

SWIT PRO MO RZA

The Dawn of Pomerania

The Collection of Pomeranian Antiquities



The National Museum in Szczecin

The Dawn of Pomerania

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- 58-59. In and on the water (~800-1200 AD)



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Exhibition Guide



The National Museum in Szczecin
Szczecin 2023

Left:

Decorative motif from the early medieval reliquary of St Cordula
(photograph: K. Gołębiowska, N. Laskowska)

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INTRODUCTION

The Dawn of Pomerania – a new permanent exhibition at the National Museum in Szczecin – illustrates almost 14 millennia of history of the human culture in Pomerania from the end of the Ice Age to the first decades of the Duchy of Pomerania. On the exhibition, there are over 1000 objects from rich archaeological collections that were being compiled in Szczecin from the first half of the 19th century. The oldest of the presented archaeological finds date to the 13th millennium BC. These are traces of the material and spiritual culture of the hunter-gatherer community that acquired goods from the natural world. Successive groups of the specialised Stone Age hunters and gatherers dominated in Pomerania for several thousand years.

In the second half of the 6th millennium BC, the first farmers reached the lower Oder. The objects presented on the exhibition show fundamental changes in the use of natural resources as well as in the production and lifestyle of people living in Pomerania for the next three millennia. The then widespread production economy and technological innovations as well as social and cultural changes are referred to as the Neolithic revolution.

At the end of the 3rd millennium BC, Pomerania came under the influence of the Early Bronze Age civilisation. The collected exhibits – hoards, grave finds, objects from settlements – introduce various aspects of everyday life, prove contacts with remote areas and present beliefs of communities inhabiting this region for almost two thousand years until the first (exclusive at the time) iron objects appeared.

In the second half of the 1st millennium BC, iron became the main raw material for the production of weapons and tools. Communities living in Pomerania during this period developed and changed the cultural picture under the influence of contacts with the Celtic civilisation and the Roman Empire, from where objects made in local workshops started to arrive in the 1st century AD. In the 4th century AD, the culture groups occurring in Pomerania disappeared and the settlement became clearly dispersed. At the end of the ancient times, small groups of people from Scandinavia arrived. The exhibits presented on the exhibition show a burial rite, characteristic pottery, weaponry, personal ornaments and tools representing successive archaeological cultures as well as Roman and Byzantine imports.

Between the 6th and 8th centuries, characteristic elements of the Slavic culture appeared in Pomerania. At the end of the 8th and the beginning of the 9th century, at mouths of rivers emerged trading and manufacturing centres with multi-ethnic population following different religions. Significant changes took place in the first half of the 12th century with introduction of a new religion in Pomerania – Christianity. The existing oligarchic system – the rule of magnates and priests – was replaced with the castellan. A new stage in the history of the region has begun, ending the Early Middle Ages and leading to the formation of towns which were given urban charters.



Anthropomorphic representations on the insignie from Rusinowo (exhibit 7.7) and the bâton de commandement from Szczecin-Podjuchy (exhibit 7.4) (photograph: G. Soleccki)



Grave goods from Karsko – exhibit 18.1 (photograph: K. Gołębiewska, N. Laskowska)

ROOM 1. THE STONE AGE (~12700–2000 BC)

The objects in Room 1 are from the oldest times of human settlement in Pomerania, that is from the 13th millennium BC to the turn of the 3rd and 2nd millennium BC. This part of the exhibition presents evidence of material culture of hunters living in Pomerania in the Old and Middle Stone Age (display cabinets 3–8) and first farmers in the Younger Stone Age (display cabinets 9–18).

The Old and Middle Stone Age (Palaeolithic and Mesolithic) are periods during which human survival was based on mobile lifestyle and foraging economy, including hunting, fishing and gathering. The network of contacts that was established as a result of people's migration covered a large part of Northern Europe, leading to a rapid exchange of ideas and objects over a vast area around the southern and western Baltic Sea.

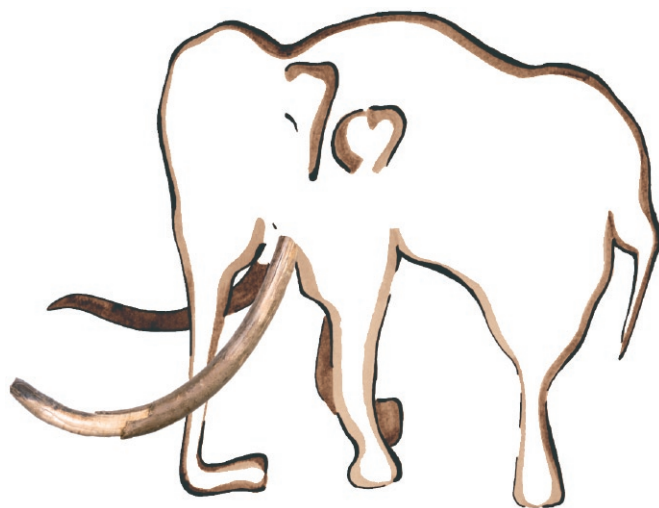
The Younger Stone Age (Neolithic) is a period of a fundamental transformation in using natural resources as well as changes in the production and lifestyle of past communities. All of the economic and technological innovations introduced at that time as well as socio-cultural transformations are known as the Neolithic revolution. It was based on a transition from hunter-gatherer economy to agricultural and livestock economy.



Amber bear figurine from the area of Słupsk – exhibit 7.1
(photograph: K. Gołębiowska, N. Laskowska)

Part I. The Palaeolithic and the Mesolithic (~12700–4100 BC) Geological past of Pomerania (>12700 BC)

Development of human settlement in Pomerania was determined by various geological processes that took place tens or even hundreds of millions years ago. The event that had the strongest impact on the present natural conditions in Pomerania was the last glacial period, known as the Weichselian glaciation (Vistulian), which started about 115000 years ago and ended about 12000 years ago. At the end of the Pleistocene, 16400–14900 BC, the ice retreated from the entire area of present-day Pomerania. A process of forming first ecosystems began almost immediately. Initially they were simple, evolving with time towards more complex, resembling modern ones. The evidence for this process is the remains of mammoths (1.1) which lived in open areas of tundra.



Woolly mammoth (based on rock painting from El Pindal Cave) (drawing: A. Ryś)

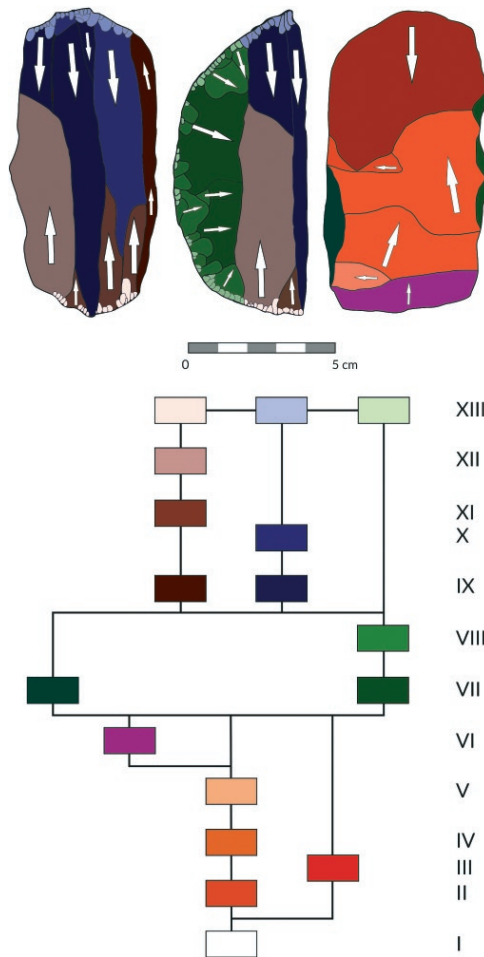
From the point of view of the hunter-gatherer community, one of the most important aspects was availability and quality of raw materials for making tools, especially flint. Pomerania is exceptionally rich in flint, being also a consequence of the last glaciation. Numerous flint deposits occur in various geological formations. In moraines, fossils can be found which, like flints, were transported by the glacier. These are mainly various remains of marine organisms, like fossilised sponges (2.2), and some special ones, such as a teeth of the Megalodon (2.1), the largest predatory fish to have ever lived in the oceans.

Exhibits:

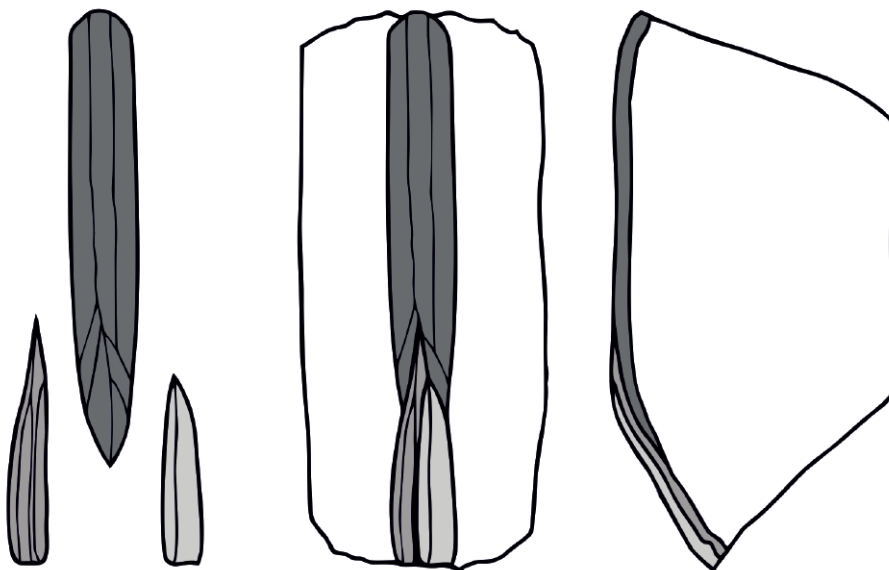
- 1.1 Mammoth's tusk, Pomerania
- 2.1. Megalodon's tooth, Pomerania
- 2.2. Silicified marine organisms, Łęgi, pow. Police and Szczecin-Zdroje, pow. Szczecin

Reading flint (~12700–4100 BC)

After production of flint tools, there is a lot of waste which forms various spatial distribution patterns on a site. The most common type is a single concentration. For a researcher of the Stone Age, flint is not only a raw material, but also a means of ideas that can be studied and compared with other types of data thanks to modern analytical methods. In the technological approach, the method of producing a given object is analysed. The main assumption is to trace the entire production process step by step. It is then possible to recreate the full history of objects, from raw pebbles (3.5), through first stages of exploitation (3.4) and specimens abandoned in the advanced stage of exploitation (3.3), to by-products of last stages (3.2) and final products (3.1).



Stages of an Ahrensburgian core exploitation from the workshop site in Kocierz (drawing: M. Adamczyk)



Method of blade production for tanged points (drawing: M. Adamczyk)

Exhibits:

- 3.1. Final products of flintknapping, Kocierz, pow. Gryfice
- 3.2. Exploitation by-products, Kocierz, pow. Gryfice
- 3.3. Products of the advanced stages of core reduction, Kocierz, pow. Gryfice
- 3.4. Artefacts from first stages of exploitation, Kocierz, pow. Gryfice
- 3.5. Raw pebbles, Western Pomerania

Faces of cultures (~12700–4100 BC)

During over 8000 years of the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic, Pomerania was inhabited by many peoples representing different traditions. This area was part of a larger cultural region – Northern Europe – around the western Baltic Sea and Scandinavia. Archaeological cultures occurring in Pomerania have direct counterparts in Northern Germany, Denmark and Southern Sweden, although in some cases they show signs of local traits. The Hamburg (4.24), Federmesser (4.21–23), Bromme (4.19,20) and Ahrensburg (4.14–18) are Palaeolithic cultures. There are also cultures of the Palaeolithic-Mesolithic transition (4.12,13). The Mesolithic is associated with the Maglemosian culture which is divided into following phases: Early (4.10,11), Middle (4.5–9), and Late which is considered together with the Kongemose culture (4.1–4).



