielded 119 flint artefacts; further 15 ones came from a denudation layer covering the features. The results of the raw material analysis have shown predominance of chocolate flint, except for feature no. 13, which contained a relatively large number of items made of Baltic erratic flint. Blades were acquired from single-platform cores with prepared striking platforms and flaking surfaces. The examined flint material has revealed relatively high importance of splinter technique, applied mostly for working erratic material, and also of chocolate flint. Most of the flint items are considered to be of waste character; prevailing forms of tools include endscrapers and truncated blades. Use-wear analysis performed on all the flint items has revealed traces of use or probable damage resulting from wear on 19 artefacts. The majority of flint implements were recorded in feature no. 13. They included items used for hide and wood processing, a sickle inset, a side inset of projectile weapon and an implement that may have been used for combing plant fibers. Among other features containing tools were: feature no. 10 (a harvesting inset) and feature no. 14 (2 harvesting insets, a scraper for wood processing and a scraper for hide working). The remaining features attributed to the LBK did not comprise flint items showing use-wear traces. A small number of implements recorded at the site do not permit broader conclusions concerning the function of individual features. It seems, however, that no substantial economic activities were carried out in the surrounding area, and the pits were filled only with damaged items, treated as waste material.

The research at Trzciano uncovered also 43 stone artefacts made mostly of sandstone and granitoids. They include polishing plates, stones with traces of polishing or chopping, grinders, as well as ard shares and their fragments. Water environment allowed the preservation of ecofacts and items made of organic material (bone and antler). The research has revealed 7 items of this kind (6 ones in feature no. 13), all of which underwent stylistic, microscopic and archaeozoological analyes. Microscopic examination has indicated the presence of multiple technological and use-wear traces. The assemblage of bone and antler artefacts uncovered at the site in question is unique, since artefacts made of organic material survive extremely rarely at archaeological sites of the LBK located in Chełmno-Dobrzyń Lakeland (Pojezierze Chełmińsko-Dobrzyńskie). The material described above is to date the most numerous collection of bone and antler artefacts attributed to the LBK found in this region.

Absolute chronology of the described material has been determined on the basis of radiocarbon dating of four samples (two bones and two charcoals). The dates obtained for bone samples (MKL-1709: 4790±110 BP and MKL-1710: 4230±80 BP) are undoubtedly too young, and they may have resulted from post-deposition processes that took place in the environment characterized by changing hydrological (and thus probably also chemical) conditions. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal samples (MKL-1707: 5700±90 BP and MKL-1817: 5840±90 BP) has generally confirmed the findings based on technological and stylistic analyses, placing the examined material in the closing stage of development of the LBK in Chełmno land.

Both the number of identified features and the characteristics of the material indicate that the cluster of the LBK features recorded at Trzciano, site 40 represents probably the remains of a short-term (possibly one-time) stay of a human group. The analysis of artefacts and radiocarbon dates point towards a very late chronology of this complex, illustrating a stage of changes that took place among the LBK communities under the influence of the Late Band Pottery culture.

Jarosław Wilczyński, Agnieszka Czekaj-Zastawny, Albert Zastawny

**Krzemienne oraz obsydianowe zabytki kultury malickiej ze stanowiska 17  
w Brzeziu, pow. wielicki, Małopolska**

*Streszczenie*

Stanowisko nr 17 w Brzeziu należy do największych stanowisk przebadanych podczas badań ratowniczych, wyprzedzających budowę autostrady A-4 pod Krakowem (6,0 ha). Badania te koordynował Krakowski Zespół do Badań Autostrad sp.j., a finansowała Generalna Dyrekcja Dróg Krajowych i Autostrad. Pracami terenowymi prowadzonymi w latach 2000-2007 kierowała Agnieszka Czekaj-Zastawny z Instytutu Archeologii i Etnologii PAN w Krakowie. Szczególnie ważne rezultaty wykopalisk w Brzeziu odnoszą się do wczesnego neolitu i rozpoznanych tu reliktów osiedli dwóch kultur: kultury ceramiki wstęgowej rytej oraz kultury malickiej. Stanowisko w Brzeziu usytuowane jest 25 km na południowy-wschód od centrum Krakowa i położone w obrębie lessowej strefy regionu wielicko-bocheńskiego (Podgórze Bocheńskie). Jako punkt osadniczy należy do wyraźnie wyodrębniającego się na południe od doliny Wisły mikroregionu osadnictwa kultury malickiej, związanego z lewobrzeżem Raby.

W przedstawianym artykule zaprezentowano wyniki analizy kamiennego inwentarza kultury malickiej, na który składa się łącznie 677 artefaktów krzemiennych i obsydianowych. Zabytki te odkryte zostały w 15 obiektach, spośród 84 jam osadowych, tworzących rozległą osadę tej kultury. W inwentarzu kamiennym kultury malickiej dominuje krzemień jurajski podkrakowski, przynoszony na teren osady z odległości około 30 km. Obok bardzo licznych wyrobów wykonanych z tego surowca, nieliczne zabytki wykonane zostały z krzemienia świeciechowskiego (najprawdopodobniej narzutowego), czekoladowego oraz obsydianu. Jest to głównie debitaż, któremu w przypadku krzemienia czekoladowego towarzyszy zespół narzędzi.

