

„Wiślica in the early Middle Ages in the light of archaeological research.“

There are eight archaeological sites in Wiślica. These are two early medieval hillforts (in the north-western part of the village "Regia", where were discovered relicts of the Romanesque architecture and located outside of the village "Grodzisko"; the Gothic collegiate church with relicts of two Romanesque churches, one of the most valuable monuments of Romanesque art in Poland – "Płyta Orantów" and cemetery; archaeological site at Batalionów Chłopskich street and the Plac Solny square, where were discovered foundations of a single-nave church with annex and relicts of an early medieval and medieval village; relicts of St. Martin's Church with the surrounding cemetery; the archaeological site named "city walls"; relicts of the 17TH-century Church of The Holy Spirit, the House of Długosz and early medieval cemetery discovered in the village of Gorzysławice.

Extensive archaeological research in Wiślica was conducted in the years 1949-1978 and 1994-1998. In addition, verification or rescue tests were carried out in 1979 (drilling at the site at Batalionów Chłopskich Street), in 1980 (preliminary verification research of the wall at "Grodzisko"), in August 2000 (verification at the church. St. Nicholas), in 2003 (rescue excavations at Collegiate) and in 2006 (rescue excavations on "Regia"). In the following work was attempt to elaborate still available movable archaeological monuments and the documentation, as well as to compare research results from across Wiślica and Gorzysławice with each other. In one place was collected and the current state of research was summarized and the chronology of individual sites was defined on the basis of archaeological sources analysis and issues impossible to solve without further excavations were indicated.

In Wiślica are two early medieval hillforts. One of them, the so-called "Hillfort", is located on the limestone rock in the valley of Nida. The second, named in the literature as a "culmination", "Regia" or "Castle", is situated in the north-western part of Wiślica, at culmination. Unfortunately, the base of the dating of the following phases of the constructions of these hillforts have a fragile base. Both probably arose in the X century (presumably in the second half of this century). In the case of a hillfort on "Regia" we can not indicate the moment of construction, but its destruction should probably be placed in the third quarter of the X century or soon afterwards. "Grodzisko" probably came into being only after its destruction, in the second half. X century or even at the turn of the 10th and 11th centuries. It functioned until the end of the 11th or the first half of the 12th century. After its destruction, the main center was already associated with the "Regia". The next use of "Grodzisko" can be combined only with the period of struggles of Władysław Łokietek over Lesser Poland at the turn of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The princely residence from the reign of Henryk Sandomierski and Kazimierz Sprawiedliwy and the castellan stronghold mentioned in the 13th century should be located at the culmination of the city island.

Besides the hillforts early medieval settlement was discovered during excavation at Batalionów Chłopskich street and on three sites while searching the city walls: two in the south-eastern part of Wiślica, on the North and South side of the Kilińskiego street and one in the south-western part of the climax. However, it is certainly incomplete and random image that does not reflect the real collocation of the early medieval settlement of Wiślica.

Excavation research in Wiślica led to the discovery of relicts of Romanesque architecture in a number unseen in other Małopolska centers (except for Krakow and Sandomierz). In the early mediaeval center there were four buildings on the "Regia" (two buildings, interpreted as palatia, and two rotundas), a church discovered at Batalionów Chłopskich street, Romanesque churches I and II, and the church. St. Marcin, whose early medieval form was not discovered during excavation. One can not forget about two buildings, whose chronology can not be defined: in the area of the present sacristy next to the collegiate church and on the site of the conch rotunda on the "Regia".

In the city, four areas can be identified as the burial place during the early Middle Ages, and one more in the Gorzysławice. All these cemeteries belong to a group of flat, inline skeletal necropolises.

The oldest necropolis of the settlement complex in Wiślica is most probably the burial ground in Gorysławice (2 XI - the beginning of the 12th century). Probably not much later, because at the turn of the eleventh and twelfth centuries (and perhaps already in the second half of the 11th century) two more necropolis arose: at ul. Peasant Battalions and at the church. St. Martin. The necropolis next to the conch rotunda on "Regia" is another one that can be combined with the end of the 11th or 12th century. In the 12th century there was also a cemetery next to the Romanesque church I (which was still used after the founding of the Romanesque church II and the Gothic collegiate church). The youngest cemetery in Wiślica connected with the period of the early Middle Ages is probably a younger cemetery on the "Regia", whose chronology can unfortunately be defined only in XII-XIV centuries. Location of the cemetery in Gorysławice, lack of a temple, rich burial equipment, a large number of discovered coins and other captured manifestations of pagan customs may indicate that this place was the oldest Christian cemetery of Wiślica. Necropolis near the church. St. Nicholas (?) And at the Romanesque church I had undoubtedly an elitist character. Here are found graves inside the temple, graves in stone sarcophagi and covered with stone plates. The cemetery at the conch rotunda on the "Regia" is characterized by an unprecedented layout - concentrically around the temple, stone structures of graves and complete lack of burial equipment.

The history of Wiślica presented in this dissertation covers only a fragment of the glory period of this center, which developed dynamically during the reign of the last Piasts. The transformation of Wiślica at the turn of the thirteenth and fourteenth and the fourteenth centuries, the activities of Bishop Jan Muskata, Władysław Łokietek and the reconstruction of the city during the reign of Kazimierz Wielki, however, are already beyond the scope of this study.