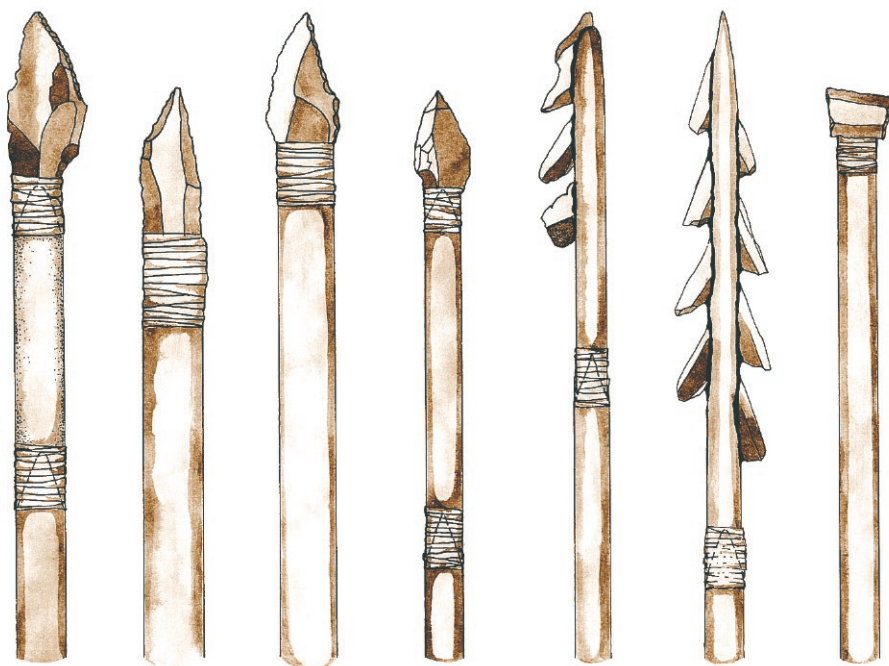
Late Palaeolithic, Middle Mesolithic and Protoneolithic hunters (drawing: A. Ryś)

Exhibits:

- 4.1. Lithic assemblage of the Late Mesolithic, Grzeczpnica, pow. Police
- 4.2. Subconical punch blade core, Biebrówek, pow. Goleniów
- 4.3. Trapeze and perforator, Miękowo, pow. Goleniów
- 4.4. Handle core, Szczecin-Śmierdnica, pow. Szczecin
- 4.5. Conical core exploited with a punch, Drzewica, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 4.6. Subconical pressure microblade core, Morzyczyn, pow. Stargrad
- 4.7. Subconical pressure microblade core, Dołuje, pow. Police
- 4.8. Lithic assemblage of the Middle Maglemose culture, Szczecin-Śmierdnica, pow. Szczecin
- 4.9. Lithic assemblage of the Middle Maglemosian, Dobra, pow. Police
- 4.10. Lithic assemblage of the Early Maglemose culture, Szczecin-Bukowo, pow. Szczecin
- 4.11. Side scraper, burin and microlith (backed blade), Wicimice, pow. Gryfice
- 4.12. Lithic assemblage of the Palaeolithic-Mesolithic transition, Smolecin, pow. Gryfice
- 4.13. Flake axe and three blades, Niedźwiedziska, pow. Gryfice
- 4.14. Two prismatic cores, Western Pomerania
- 4.15. Single platform blade core, Baszewice, pow. Gryfice
- 4.16. Two single platform blade cores, Tanowo, pow. Police
- 4.17. Blade assemblage, Szczecin-Śmierdnica, pow. Szczecin
- 4.18. Small tanged point and end scraper, Koszalin-Rokosowo, pow. Koszalin
- 4.19. Double platform blade core, Lubieszewo, pow. Gryfice
- 4.20. Lithic assemblage of the Bromme culture, Łęgi, pow. Police
- 4.21. Lithic assemblage of the Federmesser culture, Wotczkowo, pow. Police
- 4.22. Single platform blade core, Tanowo, pow. Police
- 4.23. Federmesser backed blade and truncation, Łubianka, pow. Myślibórz
- 4.24. Lithic assemblage of the Hamburg culture, Tanowo, pow. Police

Hunting, gathering and fishing (~12700–4100 BC)

The economy of all Palaeolithic and Mesolithic cultures in Pomerania was based on hunting, fishing and gathering. Like material culture, it was largely determined by environmental conditions. In the case of Pomeranian hunter-gatherers, there are three main systems of adaptation. The research on the Stone Age yielded information that those systems forced the application of certain solutions in the field of economy, settlement and material culture. Naturally, they are best visible in typical categories of artefacts, such as flint points and small tools (5.1–8) or products made of bone and antler (5.9–12).



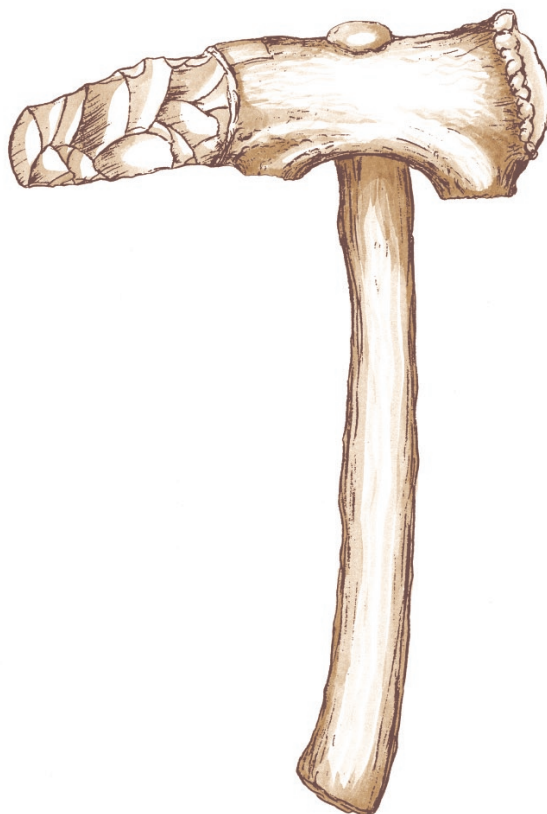
Reconstructed arrows of Late Palaeolithic and Mesolithic communities (drawing: A. Ryś)

Exhibits:

- 5.1. *Federmesser point, Morzyczyn, pow. Stargard*
- 5.2. *Bromme tanged point, Szczecin-Krzekowo, pow. Szczecin*
- 5.3. *Sviderian tanged point, Stare Czarnowo, pow. Gryfino*
- 5.4. *Ahrensburgian tanged point, Szczecin-Śmierdnica, pow. Szczecin*
- 5.5. *Ahrensburgian tanged point, Szczecin-Bezrzecze, pow. Szczecin*
- 5.6. *Two truncation blades and backed blade, Szczecin-Śmierdnica, pow. Szczecin*
- 5.7. *Set of microliths and ruler blade, Dołuje, pow. Police*
- 5.8. *Collection of trapezes, Szczecin-Śmierdnica, pow. Szczecin*
- 5.9. *Bone harpoon and perforator, Gniewino, pow. Wejherowo*
- 5.10. *Bone point, Kosierzewo, pow. Sławno*
- 5.11. *Bone point, Borzym, pow. Gryfino*
- 5.12. *Deer or elk antler fishing hook, Radusz, pow. Bytów*

Axes, pickaxes, hoes and chisels (~9600–5400 BC)

The hunter-gatherer communities developed a range of special tools for the toughest work. Their uniqueness is evidenced by the fact that they were made of materials much less durable than metal. Elements made of antler and bone (6.1–9) as well as flint (6.10–14) have survived to present times. However, wood, animal sinews, leather and plant fibres were also used. Among the tools for the heavy work, there are both simpler ones consisting of a bone or antler head and a wooden handle, and the so-called composites, that is products made of many different raw materials. A crucial invention was the deer antler handle (6.9) which was used with a set of shafts of various length and diverse heads made of flint, stone, bone, antler and wood. Tools of this category are universal. Various activities could be performed, depending on the configuration of the head, shaft, handle, and the method of attachment and use. They could be used as, for example, modern axes, adzes and chisels for woodworking, pickaxes, mattocks and hoes for digging, ice axes for piercing ice holes, hammers for driving pegs or breaking bones, or cleavers for dividing animal carcasses.



Reconstruction of a heavy work tool: the handle from Inoujście and the core axe from Miedwiecko (drawing: M. Adamczyk)

Exhibits:

- 6.1. Deer antler hoe, Koszalin, pow. Koszalin
- 6.2. Deer antler axe, Koszalin, pow. Koszalin
- 6.3. Deer antler axe and tine (handle?), Krzecko, pow. Świdwin
- 6.4. Aurochs bone hoe, Pogorzelica, pow. Gryfice
- 6.5. Deer antler handle, Szczecin Zatoka Łęczna, pow. Szczecin
- 6.6. Deer antler hoe, Szczecin Zatoka Łęczna, pow. Szczecin
- 6.7. Deer antler axe, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 6.8. Deer antler hoe, Szczecin Wyspa Grodzka, pow. Szczecin
- 6.9. Deer antler handle, Inoujście, pow. Goleniów
- 6.10. Core axe, Miedwiecko, pow. Stargard
- 6.11. Macrolithic tools and half-product of a tool, Unimie, pow. Łobez
- 6.12. Half-product of a core axe, Kołowo, pow. Gryfino
- 6.13. Core axe, Złocieniec, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie
- 6.14. Flake axe, Łobez, pow. Łobez

Shreds of beliefs (~12700–4100 BC)

The nature influenced not only hunter-gatherers' material culture but also general spiritual culture. People have always tried to explain how the world works, and find the cause of phenomena they did not understand. These explanations gradually evolved into beliefs, philosophical systems and cults. Their physical manifestation was phenomena, such as shamanism and rituals as well as art which, apart from meeting aesthetic needs, also became a way of transmitting cultural content.



Bâton de commandement from Szczecin-Grabowo (drawing: A. Rys)

By decorating objects, their producers tried to convey information and give them appropriate meaning. In the case of hunter-gatherer communities in Northern Europe, ornamental motifs and forms of artefacts are often repeated, creating a specific canon. Pomeranian objects associated with the spiritual culture generally fit into this canon, but among them there are several items of special value. These are probably a Protoneolithic amber figurine of a bear from Słupsk (7.1), two Mesolithic bâtons de commandement: from Szczecin-Grabowo with a depiction of an animal and from Szczecin-Podjuchy (7.4) with a representation of a human, and an insigne from Rusinowo (7.7) with the oldest in Pomerania representation of a human.

