aussi en de nombreux points un compendium de pionnier (par exemple relativement aux peuples nomades).

L’importance et le mode d’élaboration de la thématique englobée par la série concernée, ont été déterminants dans l’attribution aux auteurs de certains fascicules des prix du Secrétariat Scientifique de l’Académie Polonaise des Sciences. Ont été couronnés les auteurs des études consacrées au monde slave (Fasc. 1,2,3) et du travail collectif Les Huns européens les Protobulgares, les Khazars, les Petchenèges (fasc. 4). En outre, ce dernier travail a trouvé place dans le Livre des actions et réalisations de la science polonaise en 1973¹⁰.

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NOTES

¹ Cf. «Materiały Informacyjne PAN» 1977, no 5, pp. 312 - 314.
³ V. ci-dessus note 1.
⁴ W. Hensel, op. cit., p. 7.
⁵ W. Hensel, op. cit., p. 8.


Dr Andrzej Buko’s book deals with the results of research on early mediaeval Sandomierz pottery. The material comes from excavations carried out by the Institute of the History of Material Culture of the Polish Academy of Sciences from 1969 till 1974 on Castle Hill and at the site of Collegium Gostomianum. The study included also pottery discovered at this time in the town and its vicinity during rescue and sounding excavations.
Ceramics are a mass "by-product" of various activities and as such must reflect to a certain degree the social and cultural patterns characterizing the society which they represent. To define these patterns we must consider the way in which archaeological sources reflect socio-cultural reality, we must apply an appropriate research methodology and solve a series of specific technical problems.

Initially, the most important decision was in the choice of standardized and yet precise description of the pottery—the most numerous material of early mediaeval sites. Most attempts so far in this area have lacked a clear differentiation of individual traits and used different measuring scales. Definitions have also lacked precision. These insufficiencies stemmed from the difficulty of describing finds so fragmentary as pottery assemblages. The author based his well thought out conception of the descriptive code on the descriptive cards proposed by J. Kruppé in 1967 and M. Leenhardt in 1969, modifying them according to his research needs. The data bank thus created was the basis for further research.

The author deals first with the technology of early mediaeval pottery production in Sandomierz. The complex application of physical chemistry methods as well as the geological, petrographic, ethnographic, and statistical ones made possible the identification of seven types of clay used by potters as well as the probable location of deposits from which the clay was dug. Four varieties of clay could be found in the vicinity of Sandomierz while the three remaining ones were most probably brought in from the Kielce and Cracow regions.

The surface decoration of Sandomierz pottery, though crude and practically limited to incised line designs, can be classified into seven groups. In the part discussing ornamentation the author deals also with potters' marks which in the case of Sandomierz pottery can be found on the bases of 50 per cent of the vessels. Their function is thought to be connected with the magical practices associated with craft manufacture.

The most important and most interesting chapters in the analytical part of this work are concerned with the morphology of clay vessels. The author begins with criticizing typological concepts which up till now have been generally accepted in studies on pottery. He charges that the typological method detects seemingly significant differences which are in fact of secondary importance, while obscuring the real formal structure of pottery manufacture. Instead, he proposes a new classification based on statistical methods in which Vessel Shape Families (RF) are distinguished. The RF groups together vessels which at first glance seem to vary in form, but which have a common set of morphological, technological, and ornamental features.

The above is connected with the concept of "prototype," i.e., of a model possessing a specific set of attributes characteristic of a given Vessel Shape
Family. Such a prototype can be linked with the preferences of individual potters.

The author considers the possibilities lying in the application of this new model. He sees the possibility of defining hierarchically subordinated to each other levels of classification corresponding to the pottery produced by one workshop, a group of workshops in one place, region, and group of regions.

After describing, analyzing and classifying the material, the assemblages from the various sites were dated. This served to describe the process of changes which pottery manufacture underwent in Sandomierz in the early Middle Ages in relation to the development of the town. Pottery made on the wheel by coiling and turned in its upper part, from the 8th century to the middle of the 10th, shows the influence of trade contacts with Little Poland. Its spatial distribution points to the existence at this time of a pre-urban settlement on Castle Hill.

The second phase, associated with the dynamic growth of Sandomierz (second half of the 10th to 11th century), shows not only local ties with Little Poland (Kielce, Cracow) but also the very strong influence of contacts with the Great Poland region, ruled by the Piast dynasty, as well as certain features characteristic of Mazovian pottery. It is at this period that the Collegium Gostomianum was also settled. The heterogeneous character of cultural traditions mirrored in pottery finds is repeated in the diverse burial customs discovered when excavating the 11th century cemetery on St. James' Hill.

Further changes in pottery manufacture took place in the 12th and first half of the 13th century when the coil throwing technique became widespread. In the urban settlement of that period the "Great Poland" tradition disappears and is continued only in the surrounding villages. The disappearance of regional differences in pottery manufacture is evidence of the economic and cultural integration of the country. This process results in a unification of vessels forms similar to that occurring in other parts of Poland.

The results of A. Buko's studies seem to support his choice of method, however, several problems certainly demand further research. Notwithstanding, his work illustrates the possibilities offered by a complex analysis of ceramics when discovered in such large amounts.

Przemyslaw Urbańczyk

Wojciech Dzieduszycki, Wczesnomiejska ceramika kruszwicka w okresie od połowy X w. do połowy XIV w. [The Early-Urban Kruszwica Ceramics From the Second Half of the 10th to the Mid-14th Century], Wrocław 1982 Ossolineum, 205 pp.