Wśród rdzeni występują wyłącznie egzemplarze odłupkowe (poza pojedynczym okazem wykonanym z obsydianu). Jak można przypuszczać brak rdzeni zaczątkowych oraz występowanie niemal wyłącznie rdzeni odłupkowych jest raczej wynikiem intensywnie prowadzonej obróbki krzemienia, a nie celowej eksploatacji odłupkowej. Wniosek taki można wysunąć na podstawie znacznego udziału wiórów oraz narzędzi, do produkcji których wykorzystywano niemal wyłącznie półsurowiec wiórowy. Wśród narzędzi retuszowanych stanowiących 11 % inwentarza najliczniej reprezentowane są drapacze, stanowiące ponad połowę wszystkich narzędzi. Drugą kategorię pod względem liczebności stanowią półtylczaki, a pozostałe typy narzędzi (poza odłupkami retuszowanymi) reprezentowane są przez pojedyncze egzemplarze.

W skład większości inwentarzy kultury malickiej z obszaru południowej Polski, wchodzą najczęściej pojedyncze okazy rdzeni oraz narzędzi, rzadziej są to liczniejsze zespoły. Wśród nich na uwagę zasługuje stanowisko Kraków-Nowa Huta Mogiła 48, Targowisko 10, 11, pow. Wieliczka oraz Modlnica 5, pow. Kraków. Pomimo pewnych różnic, cechy inwentarzy kamiennych odkrytych na wszystkich wymienionych wyżej stanowiskach, wydają się zbliżone, zwłaszcza jeśli chodzi o zestaw narzędziowy. Istniejące różnice są przede wszystkim wynikiem dystansu jaki dzielił dane stanowisko od wykorzystywanych złóż surowca. Widoczny w stosunku do materiałów kultury ceramiki wstęgowej rytej wzrost udziału wiórów oraz narzędzi w inwentarzach kultury malickiej, może wynikać z odmiennego systemu zaopatrywania tych osad w surowiec krzemienny. Jak można przypuszczać, na osadach malickich większą rolę odgrywał półsurowiec krzemienny przynoszony z kopalń/pracowni położonych na Jurze, zmniejszył się natomiast import surowych brył krzemiennych eksploatowanych bezpośrednio na osadach. Mogłoby to świadczyć o bardziej zróżnicowanej strukturze osadniczej, gdzie obok zwykłych osad funkcjonowały wyspecjalizowane ośrodki zajmujące się wydobyciem oraz wstępną obróbką surowca krzemiennego. Jest to jednak przypuszczenie, które musi zostać potwierdzone w toku dalszych badań inwentarzy kamiennych pochodzących nie tylko ze stanowisk położonych w bezpośredniej bliskości złóż surowców kamiennych, lecz również osad znacznie od nich oddalonych.

Monika Kaczmarek

**Cord or textiles? A textile analysis of ornament impressed on funeral pottery of the Lowland communities in the 3rd millennium BC**

*Summary*

The paper outlines the results of textile analyses of cord ornament recorded on funeral pottery dating to the 3rd millennium BC. The material for the examination was obtained from archaeological sites located in the Polish Lowland (Chodzież, Łęki Małe, Lutol Mokry) and attributed to the communities of the Globular Amphorae culture and Corded Ware culture. The analysed assemblage of vessels underwent macro- and microscopic analyses. The next stage of investigations involved experimental research aimed to verify the hypothesis about the use of the previously identified textiles in the production of vessels. The research has revealed a diversified set of artefacts employed in the manufacturing and ornamenting of the pottery in question. The vast majority of decorations were executed with textile matrices. Cord impressions made with “free hand” have been recorded only in case of simple ornaments consisting of single cord impressions.

The research largely expands the current knowledge concerning textile manufacturing in the Neolithic period, which due to the lack of direct evidence can be interpreted only on the basis of indirect sources, including textile impressions, loom weights, spools and spindle whorls. The analyses performed by the author contribute to the studies on textile production in the Stone Age, the subject which is gaining increasing interest among Polish archaeologists.

Mateusz Stróżyk

**Rediscovered… The archaeological excavation of barrow 18 at a cemetery  
of Smoszew, Krotoszyn commune**

*Summary*

Barrow 18 was one of the burial mounds located at the Smoszew cemetery. The site, examined in the 1920s by professor J. Kostrzewski, dates to the Middle Bronze Age, which concurs with the time of the Tumulus culture. Excavations at barrow 18 were carried out in 1965 under the direction of Zbigniew Pieczyński from the Archaeological Museum in Poznań. Archaeological material collected during the fieldwork has never been published.

The article presents the results of studies on the archival documentation based on CAD/GIS systems. All the archaeological plans were digitized manually, and the resulting vector objects were given additional attributes. The collation of the data in virtual space allowed the reconstruction of the excavation strategy and the detailed analysis of the barrow construction.

The application of the above procedures enabled the identification the barrow’s overall structure as well as its subtle stone constructions. According to the data, barrow 18 comprised a centrally located stone core, a grave chamber and a double circle of stones. The construction elements of this kind often occur in barrows of the Tumulus culture located in the area of Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic. Modest grave equipment, represented in this case by a bronze pin and three potsherds, is also characteristic of this cultural unit.

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