Exhibits:

- 7.1. Amber bear figurine, Słupsk, pow. Słupsk
- 7.2. Roe deer antler harpoon, Police, pow. Police
- 7.3. Deer metatarsal bone chisel, Niezabyszewo, pow. Bytów
- 7.4. Bâton de commandement, Szczecin-Podjuchy, pow. Szczecin
- 7.5. Piece of ochre, Tanowo, pow. Police
- 7.6. Dagger or awl of deer metatarsal, Stolec, pow. Police
- 7.7. Insigne, Rusinowo, pow. Świdwin

In the age of change (~5400–4100 BC)

The decline of hunter-gatherer communities is associated with a process known as the neolithization which is a transition to a new economic system based on agriculture. In the case of Northern Europe, however, this was a slow process that began with contacts with the first agricultural communities that had arrived from the south. During this period, c. 5400–4100 BC, various peoples inhabiting the Western Baltic



Reconstructed vessel forms of Protoneolithic communities from the settlement in Tanowo (photograph: A. Ryś)

area formed one extensive contact network that led to the exchange of goods and ideas in different directions. In material culture, it can be seen in finds of imports and with time also in the adaptation of new technologies which allowed for local production of such objects as pottery vessels (8.5) or stone tools (8.3). It is interesting that flint production at that time was in many aspects based on older Mesolithic concepts (8.4).

Exhibits:

- 8.1. Large core axe, Wełtyń/Chwarstnica, pow. Gryfice
- 8.2. T-shaped antler axe, Krzecko, pow. Świdwin
- 8.3. Oringe type stone axe, Tanowo, pow. Police
- 8.4. Lithic assemblage, Tanowo, pow. Police
- 8.5. Pottery shard assemblage, Tanowo, pow. Police



Core axe from Wełtyń/Chwarstnica – exhibit 8.1 (photograph: K. Gołębiowska, N. Laskowska)

Part II. The Neolithic (~5300–2000 BC) Exit from Eden (~5300–2000 BC)

One of the cradles of the Neolithic civilisation was the Middle East. Farming communities migrating from there to the European continent in the 7th millennium BC started a process (known as the neolithization) of changing the current economic system in Europe first in south-eastern, then in western and northern parts. In the middle of the 6th millennium BC, farming communities from the estuary of the middle Danube inhabited large areas of the North European Plain, and in the second half of the 6th millennium BC – Pomerania. For almost 3500 years these lands were inhabited by communities that created successive Neolithic archaeological cultures names of which derive from characteristic forms of pottery vessels or methods of their decoration.

First groups of farmers in Pomerania – the Linear Pottery culture (9.1) – were enrooted in the Danubian tradition. They occupied enclaves with the most favourable natural conditions for agriculture and animal husbandry by the River Oder. In the 5th millennium BC, the settlement of groups with late linear pottery (9.2), which had cultural connections with the areas to the south and west of Pomerania, had a similar spatial range.



Extent of settlement of main Neolithic communities in Pomerania: cultures with linear pottery (1), Funnel Beaker culture (2), Globular Amphora culture (3), Corded Ware culture (4)) (drawing: K. Kowalski)

During this time, some of the local hunter-gatherer communities learned new skills, including forming pottery vessels (display cabinet 8). In the late centuries of the 5th millennium BC, they participated in the creating of the Funnel Beaker culture (9.3). Following more and more Neolithic patterns as well as better adapting elements of the production economy to the conditions of the local environment resulted in occupation of large areas of the European Plain and southern Scandinavia in the first half of the 4th millennium by the population associated with this culture, whereas Pomerania became borderland between its various regional groups.

Around the middle of the 4th millennium BC, in the period when Funnel Beaker settlements dominated, the Globular Amphora culture (9.4) was formed in lowlands between the estuaries of the Vistula and Elbe, the population of which specialised in cattle husbandry. Epigones of the local Danubian communities contributed to its creation. Pomerania is considered the cradle of this cultural unit which coexisted with the Funnel Beaker culture for several centuries.

In the first quarter of the 3rd millennium BC, pastoral communities originating from the Corded Ware culture complex appeared in the area of the lower Oder (9.5). The genesis of this cultural complex in Europe remains unclear. Over time representatives of the Corded Ware culture assimilated the local population, creating regional communities. Also in Pomerania, around the middle of the 3rd millennium BC, a local group was established, which in the following centuries came under the influence of the Early Bronze Age civilisation.

Exhibits:

9.1. Pottery vessel, Wierchłqd, pow. Stargard

9.2. Pottery vessel, Pyrzyce, pow. Pyrzyce

9.3. Pottery vessel, Brzesko, pow. Pyrzyce

9.4. Pottery vessel, Mierzyn, pow. Police

9.5. Pottery vessel, Nowe Warpno, pow. Police

From grain to bread (~5300–2000 BC)

The spread of economy based on conscious food production was preceded by a long process of domesticating some species of wild animals as well as selecting and modifying plants for sowing and seedlings. The Middle Eastern model of managing natural resources and subordinating the natural world to human needs, which was transferred to Europe, marked the beginning of changes taking place in the following millennia. Over time, under various environmental conditions, successive Neolithic communities developed their own different forms of farming.

The production economy of the Neolithic peoples who lived in Pomerania between the second half of the 6th millennium and the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC developed in various directions and sometimes led to specialisation in a specific field. The activity most similar to the original Middle Eastern model, based on agriculture and animal husbandry in regions with the most fertile soil, was undertaken by people from the Linear Pottery culture complex which inhabited Pomeranian enclaves with black and brown earth. The sustainable agriculture and husbandry-based economy was also represented by Funnel Beaker communities which overcame

an environmental barrier and extended the scope of the ecumene beyond the most fertile areas which had not been chosen by the first farmers. Peoples of these older cultural complexes led a similar sedentary lifestyle, often in permanent settlements. The communities of younger Neolithic groups, Globular Amphora and Corded Ware cultures, were much more focused on animal husbandry, while Corded Ware people represented pastoral economy, leading a nomadic lifestyle.



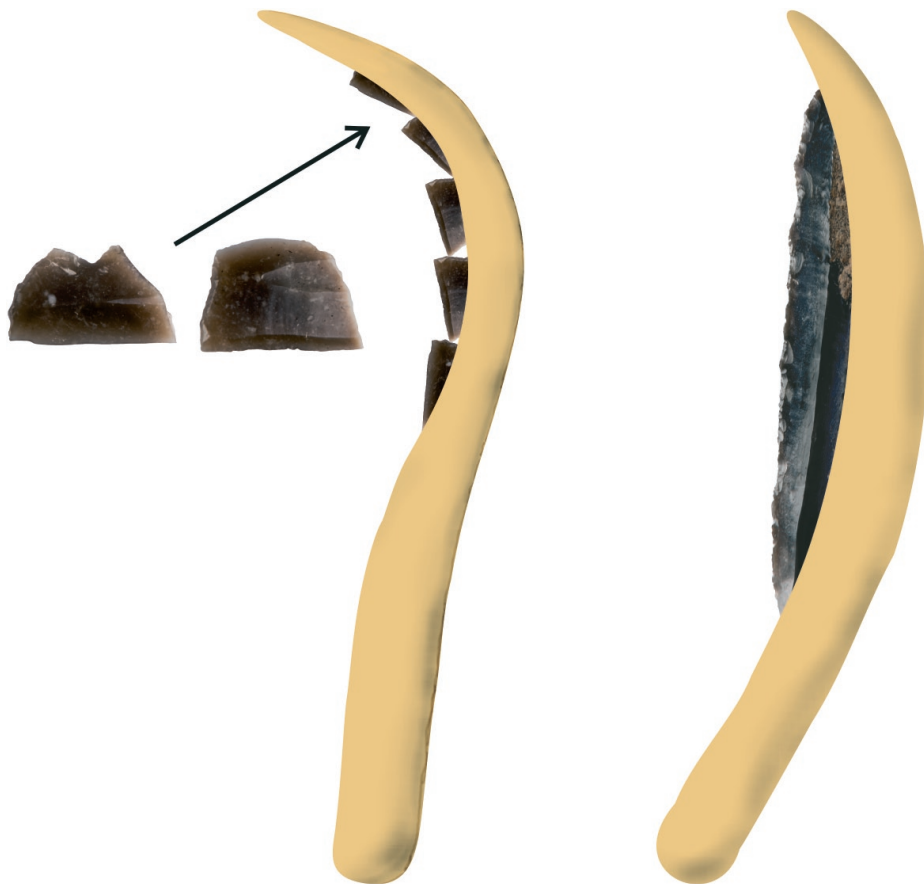
Reconstructed settlement of first farmers in Pomerania (after T. Wiślański and E. Nawrońska - drawing: L. Koczyński)

Material traces of Pomeranian Neolithic cultures include objects that confirm activities related to farming, harvesting and processing farming plants, for example, tools that might have been used for preparing soil for sowing (10.1) and harvesting (10.2-5). Sometimes there are impressions of cereal grains and stems on pottery from the settlements of the oldest farmers (10.6-8). Handstones and stone querns (10.9,10) were used for grinding grains while pottery vessels for storing agricultural produce (10.11).

The settlements of the Neolithic population in Pomerania yielded many remains proving that farm animals were kept not only for the production of meat, milk and leather (10.12) but also bones were used to make tools for farm work (10.13,14). In many ways (10.17,18, and 18.1), but to a lesser degree, also hunted wild game was used (10.15,16).

Neolithic societies comprehensively used local resources of raw materials necessary for the production of tools, utensils and personal ornaments. They also created an extensive network of long-distance contacts as indicated by the presence of objects made of raw materials not present in Pomerania, such as items made from Jurassic (10.19) and striped (10.20) flint, deposits of which are located in south-eastern Poland, rocks from the Fore-Sudety region (10.21) as well as a personal

ornament made from *Spondylus* shell (18.1), an oyster living in the north-eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea. This type of ornaments confirms the oldest far-reaching exchange of prestigious goods in the prehistory of Europe.



Reconstructed sickle forms of Neolithic communities in Pomerania (drawing: K. Kowalski)

Exhibits:

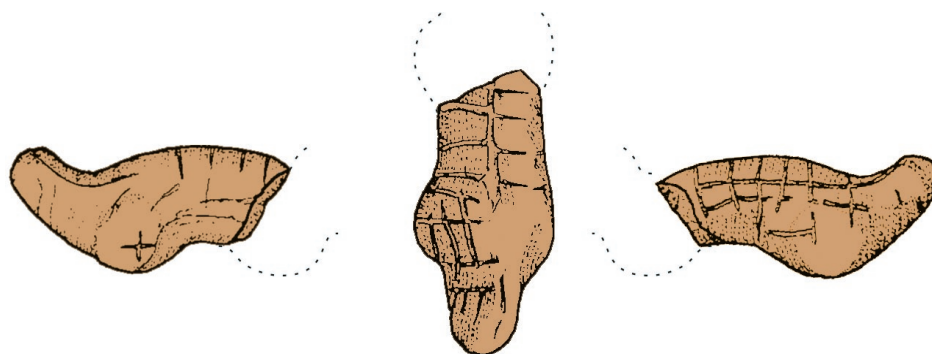
- 10.1. Stone "ard-share", Strzyżno, pow. Stargard
- 10.2. Flint sickle insert, Żuków, pow. Pyrzyce
- 10.3. Flint sickle insert, Żalęcino, pow. Stargard
- 10.4. Flint sickle blade, Miedwiecko (Zieleniewo), pow. Stargard
- 10.5. Flint sickle, Police, pow. Police
- 10.6. Pottery fragment, Żalęcino, pow. Stargard
- 10.7. Pottery fragment, Kosin, pow. Pyrzyce
- 10.8. Pottery fragment, Żółwia Błoc, pow. Goleniów
- 10.9. Stone quern (fragment), Skalin, pow. Stargard
- 10.10. Handstone, Miedwiecko (Zieleniewo), pow. Stargard
- 10.11. Pottery vessel, Ustowo, pow. Police

- 10.12. Pottery fragment, Żalęcino, pow. Stargard
- 10.13. Bone chisel, Ustowo, pow. Police
- 10.14. Bone awl, Ustowo, pow. Police
- 10.15. Flint arrowhead, Miedwiecko (Zieleniewo), pow. Stargard
- 10.16. Flint arrowhead, Stonowice, pow. Świdwin
- 10.17. Antler tool, Ustowo, pow. Police
- 10.18. Antler axe, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 10.19. Flint waste and blanks, Żalęcino, pow. Stargard
- 10.20. Flint axe, Rębowo, pow. Słupsk
- 10.21. Stone axe, Gołańcz Pomorska, pow. Gryfice

Cultural patterns (~5300–2000 BC)

Changes in the Neolithic lifestyle were associated with the development of traditional skills and the emergence of new ones due to gaining experience and appearing various needs. Together with the stabilisation of the lifestyle, a need emerged for collecting and storing property, whereas the production of tools and utensils necessary in everyday life was based on local organic and mineral resources available both on the surface as well as out of the ground, using mining methods.

