

Attachment 4.

Monika Freygant-Dzieruk

PhD dissertation

Early medieval settlement on the border of the Inowrocław Plain and the Żnin-Mogilno Lake District. The problem of shaping the local castellany - an archaeological study.

Summary

The aim of the work is to try to explain the problem of the development and changes of early medieval settlement structures in the area of Kujawy Inowrocławskie and the formation of the territorial and stronghold unit associated with the center in Inowrocław.

The analysis of the settlement network was carried out on the basis of archival and source research and collection of literature on the subject. These activities included written sources, older and newer literature on the subject, master's theses, but also conservation documentation from surface research, excavations and archaeological supervision. As part of the verification, survey and drilling tests were also carried out at selected positions.

Structurally, the work was divided into two parts - volume I, which is a descriptive part of the settlement situation and its dynamics in the area of Kujawy Inowrocławskie in the early Middle Ages, and volume II, which is a catalog of strongholds, a list of archaeological sites divided into functions and a chronological and typological analysis of ceramic material from research of the Kuyavian Expedition in 1968-1979.

The study carried out an analysis of settlement structures developed in the area of the so-called Kujawy Inowrocławskie in the early Middle Ages. It was carried out in terms of the origins and functions of various forms of settlement, which are the result of various manifestations of activity of the community living in this area. Both the central points of the strongholds and the settlements directly related to them, the so-called open settlements, cemeteries, silver deposits and the so-called settlement traces. All materialized manifestations of human activity are also presented against the background of a network of land and water routes.

The result of the study presents an interpretation of the development and changes of the settlement network in the early Middle Ages in the area where the Inowrocław castellany was established. In order to capture the settlement transformations taking place in this area, the settlement network was described according to the following division: A/B, B-D₀ and D₁ – E₃. The impact of the transformation of the settlement network on the process of shaping the Inowrocław castellany and its main center was also taken into account.

What attracts attention is the huge amount of historic material found in numerous archaeological sites and the registered relics of defensive fortifications of a castle nature, dating back to the older phases of the early Middle Ages. These finds allow us to assume that the area of Western Kujawy in the 6th-9th/10th centuries was the place of residence of a large number of people and relatively stable settlement structures emerged during this period. In the early Middle Ages, the area around the Inowrocław hill was one of the most densely settled areas in Kujawy and Greater Poland. This was undoubtedly influenced by, among others, soil conditions, favorable location in relation to the long-distance communication network (the area is located in the Vistula and Oder watershed) and used salt deposits, as well as rich access to waters at the base of the Inowrocław hill. An additional advantage of the Inowrocław castellany were the routes of great commercial importance that ran through its areas. The emergence of specialized production centers (including salina) led to the creation of a number of roads and trails. They connected both nearby settlement centers and distant centers linked by common trade. Undoubtedly, the roads led through Bydgoszcz, Chełmno/Kaldus, Słońsk, Kruszwica and Konin. The density of settlements, which intensified especially in the 12th century, indicates that this area played an important role. Thanks to trade contacts, salt production and undoubtedly the strong support of the Church, Inowrocław was the strongest center of Western Kujawy at the beginning of the 13th century. After the fall of Kruszwica, it became the center of economic and political life. At a time when the Piast influence and power were expanding, the lands of Inowrocław were the gateway to further expansion of the Piast dynasty.

Monika Freygart-Dzięk