One of the main achievements of the Neolithic communities was the ability to process clay – to form vessels and make them durable in firing. Clay as a plastic material allowed forming various shapes, sometimes resembling containers made of organic materials, and effectively decorate the surface. Pottery vessels were used in households in many ways – for storing, cooking and as tableware (11.1–4). Similar or the same pottery was deposited in graves as gifts or goods for the deceased (11.5–10). Clay was also used to make special objects, such as lamps, strainers, spoons (11.11), spindle whorls (11.12), spools (11.13), personal ornaments and plastic figurines.



Clay zoomorphic figurine of the oldest Neolithic communities in Pomerania (after the drawing in the documentation from T. Wiślański's excavation in Żalęcino) (drawing: K. Kowalski)

In the Neolithic, the importance of stone objects increased. Stoneworking techniques developed, including those related to drilling holes and smoothing the surface (12.18–23). These methods were used to make shaft-hole axes (12.1–13), axes (12.14), hoes (12.15,16) and chisels (12.17). Polished stone tools for woodworking



Methods of the hafting of stone and flint tools (drawing: K. Kowalski)

and field works were already commonly used by people of Linear Pottery cultures (12.1,2,15,16,21). Various forms of battle-axes became popular in inventories of younger Neolithic communities – Funnel Beaker, Globular Amphora and Corded Ware cultures (12.3–13). These were often prestigious objects, modelled on the oldest axes and pickaxes made of copper. The copper items – axes and pickaxes – appeared in Pomerania around the middle of the 4th millennium BC.



The oldest metal objects discovered in Pomerania – the copper pickaxe and the axe from Szczecin-Śmierdnica (picture based on a photograph from the 1930s)

One of the skills having a very long tradition is production of flint tools; in the Neolithic, new forms and a polishing technique emerged. Flintworking in the Linear Pottery communities living in Pomerania in the second half of the 6th and 5th millennium BC was characterised by the domination of small tools for scraping, cutting or punching (13.20,22,24) made of blades and flakes detached from previously prepared lumps of raw material. In the 4th millennium BC, in the flintworking of Neolithic communities related to the Funnel Beaker culture, apart from previous production of small tools for scraping and cutting (13.21,23), techniques developed for producing large multi-sided tools, mainly axes (13.1–5) and hollow-edged adzes (13.13) with surfaces finished with the polishing technique. Such tools were much better for cutting down trees and woodworking. Production of axes, hollow-edged adzes and

chisels with polished surfaces became popular in the flintworking of the population of Globular Amphora and Corded Ware cultures (13.6–12) and was used until the Early Bronze Age. In the late phases of the Neolithic, large points, daggers (13.17), sickles (13.18,19), small triangular and heart-shaped arrowheads (13.16) became popular as well.

The early agricultural communities produced a number of tools, such as hoes, pick-axes and axes (14.1–3) as well as chisels (14.4) and awls (14.5,6) made of antler and bone. Some forms of axes were similar to those already used by hunter-gatherer communities (14.1) as well as tools imitating stone axes (14.2,3).

A raw material particularly desired by the Neolithic population in Pomerania was amber which was used to make personal ornaments (15.1). Previously used by hunter-gatherer communities, it was present in the Funnel Beaker, Globular Amphora (18.2) and Corded Ware (18.6) cultures. Personal ornaments were also made of other materials, for example shells (18.1). Sometimes they can be associated with symbolic culture (18.2 – a pendant resembling a labrys in shape). Other objects made by Neolithic communities, such as pottery vessels, stone shaft-hole axes, axes, arrowheads and flint daggers placed in graves or special places, are also related to the spiritual culture.

Exhibits:

- 11.1. Pottery vessel, Rzepnowo, pow. Pyrzyce
- 11.2. Pottery vessel, Nowe Objezierze, pow. Gryfino
- 11.3. Pottery vessel, Kosin, pow. Pyrzyce
- 11.4. Pottery vessel, Szczecin Radolin, pow. Szczecin
- 11.5. Pottery vessel, Borzęcin, pow. Gryfice
- 11.6. Pottery vessel, Mierzyn, pow. Police
- 11.7. Pottery vessel, Kartlewo, pow. Świdwin
- 11.8. Pottery vessel, Bardy, pow. Kołobrzeg
- 11.9. Pottery vessel, Dębogóra, pow. Gryfino
- 11.10. Pottery vessel, Żdźary, pow. Goleniów
- 11.11. Clay spoon, Żalęcino, pow. Stargard
- 11.12. Clay spindle whorl, Ustowo, pow. Police
- 11.13. Clay "spool", Ustowo, pow. Police
- 12.1. Stone shaft-hole axe, Baniewice, pow. Gryfino
- 12.2. Stone shaft-hole axe, Rogowo, pow. Stargard
- 12.3. Stone shaft-hole axe, Brzózki, pow. Police
- 12.4. Stone shaft-hole axe, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 12.5. Stone shaft-hole axe, Lubczyna, pow. Goleniów
- 12.6. Stone shaft-hole axe, Włodarka, pow. Gryfice
- 12.7. Stone shaft-hole axe, Wlewo, pow. Gryfice
- 12.8. Stone shaft-hole axe, Wysoka Gryfińska, pow. Gryfino
- 12.9. Stone shaft-hole axe, Suchań, pow. Stargard
- 12.10. Stone shaft-hole axe, Chełm Gryficki, pow. Gryfice
- 12.11. Stone shaft-hole axe, Słajcino, pow. Goleniów
- 12.12. Stone shaft-hole axe, Dzwonowo, pow. Stargard
- 12.13. Stone shaft-hole axe, Morzyca, pow. Stargard
- 12.14. Stone axe, Ustowo, pow. Police
- 12.15. Stone hoe, Żelastawiec, pow. Gryfino
- 12.16. Stone hoe, Rzepnowo, pow. Pyrzyce
- 12.17. Stone chisel, Swochowo, pow. Pyrzyce
- 12.18. Stone shaft-hole axe – semi-finished product, Kłęby, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 12.19. Stone shaft-hole axe – semi-finished product, Szczecin-Kłęskowo, pow. Szczecin
- 12.20. Stone shaft-hole axe – semi-finished product, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin

- 12.21. *Stone shaft-hole axe, Ostroróg, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie*
- 12.22. *Stone shaft-hole axe, Parsów, pow. Pyrzyce*
- 12.23. *Stone shaft-hole axe, Załom, pow. Goleniów*
- 13.1. *Flint axe, Leśno Górne, pow. Police*
- 13.2. *Flint axe, Stonowice, pow. Świdwin*
- 13.3. *Flint axe, Trzechel, pow. Goleniów*
- 13.4. *Flint axe, Międzyzdroje, pow. Kamień Pomorski*
- 13.5. *Flint axe, Żuków, pow. Pyrzyce*
- 13.6. *Flint axe, Kartlewo, pow. Świdwin*
- 13.7. *Flint axe, Dębogóra, pow. Gryfino*
- 13.8. *Flint axe, Stary Chwalim, pow. Szczecinek*
- 13.9. *Flint axe, Świeszyno, pow. Koszalin*
- 13.10. *Flint axe, Wierzbęcin, pow. Goleniów*
- 13.11. *Flint axe, Daszewo, pow. Białogard*
- 13.12. *Flint axe, Kołacz, pow. Świdwin*
- 13.13. *Flint hollow-edged adze, Miedwiecko (Zieleniewo), pow. Stargard*
- 13.14. *Flint chisel, Parsów, pow. Pyrzyce*
- 13.15. *Flint chisel, Chrząszczewo, pow. Kamień Pomorski*
- 13.16. *Flint arrowheads, Żeliszawiec, pow. Gryfino*
- 13.17. *Flint bifacial blade, Parsów, pow. Pyrzyce*
- 13.18. *Flint sickle, Oćwieka, pow. Pyrzyce*
- 13.19. *Flint sickle, Parsów, pow. Pyrzyce*
- 13.20. *Flint end-scraper, Żalęcino, pow. Stargard*
- 13.21. *Flint end-scraper, Cedynia, pow. Gryfino*
- 13.22. *Flint truncated blade, Żalęcino, pow. Stargard*
- 13.23. *Flint retouched blade, Rybionek, pow. Stargard*
- 13.24. *Flint perforator, Żalęcino, pow. Stargard*
- 14.1. *Antler Axe, Stepnica, pow. Goleniów*
- 14.2. *Antler Axe, Szczecin-Podjuchy, pow. Szczecin*
- 14.3. *Antler Axe, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski*
- 14.4. *Bone chisel, Ustowo, pow. Police*
- 14.5. *Bone awls, Ustowo, pow. Police*
- 14.6. *Bone awl, Cedynia, pow. Gryfino*
- 15.1. *Amber pendant, Stonowice, pow. Świdwin*

To have and to be (~5300–2000 BC)

Gathering various objects and their deliberate storing in isolated places, sometimes of special value, had diverse meaning to Neolithic peoples. It could have resulted from economic, social or religious reasons. Deposits can be interpreted as stores, hoards and even gifts and offerings.

More than a dozen collective finds from the Younger Stone Age come from Pomerania. Most of them are assemblages of Neolithic stone tools from various cultures. The oldest ones, containing hoes and stone axes, belonged to the population of the Danubian culture complex. Deposits consisting of a pair or several flint axes made by Funnel Beaker culture community (16.2) are the most numerous group. There are also assemblages which, apart from axes, contained other flint products (16.1).

These objects were deposited in various places, sometimes under a boulder or a mound of stones (16.1). Interpretation of this type of finds, also known as hoards, is not always clear. Some were stores of finished, but not polished, tools that came from remote areas rich in suitable flint (16.3) such as Rügen island. Other can be associated with symbolic culture due to various reasons, like an intentional arrangement of objects, for example, axes stuck into the ground in a circle.

There are also collective finds that were not deposited for subsequent recovery, for example, objects in swamps (16.4). Complete or intentionally broken pottery vessels were also placed as votive or sacrificial gifts in the aquatic environment (16.5).

Exhibits:

16.1. *Deposit of flint artefacts, Bieczyno, pow. Gryfice*

16.2. *Deposit of flint axes, Żorawie, pow. Gryfino*

16.3. *Deposit of flint axes and hollow-edged adzes, Warnołęka, pow. Police*

16.4. *Deposit of flint axes, Węgorza, pow. Goleniów*

16.5. *Pottery vessel, Gozd, pow. Koszalin*

Giants' graves (~5300–2000 BC)

Changes in life in the Younger Stone Age might have been related to, for example, the crystallisation of the belief system of early agricultural communities. One of the manifestations of the spiritual culture was the attitude towards death. The practices related to the burying of the dead indicate that death was considered the moment of transition to other or another existence. By means of rituals and gifts, the deceased were provided with a transition to the new world. They were also well-remembered, and probably their favours and care were sought.

The oldest discovered graves of early agricultural communities in Pomerania associated with people of the Linear Pottery were located within the settlements, following the practices from the Danubian culture complex. Later Neolithic cultures located single graves or entire cemeteries away from settlements. The separation of the sepulchral zone from the residential might have resulted not only from changes in the spiritual sphere. It is also a sign of the formation of territorial communities. Clearly visible tombs and cemeteries could have been a specific sign for members of the community as well as strangers. This is of particular importance in the case of monumental stone structures – megaliths – which appeared in Pomerania in

the 4th millennium BC. This region, which was under the influence of the idea of the megaliths in Europe affecting mainly the western part of the Mediterranean Sea as well as the Atlantic and Baltic regions, was at that time inhabited mainly by the Funnel Beaker communities. The dominant form of the “giant’s grave” in Pomerania, as in the neighbouring Kuyavia, is a structure with an elongated (trapezoidal, triangular) mound and an edge of stones at a base, with no separate burial chamber. Usually they were several dozen meters long and up to four meters high. Boulders used in the construction could weigh even several tons. The origin of such a shape of graves, “houses for the dead”, is associated with the tradition of building long houses in the settlements of the Danubian culture complex communities.

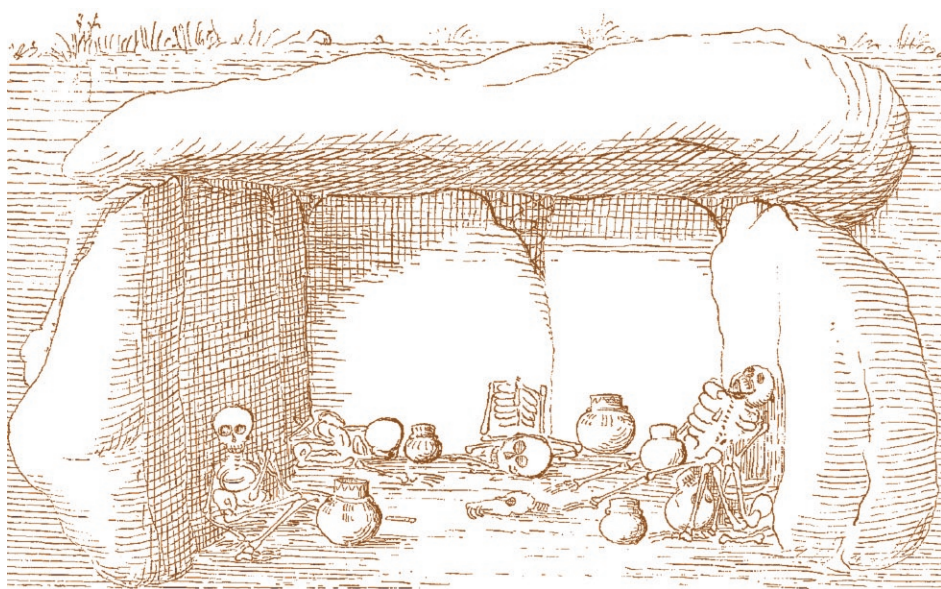
The practice of placing burials in megaliths was also adopted by the population of the Globular Amphora culture which built much smaller tombs in the form of stone cists dug into the ground (display cabinet 17). They also put burials in Funnel Beaker megaliths (18.2).



Megalith from Krępczewo under excavation (after the documentation from T. Wiślański’s research)

Graves of the Corded Ware community, inhabiting Pomerania in the Late Neolithic, also consisted of stone structures in the form of cists and kerbs. However, usually small structures were built, and burials were often placed in pits without any additional structures. Sometimes graves with mounds in the shape of circular barrows were also used.

Inhumation was the dominant method of burying the dead in the Younger Stone Age. Cremation was rarely used. Burials were equipped with all kinds of gifts, usually pottery vessels (17.1 and 18.1–5), occasionally personal ornaments (18.1,2,5), tools and weapons (18.1,3,5). The objects were usually used within the lifetime of the deceased. The composition of grave goods varied. Burials distinguished by the quality and number of gifts appeared in Pomerania in communities associated with the younger phase of Linear Pottery cultures (18.1). In the Middle and Late Neolithic, in better furnished graves, amber personal ornaments in the form of pendants appeared, sometimes resembling a double-edged shaft-hole axe (18.2), a shield or a solar disc (18.5). Tools and weapons are most often represented by stone and flint objects, including mainly axes (18.3–5), chisels (17.1), flint daggers (18.3.5) as well as battle-axes which are a frequent element of Corded Ware graves (18.4).



Megalithic tomb from Rąbino (after A. Stubenrauch's sketch made at the end of 19th century)

Exhibits:

- 17.1. Grave goods of the Globular Amphora culture, Rąbino, pow. Świdwin
- 18.1. Grave goods of Younger Danubian cultures, Karsko, pow. Pyrzyce
- 18.2. Grave goods of the Funnel Beaker and Globular Amphora culture, Dąbrówno, pow. Słupsk
- 18.3. Grave goods of the Corded Ware culture, Duchowo (Police), pow. Police
- 18.4. Grave goods of the Corded Ware culture, Szczecin-Zdroje, pow. Szczecin
- 18.5. Grave goods of the Corded Ware culture, Szczecin-Podjuchy, pow. Szczecin

ROOM 2. FROM THE BRONZE AGE TO THE LATE ANCIENT TIMES (~2300 BC–AD 600)

Room 2 takes a look at artefacts dating from the last centuries of the 3rd millennium BC to the end of the 6th century AD.

The first part explores the Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age (c. 2300–400 BC). The presented exhibits show various aspects of the everyday life and culture of the communities that inhabited Pomerania for almost two thousand years. Grave finds reveal how funeral rites changed and traditions mixed. Also interesting are hoards of various bronze items, proving the widespread interest in this metal and bronzeworking. Personal ornaments made of gold and glass indicate contacts the local population had with remote areas, whereas sophisticated bronze and clay objects show manufacturers' great skills and sense of aesthetics. A lot of items have symbolic meaning as well, associated with beliefs.

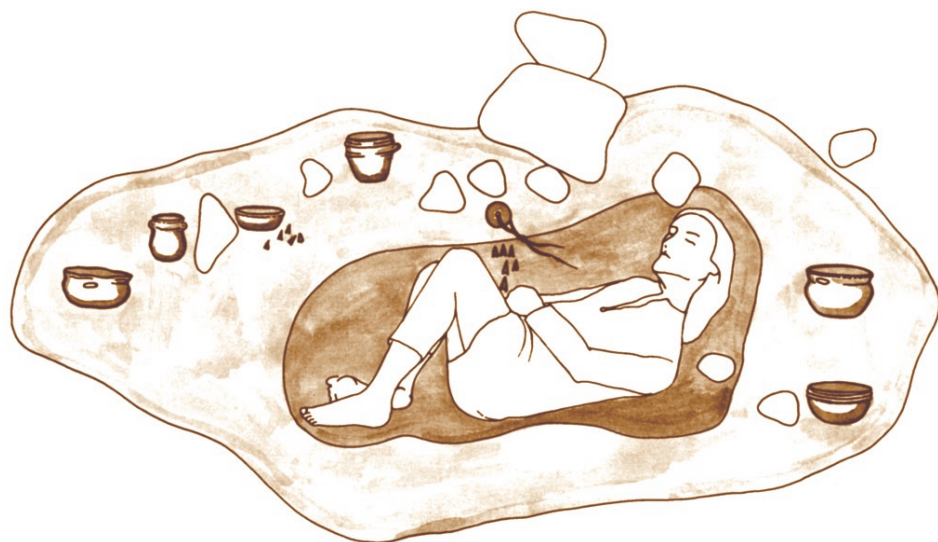
The second part is devoted to the following periods of the Iron Age: pre-Roman, Roman and Migration period (c. 400 BC – AD 500). The objects selected for the exhibition illustrate the funeral rite, characteristic forms of pottery, weaponry, personal ornaments and tools representing successive archaeological cultures. A separate collection consists of finds of Roman and Byzantine imports.



Hoard of bronze ornaments from Gniewino – exhibit 29.17 (photograph: K. Gołębiowska, N. Laskowska)

Part III. From the Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age (~2300–400 BC) Graves and symbols (~2300–1500 BC)

The Early Bronze Age in Pomerania began around 2300 BC and ended in 1500 BC. During this period, the old Neolithic tradition was still continued. According to its rules, the deceased were buried in inhumation graves, furnished with flint weapons and tools (19.1–3), stone axes, amber amulets in the form of pendants (19.2–4) symbolizing solar deities, and mainly undecorated pottery vessels (19.1–4). With time, bronze objects (19.5), less often gold ones (19.6), were deposited in graves. The phenomenon of slow adoption of bronze items is illustrated by assemblages of artefacts from three different graves. The accompanying figure shows details of a typical burial from this period. So far, no settlement from the beginning of the Bronze Age has been discovered in Pomerania; only grave finds are a rare trace that helps to get to know this very interesting fragment of prehistory.



Reconstruction of a grave from a cemetery from the turn of the Neolithic and Bronze Age in Barnistaw (c. 2300–2000 BC) (drawing: A. Ryś)

Exhibits:

- 19.1. Grave goods, Bielkowo, pow. Stargard
- 19.2. Grave goods, Barnistaw, pow. Police
- 19.3. Grave goods, Szczecin-Płonia, pow. Szczecin
- 19.4. Grave goods, Szczecin-Płonia, pow. Szczecin
- 19.5. Grave goods, Śliwin, pow. Gryfice
- 19.6. Grave goods, Barwice, pow. Szczecinek

New trends (~2300–1500 BC)

In the Early Bronze Age, stone was still much used in Pomerania, the working of which was perfectly mastered by many generations of peoples inhabiting vast areas of the North European Plain. It is confirmed by such objects as flint daggers (20.11–15) which were modelled after bronze specimens (20.16), flint sickles (20.23) and stone shaft-hole axes (20.24). The influx of the first bronze products to Pomerania was from metallurgical centres of the Únětice culture located in today's Czech Republic, Moravia, Lower Silesia and Saxony. Bronze might have got from this culture complex to the northern areas mainly by the means of amber trade. The characteristic rings (20.5–10), which are interpreted as a kind of commodity money or a source of raw material, were the most popular "Únětice" objects. At the end of the Early Bronze Age, the Únětice culture disappeared as a result of the expansion of the Tumulus culture complex which also brought about changes in the metallurgy. During this time, peoples in Pomerania came into contact not only with centres in southern and south-western Europe, but also in the Nordic zone. Owing to these relationships, more sophisticated personal ornaments and dress accessories emerged (20.1–3). At the same time, establishing local – Pomeranian – workshops is also probable, however, mainly simple ring objects were made there, having prototypes in older Únětice products.

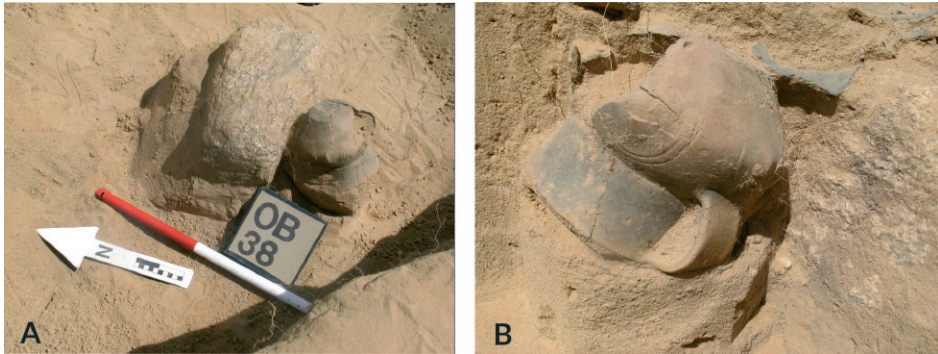
Exhibits:

- 20.1. Bronze hoard, Domacyno, pow. Białogard
- 20.2. Bronze hoard, Bonin, pow. Łobez
- 20.3. Bronze hoard, Babin, pow. Pyrzyce
- 20.4. Bronze hoard, Babin, pow. Pyrzyce
- 20.5. Bronze ring, Wołczyno, pow. Gryfice
- 20.6. Bronze neck-ring, Lekowo, pow. Świdwin
- 20.7. Bronze ring, Stare Czarnowo, pow. Gryfino
- 20.8. Bronze ring, Brudzewice, pow. Stargard
- 20.9. Bronze ring, Stargard-Kluczewo, pow. Stargard
- 20.10. Bronze neck-ring, Babin, pow. Pyrzyce
- 20.11. Flint dagger, Gostyń, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 20.12. Flint halberd, Szczecin-Kłęskowo, pow. Szczecin
- 20.13. Flint halberd, Szczecin-Bukowo, pow. Szczecin
- 20.14. Flint dagger, Western Pomerania
- 20.15. Flint dagger, Chociwel, pow. Stargard
- 20.16. Bronze dagger, Stargard, pow. Stargard
- 20.17. Bronze halberd, Nowa Wieś Lęborska, pow. Lębork
- 20.18. Bronze dagger, Szczecin-Zdroje, pow. Szczecin
- 20.19. Bronze dagger, Gryfino, pow. Gryfino
- 20.20. Bronze axe, Goleniów, pow. Goleniów
- 20.21. Bronze axe, Szczecin-Klucz, pow. Szczecin
- 20.22. Bronze axe, Ubiedrze, pow. Koszalin
- 20.23. Flint sickle, Benice, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 20.24. Stone shaft-hole axe, Chlebowo, pow. Stargard

Graves, urns and mysterious containers (~1500–1100/1000 BC)

At the end of the 18th century BC, pastoral tribes from Tumulus culture complex appeared in the middle and upper Danube basin. During the Older Bronze Age, their settlement spread over large stretches of Central Europe and began to affect Pomerania as well. It was manifested mainly in the funeral rite. Peoples living in Pomerania at that time established small cemeteries and used to build Tumulus-like, earthen or stone-and-earthen barrows (graves) over burials in pits. Inhumations were more common, furnished mainly with bronze items: weapons and various personal ornaments (21.1). Significant changes in ways of burying the dead started in the Middle Bronze Age (after c. 1200 BC) with the expansion of the Lusatian culture which belonged to the tribes of the Urnfield culture complex. Biritualism appeared in cemeteries: apart from inhumations, cremated burials in pits started to emerge and – more often – urned graves. Next to barrows, flat graves were established, whereas grave goods included not only bronze items, but also pottery vessels (21.3) sometimes decorated with knobs which are characteristic of that period (21.2).

An interesting phenomenon occurring in the Old and Middle Bronze Age in Western Pomerania was decorative bronze containers (21.6) which are considered “Nordic” imports. These objects, filled with small spirals made of gold wires or their fragments (21.5, 21.6), were placed next to large boulders or in water. They were probably offerings for solar or aquatic deities.



Pomietów, gm. Dolice, site 25. Cremation burial (feature 38): A – feature under excavation, B – pottery vessel decorated with knobs in close-up; Middle Bronze Age (c. 1300–1000 BC) (after the documentation from excavation)

Exhibits:

- 21.1. Grave goods, Kukułowo, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 21.2. Grave goods, Pomietów, pow. Stargard
- 21.3. Grave goods, Trzebiatów-Ostrowice, pow. Gryfice
- 21.4. Gold spirals, Trzebiatów, pow. Gryfice
- 21.5. Gold spirals, Rynica, pow. Gryfino
- 21.6. Hoard of gold and bronze objects, Swochowo, pow. Pyrzyce

Between bronze and clay (~1500–1100/1000 BC)

The Older and Middle Bronze Age (c. 1500–1100 BC) is a period of increased influx of bronze products to Pomerania from highly developed metallurgical centres associated with the Tumulus and Nordic culture complexes. Under the influence of these centres, Pomeranian workshops also flourished. Local metallurgy is best represented by conical pendants (22.7) from the so-called white bronze (with high tin content) known only from Western Pomerania. The bronze personal ornaments and dress accessories (22.8–18) on display are a mix of patterns illustrating products from distant regions of southern and northern Europe. These artefacts show not only craftsmen's skills, but also decorative concepts that express the symbolism of ideas unknown to us, associated with religion and beliefs uniting those communities.

In comparison with bronze artefacts from that period, pottery vessels are a very small yet interesting category of finds. In the characteristic forms on a "foot" (22.1,3,4,6), references to vessels occurring in the distant Carpathian Basin can be seen. Stunning vessels with knobs (22.2) also originate from there.

Exhibits:

- 22.1. Pottery vessels, Brzeźniak, pow. Łobez
- 22.2. Pottery vessel, Trzebiatów-Ostrowice, pow. Gryfice
- 22.3. Pottery vessel, Czarnowęsy, pow. Białogard
- 22.4. Pottery vessels, Barniśław, pow. Police
- 22.5. Pottery vessel, Swochowo, pow. Pyrzyce
- 22.6. Pottery vessel, Wysiedle, pow. Łobez
- 22.7. White bronze necklace, Brzeźniak, pow. Łobez
- 22.8. Bronze neck-rings, Czarnówko, pow. Gryfino
- 22.9. Bronze bracelets, Wierzbiecin, pow. Goleniów
- 22.10. Bronze bracelets, Wysiedle, pow. Łobez
- 22.11. Bronze armlets, Mołdawin, pow. Łobez
- 22.12. Bronze bracelets, Nieborowo, pow. Pyrzyce
- 22.13. Bronze pins, Pyrzyce, pow. Pyrzyce
- 22.14. Bronze pin, Pieszcz, pow. Sławno
- 22.15. Bronze pin, Brzeźniak, pow. Łobez
- 22.16. Bronze pin, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 22.17. Bronze pin, the River Oder in the Schwedt area, Lkr. Uckermark
- 22.18. Bronze pin, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin

Power insignia and more (~1500–1100/1000 BC)

The settlement of the Tumulus cultures in Pomerania has been studied only on the basis of cemeteries, hoards and single finds. Settlements have not been found so far; it does not mean that they were completely absent. As in other areas occupied by Tumulus tribes, animal husbandry might have dominated over tilling the soil. The pastoral lifestyle caused frequent moving from place to place what did not create favourable conditions for establishing long-term settlements. The stabilisation of the settlement and the growing importance of plant cultivation took place gradually. This is confirmed by finds of bronze sickles – harvesting tools used for cutting crops (23.6–8). In addition to the animal husbandry and developing agriculture, these semi-nomadic communities were also familiar with bronze metallurgy and stoneworking.

Large number of weapons discovered in Pomerania from this nearly 500-year period (c. 1500-1000 BC) indicate that it was also time of unrest. A social group of significant importance had to be warriors armed with daggers (23.9,10), swords (23.14-16), spears (23.11,12) and axes (23.2-5) which, apart from being suitable for woodworking, also had great combat potential. Also stone maces (23.1) could be used in combat and at the same time as an insignia (symbol of power).



Reconstruction of a handle of the stone mace from Żeliszawiec
(drawing: A. Ryś, photograph: K. Gołębiowska, N. Laskowska)

Exhibits:

- 23.1. Stone mace, Żeliszewiec, pow. Gryfino
- 23.2. Bronze axe, the River Oder in the Gryfino area, pow. Gryfino
- 23.3. Bronze axe, Zielin, pow. Bytów
- 23.4. Bronze axe, Ognica, pow. Gryfino
- 23.5. Bronze axe, Kołacz, pow. Świdwin
- 23.6. Bronze sickle, Jarszewo, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 23.7. Bronze sickles, Czarnówko, pow. Gryfino
- 23.8. Bronze sickles, Binowo, pow. Gryfino
- 23.9. Bronze dagger, Starogard Łobeski, pow. Łobez
- 23.10. Bronze dagger from the River Oder, Ognica, pow. Gryfino
- 23.11. Bronze point, Krzywice, pow. Goleniów
- 23.12. Bronze point, Wierzbęcin, pow. Goleniów
- 23.13. Bronze knife, Nowe Chrapowo, pow. Pyrzyce
- 23.14. Bronze sword, Margowo, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 23.15. Bronze sword, Szczecin-Podjuchy, pow. Szczecin
- 23.16. Bronze sword, Dalewo, pow. Stargard

Rattles and other symbols (~1100/1000–450 BC)

Communities of the Lusatian culture originating from the agricultural tribes of the Urnfield culture complex inhabiting the European Plain settled for good in Pomerania in the Younger Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age (c. 1100–600/500 BC). They were characterised by production of various items of special importance. On the basis of the Bronze Age and Early Iron Age art and its symbolism, some religious aspects can be traced which were related to the beliefs and rituals of this population.



Cult cart from Brzeźniak (archive photograph)

Finds of carts drawn by water birds (24.1) symbolise the custom of transporting people with high status in the social hierarchy to the burial site. The cart is a reference to the Apollonian solar cart which is an expression of the solar cult (perceiving the sun as a deity) widespread in the Lusatian culture. The bird, on the other hand, had ritual and magical significance in prehistoric art. Rattles (24.7,8), discovered in cemeteries or settlements, also fulfilled protective functions (amulets) and were used in, for example, funerary or healing rituals or in honour of deities. Shoe-shaped vessels (24.6), found in graves, are also connected with the rites of passage. Razors (24.12-16) with heads of horses, birds, with depictions of boats, water, mandalas, ships, celestial bodies or fish are also interpreted as ritual objects referring to solar and aquatic (water deities) cult. Decorated deer antler shaft-hole axes (24.10,11) prove the special (cultic) role of this animal at the end of the Bronze Age and in the Hallstatt period.

Exhibits:

- 24.1. *Cult cart, Brzeźniak, pow. Łobez*
- 24.2. *Clay wheel, Mierzyn, pow. Police*
- 24.3. *Clay wheel, Szczecin-Niemierzyn, pow. Szczecin*
- 24.4. *Bronze tutulus, Unieradz, pow. Kołobrzeg*
- 24.5. *Bronze vessel, Dzwonowo, pow. Stargard*
- 24.6. *Copy of a clay shoe, Wartin, Lkr. Uckermark*
- 24.7. *Clay rattles, Kiekrz, pow. Poznań*
- 24.8. *Clay rattle and two stone discs, Kozielice, pow. Pyrzyce*
- 24.9. *Sandstone discs, Barnisław, pow. Police*
- 24.10. *Antler shaft-hole axe, Ukiernica, pow. Pyrzyce*
- 24.11. *Antler shaft-hole axe, Rozwarowo, pow. Kamień Pomorski*
- 24.12. *Hoard of bronze objects, Kiełpino, pow. Gryfice*
- 24.13. *Bronze razor, Lubieszewo, pow. Gryfice*
- 24.14. *Bronze razor, Mechowo, pow. Kamień Pomorski*
- 24.15. *Bronze razor, Gacko, pow. Kamień Pomorski*
- 24.16. *Bronze razor, Glinna-Żelistawiec, pow. Gryfino*

Great urnfields (~1100/1000–450 BC)

A characteristic feature of the settlement of the Lusatian culture belonging to the Urnfield culture complex was large flat cemeteries often with hundreds of cremation burials. Interestingly, in older development stages of this culture, a custom of constructing barrows as an expression of the Tumulus tradition persisted for some time. However, the dominant funeral rite was cremation. Cremated remains were



Graves of the Lusatian culture people in Pomerania – excavation research (after the documentation from excavation and M. Kaczmarek's book from 2015)

placed in clay urns (25.1) or directly in burial pits. Burials usually had accompanying vessels (pottery) in which food for afterlife or an offering to deities was stored. Various everyday objects were also deposited in graves, rarely bronze personal ornaments, utensils and symbolic items. Graves were often protected with stone structures in the form of pavements, smaller or larger mounds or surrounded by stones securing urns. These structures were built from pebbles – stones found on the ground.

Exhibits:

25.1. Pottery urn, Wołczkowo, pow. Police

Signs of art (~1100/1000–450 BC)

The peak of bronze metallurgy was characteristic of the Lusatian culture in Pomerania. Tools, weapons and many types of personal ornaments, vessels and utensils were produced. Not only casting was known, but also hammering, stretching, flattening and twisting. Sophisticated ornaments were created already at the stage of casting of the object as well as by precise punching, engraving and cutting of bronze and inlaying it with white substance. Some of these techniques are perfectly illustrated by objects from the Wąwelnica hoard (26.1) as well as the displayed spiral neck-rings (26.4,5), armlets (26.4) or fragments of a bronze vessel from Witkowo (26.13). Pottery was also of high quality. Various forms of vessels were made by hands and fired in pit-fires or simple kilns. They were manufactured not only for the needs of everyday life, but also for funeral ceremonies and rituals unknown to us (26.14–30). Sophisticated shape or interesting decorations of the object prove craftsmanship, being also an expression of craftsmen's artistry. Objects showed aesthetic passion which undoubtedly resulted from religious beliefs and observation of the world. The artefacts in the display cabinet highlight the rich heritage of the Lusatian material culture in Pomerania and confirm far-reaching contacts with other regions of Europe (26.2,3,8,17).



Wooden chest with bronze artifacts from Kopaniewo (archive photograph)

Exhibits:

- 26.1. Hoard of bronze objects, Wąwelnica, pow. Police
- 26.2. Necklace of bronze and glass, Banie, pow. Gryfino
- 26.3. Hoard of bronze objects, Rzędziny, pow. Police
- 26.4. Hoard of bronze objects, Karkowo, pow. Stargard
- 26.5. Bronze neck-ring, Dobropole Pyrzyckie, pow. Stargard
- 26.6. Bracelet, Blesewitz, Lkr. Vorpommern-Greifswald

- 26.7. Gold bracelet, Lębork, pow. Lębork
- 26.8. Gold armband, Letnin, pow. Pyrzyce
- 26.9. Gold bracelets, Orle, pow. Łobez
- 26.10. Bronze brooch, Koszalin/Gołogóra, pow. Koszalin
- 26.11. Bronze pin, Binowo (?), pow. Gryfino
- 26.12. Bronze neck-rings, Paproty, pow. Sławno
- 26.13. Bronze vessel, Witkowo, pow. Słupsk
- 26.14. Pottery plates, Bartkowo, pow. Gryfino
- 26.15. Pottery vessel, Barniśław, pow. Police
- 26.16. Pottery vessel, Szczecin-Zdroje, pow. Szczecin
- 26.17. Pottery vessel, Szczecin-Jezierzyce, pow. Szczecin
- 26.18. Pottery vessel, Szczecin-Zdroje, pow. Szczecin
- 26.19. Pottery vessel, Bezrzecze, pow. Police
- 26.20. Pottery vessel, Podole Małe, pow. Słupsk
- 26.21. Pottery vessel, Letnin, pow. Pyrzyce
- 26.22. Inlaid pottery, Kozielice, pow. Pyrzyce
- 26.23. Small pottery vessel, Glinna - Żeliszawiec, pow. Gryfino
- 26.24. Pottery vessel, Pomerania
- 26.25. Pottery vessel, Gardziec, pow. Pyrzyce
- 26.26. Pottery vessel, Szczecin-Świerczewo, pow. Szczecin
- 26.27. Pottery vessel, Pomerania
- 26.28. Pottery vessel, Stargard, pow. Stargard
- 26.29. Pottery vessel, Pomerania
- 26.30. Copy of a pottery vessel, Banie, pow. Gryfino

River Oder warriors (~1100/1000–450 BC)

The weaponry of the population of the Lusatian culture inhabiting the area of present-day Poland was of the light type – there was not any metal body armour. Leather, fur and thick fabrics were used to cover the body (head, torso, legs). This equipment very rarely included bronze helmets (27.5) or shields. Warriors who played a crucial role were archers (27.6–9) and spearmen (27.4,19) fighting on foot and on horseback. Sword-wielding warrior-horsemen were also important. Archaeological discoveries show that a sword (27.3,14–18) was of great value to people of the Lusatian culture and its users occupied a high position in the social hierarchy. At the end of the Bronze Age and in the Hallstatt period, a horse, an animal domesticated as early as in the Neolithic, also increased in importance. It was used not only for horseback riding and probably drawing a cart, but also for parade purposes as evidenced by the finds of an impressive horse harness (27.1,2,11–13). The Lusatian culture left traces of fortified settlements too, for example in Western Pomerania. Reasons for establishing them might have been the feeling of danger and the need to control the inhabited territory. Fights were started not only between neighbouring groups but a threat came also from outside. Archaeological record confirm that at the turn of the 6th and 5th centuries BC, the lands between the Oder and the Vistula were invaded by the warlike Scythians – nomadic pastoral tribes that came from the steppes by the Black Sea.



Bronze shield from Ognica (archive photograph)

Exhibits:

- 27.1. Parts of the horse tack, Kiełpino, pow. Gryfice
- 27.2. Bronze horse brass (phalera), Czarnowo, pow. Pyrzyce
- 27.3. Bronze sword, Pogorzelica, pow. Gryfice
- 27.4. Bronze spearhead, Warnik, pow. Police
- 27.5. Copy of a bronze helmet, Szczecin-Zdroje, pow. Szczecin
- 27.6. Small bronze arrowhead, Barnisław, pow. Police
- 27.7. Small bronze arrowhead, Bezrzecze, pow. Police
- 27.8. Small bronze arrowhead, Węgorza, pow. Goleniów
- 27.9. Small bronze arrowhead, Szczecin-Niemierzyn, pow. Szczecin
- 27.10. Bronze sword scabbard chape, Szczecin-Kłęskowo, pow. Szczecin
- 27.11. Parts of horse harness, Rzyszczewo, pow. Sławno
- 27.12. Bronze cotter, Cieszyno, pow. Łobez
- 27.13. Bronze tutulus and bit links, Stęszyce, pow. Kołobrzeg
- 27.14. Bronze sword, Wołkowo, pow. Łobez
- 27.15. Bronze sword, Kopaniewo, pow. Lębork
- 27.16. Bronze sword, Chociwel, pow. Stargard
- 27.17. Bronze sword, Kodrąb, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 27.18. Bronze sword, Tarnowo Pomorskie, pow. Stargard
- 27.19. Bronze spearhead, Grabin, pow. Goleniów
- 27.20. Bronze knife, Dąbrowa Nowogardzka, pow. Goleniów
- 27.21. Bronze knife, Witkowo, pow. Słupsk

Everyday life in objects (~1100/1000–450 BC)

People of the Lusatian culture led a stable, completely sedentary lifestyle. The economy was based mainly on farming and animal husbandry. Hunting, fishing and gathering were also crucial. Daily obtaining of food was accompanied by activities related to the production of various objects made of bronze, clay, stone, antler and textile.

Representatives of the Lusatian culture built strongholds which served as shelters and fortified sites. Mostly, however, they lived in open, rural settlements with above-ground residential structures and semi-dugouts, hearths, storage pits and furnaces.

Farming in the Late Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age is confirmed by crop impressions on a daub (28.6) and finds of seeds, for example wheat, barley, millet, rye, oats, flax, peas, broad beans, lentils and poppy seeds. Other important pieces of evidence are agricultural tools, such as antler hoes and wooden ards. From Pomerania, only stone mullers (28.1) are known – a fundamental element of saddle querns – and bronze sickles (28.1) which were sharpened with whetstones (28.9). The role of animals in the Lusatian culture can be identified from burials of animals and remains of animal bones found mainly in settlements. They indicate the presence of cattle, swine and sheep husbandry and that horses and dogs were important working animals. A certain percentage of bones of game (for example deer, roe deer, wild boar or hare) is evidence of hunting. Finds of bronze fishing hooks (28.18,19), net weights (28.20) and fish bones and scales (28.21) confirm the exploitation of water resources. Food was processed in many ways: boiled, baked, smoked and dried. Vessels (28.1,3,4,11,12) were necessary for its storage and daily consumption. They were produced in a massive quantity, made by hand with coils of clay; in the final stage, walls of the vessels were smoothed with small round stones (28.8). The household inventory also included lamps (28.34), sewing needles (28.7) and spools necessary for thread spinning (28.13,16,17). They were used to make fabrics with simple weaving looms which are confirmed by finds of clay weights (28.13–15).

A characteristic feature of the Lusatian culture is highly developed bronze metallurgy. Bronze is an alloy composed of – in the common form – 90% copper and 10% tin. Knowledge of its production reached Europe from the Middle East where this skill was mastered in the 5th and 4th millennium BC. Bronze, used in prehistory in the area of today's Poland, was entirely "imported". At the beginning of the Bronze Age, both products and a raw material were imported from metallurgical centres that used copper and tin deposits in the Ore Mountains and Central Germany as well as copper deposits in the Alps. In later periods, the deposits in Transylvania, Hungary and Slovakia as well as the Alpine region were of great importance.

Metal ores, especially copper, were mined. In the initial phase of mining, surface ore was obtained, reaching deep into a mountain slope. Rock was crushed with fire and water whereas lumps were smashed with bronze pickaxes and stone hammers. Spoil was brought to the surface and, after further processing, it was smelted near the mine.

In the Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age (c. 2000–450 BC), several metallurgical centres functioned in Poland. They are confirmed by a number of personal ornaments, tools and weapons characteristic of a given area. Finds of casting moulds (28.24,25) and a raw material are also a proof. The earliest local workshops were established in Silesia, Greater Poland and Pomerania. Bronze as a raw material arrived

there in the form of bars, lumps or thick wire (28.28,29); it appeared less often in the form of semi-finished products (28.27). An additional source of bronze was scrap bronze (28.26) consisting of heavily damaged (broken) products that were collected and then re-melted. The bronze was melted over the fires in small clay crucibles (28.23). Bringing it to a liquid state required a temperature of about 1000 degrees Celsius. It was obtained by stoking the fire by blowing air into the furnace with a blower consisting of leather bellows connected to a clay nozzle (28.22) in the furnace. This process was fuelled by charcoal.

There were two ways of producing bronze objects. The first one was based on repeated forging and annealing of simple castings. In this way very thin sheet metal as well as wires and rods of various thicknesses were obtained, from which advanced products were produced (for example decorated vessels, fibulae, spirals, multi-coil wire bracelets). The second method was casting in clay, stone and (rarely) bronze moulds.



Bronze casting mould from Kiełpino – exhibit 28.25 (photograph: K. Gołębiowska, N. Laskowska)

Exhibits:

- 28.1. *Finds from a settlement, Wełtyń, pow. Gryfino*
- 28.2. *Pottery spoon, Przytoń, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie*
- 28.3. *Pottery spoon, Szczecin-Jezierzyce, pow. Szczecin*
- 28.4. *Pottery plates, Witkowo, pow. Stargard*
- 28.5. *Pottery lamp, Pomerania*
- 28.6. *Daub with plant impressions and fragment of clay colander, Szczecin-Niemierzyn, pow. Szczecin*
- 28.7. *Bronze needle, Szczecin Central Cemetery, pow. Szczecin*
- 28.8. *Rounded stone tool, Szczecin-Świerczewo, pow. Szczecin*
- 28.9. *Whetstone, Barnisław, pow. Police*
- 28.10. *Stone axe, Parsów, pow. Pyrzyce*
- 28.11. *Clay colander, Mierzyn, pow. Police*
- 28.12. *Clay colander, Konikowo, pow. Koszalin*

- 28.13. Clay loomweight and a spindle whorl, Szczecin-Niemierzyn, pow. Szczecin
- 28.14. Clay loomweight, Szczecin Central Cemetery, pow. Szczecin
- 28.15. Clay loomweight, Brzezin, pow. Pyrzyce
- 28.16. Clay spindle whorl, Radowo Małe, pow. Łobez
- 28.17. Clay spindle whorl, Brzeźniak, pow. Łobez
- 28.18. Bronze fish hook, Binowo, pow. Gryfino
- 28.19. Bronze fish hook, Dobropole Gryfińskie, pow. Gryfino
- 28.20. Clay net weight, the Gryfice area (?), pow. Gryfice
- 28.21. Fish scales, Szczecin-Niemierzyn, pow. Szczecin
- 28.22. Replica of a clay bellows blower
- 28.23. Replica of a clay crucible
- 28.24. Clay casting mould, Kozielice, pow. Pyrzyce
- 28.25. Bronze casting mould, Kietpino, pow. Gryfice
- 28.26. Scrap bronze, Szczecin, Wzgórze Zamkowe, pow. Szczecin
- 28.27. Bronze raw material, Korytowo, pow. Goleniów
- 28.28. Lump of bronze raw material and a bronze anvil, Witkowo, pow. Słupsk
- 28.29. Bronze bar, Dargoleza, pow. Słupsk
- 28.30. Bronze hammer, Golenice, pow. Myślibórz
- 28.31. Bronze axe, Stęszyce, pow. Kołobrzeg
- 28.32. Bronze punch, Glinna-Żeliszawiec, pow. Gryfino
- 28.33. Bronze punches, Binowo, pow. Gryfino

Pomeranian canopic jars and house urns (~600–400 BC)

The Pomeranian culture appeared in Eastern Pomerania in the Early Iron Age (c. 750–450/400 BC), known as the Hallstatt period, as a result of transformations within the Lusatian culture.

A characteristic feature of the new culture was the funeral rite. Graves were in the form of a cist constructed from large stone slabs. Inside, there were mainly urns with burnt human bones, as well as accompanying vessels. An urn – known as a face urn – had a completely new form, unknown in earlier cultures. On the “necks” of the urns were mainly plastic or engraved pictures of facial features. Realistic or symbolic depictions included ears, eyes and eyebrows, nose and mouth (29.1,2,5). The urn covers, on the other hand, imitated headwear resembling small hats/caps. Bodies of the urns were decorated with narrative scenes for example relating to hunting, driving on four-wheeled carts, or images of everyday objects, such as pins (29.3,7,9), necklaces (29.3,5,7) or hair combs (29.2), and weapons (shields, spears). Sometimes drawings of hands or their symbols were depicted on them. Also in the Pomeranian culture were the so-called house urns (29.11,12). They appear in Poland only in Eastern Pomerania where only a dozen or so copies have been found. The greater number of such urns is known from the Jutland Peninsula, Bornholm, northern Germany and southern Sweden. It is believed that the clay house urns appeared in this part of Europe under the influence of cultural impulses from Italy. People of the Pomeranian culture were engaged in farming and animal husbandry. They established large, open settlements. There is no clear evidence that strongholds were also built. Like the communities of the Lusatian culture, they perfectly mastered the art of hand-making pottery vessels. In addition to forms intended for everyday use, also refined funerary pottery was made. These communities were familiar with weaving as well as the working of bone, horn and stone. They were

able to smelt iron that was just started to be used, and showed a high level of specialisation in the field of bronze metallurgy – metal perfectly known for many centuries (29.17).



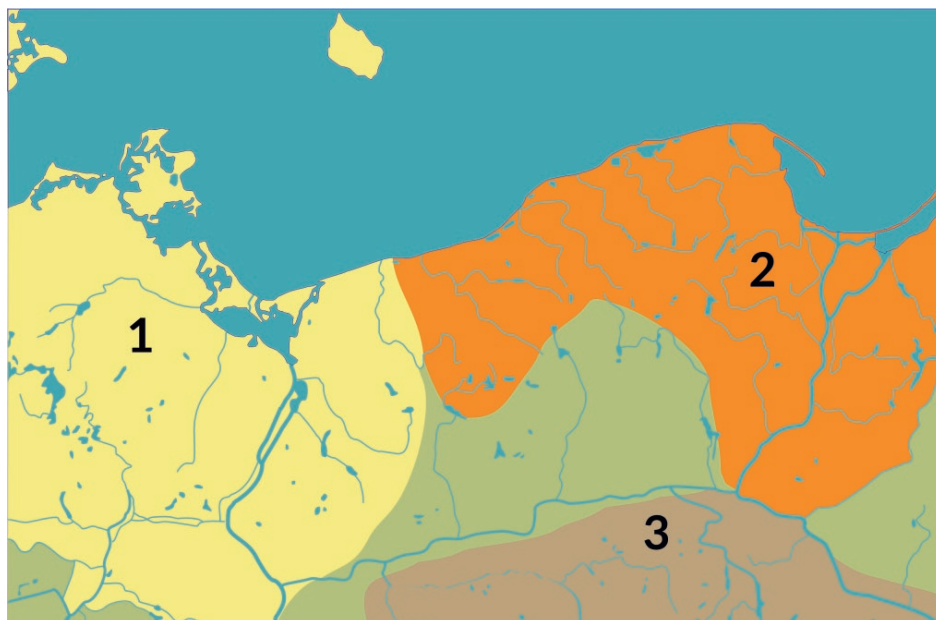
House urn from Obliwice – exhibit 29.12 (photograph: K. Gołębiowska, N. Laskowska)

Exhibits:

- 29.1. Face urns, Białogard-Kisielice, pow. Białogard
- 29.2. Face urn, Niedarzyno, pow. Bytów
- 29.3. Face urn, Borkówko, pow. Wejherowo
- 29.4. Face urn, Struszewo, pow. Bytów
- 29.5. Face urn, Osieki Łęborskie, pow. Wejherowo
- 29.6. Clay urn, Świeszyno, pow. Koszalin
- 29.7. Face urn, Zaspy Małe, pow. Białogard
- 29.8. Clay urn, Struszewo, pow. Bytów
- 29.9. Face urn, Chlebowo, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie
- 29.10. Ceramic urn, Zielonki (German: Laubkrug – now non-existing village), pow. Koszalin
- 29.11. House urn, Wódka/Witków, pow. Wejherowo
- 29.12. House urns, Obliwice, pow. Łębork
- 29.13. Bronze pin, Przewóz, pow. Kartuzy
- 29.14. Earring, Garczegorze, pow. Łębork
- 29.15. Bronze earring, Świchowo, pow. Wejherowo
- 29.16. Earrings, Świchowo, pow. Wejherowo
- 29.17. Hoard of personal ornaments, Gniewino, pow. Wejherowo

Part IV. From the pre-Roman period to the late ancient times (~500 BC–AD 600) In the northern Baltic region (~500–50 BC)

The Jastorf culture, named after the village of Jastorf in Lower Saxony, is the first archaeological culture from the pre-Roman period in Western Pomerania. It was formed in northern Germany and southern Scandinavia around the 4th century BC. In the following centuries, peoples representing this culture, sometimes identified with the Sciri and Bastarnae known from written sources, moved to the southeast of Europe reaching the Balkans. Cemeteries with only cremation burials and a complete lack of weaponry in grave goods (31.1,2) are characteristic of the Jastorf culture. Graves contain dress accessories and personal ornaments, mainly pins (30.6), belt hooks (30.4.7–9), fibulae and necklaces (30.1–3.5) which stylistically refer to objects from the Bronze Age just like pottery vessels (31.1–7).



Pre-Roman archaeological cultures in Western Pomerania: Jastorf culture (1), Oksywie culture (2), Przeworsk culture (3) (drawing: K. Kowalski)

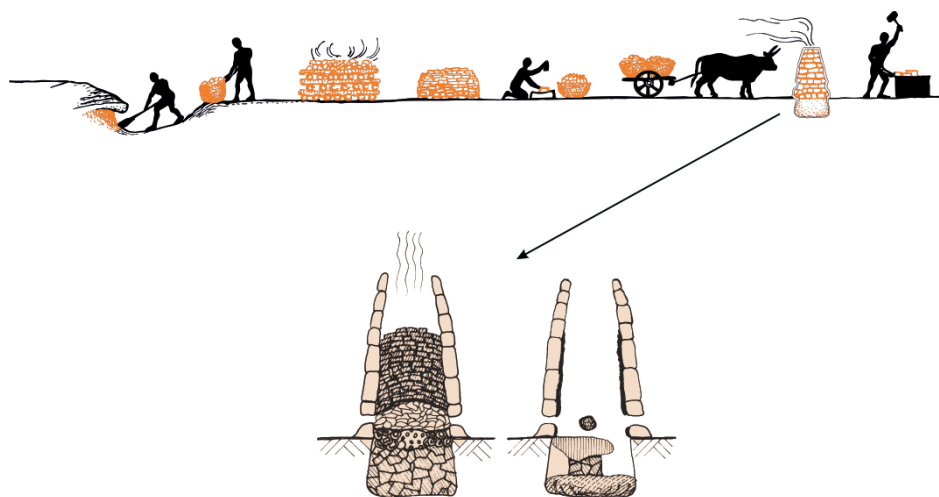
Exhibits:

- 30.1. Bronze neck-ring, Rydzewo, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie
- 30.2. Bronze neck-ring, Kruszyna, pow. Słupsk
- 30.3. Bronze neck-ring, Kopaniewo, pow. Lębork
- 30.4. Belt hook, Kunowo, pow. Stargard
- 30.5. Fibulae and a neck-ring, Lubieszewo, pow. Gryfice
- 30.6. Iron pin, Pasewalk, Lkr. Vorpommern-Greifswald
- 30.7. Belt hook, Sosnówko, pow. Łobez
- 30.8. Belt hook, Żeliszawiec, pow. Gryfino
- 30.9. Belt hook, Lubieszewo, pow. Gryfice

- 31.1. Grave goods, Wąwelnica, pow. Police
- 31.2. Grave goods, Lubieszewo, pow. Gryfice
- 31.3. Pottery vessel, Kunowo, pow. Stargard
- 31.4. Pottery vessels, Marianowo, pow. Stargard
- 31.5. Pottery vessel, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 31.6. Pottery vessel, Kunowo, pow. Stargard
- 31.7. Pottery vessel, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin

Latenization (~200 BC–BC/AD)

Around the turn of the 5th and 4th centuries BC, the Celts discovered a technique of smelting iron from bog iron ore (32.14) which from then on became a main raw material for the production of tools and weapons (32.12,13). It was one of the turning points in the history of Europe. Technological progress went hand in hand with a change in the spiritual culture which in a short time dominated the barbarian communities in Europe (32.1–11). Celtic tribes began their territorial expansion from their native lands located in the Alpine region (present-day France and southern Germany), reaching the British Isles, the Iberian Peninsula and Asia Minor. The Celts established direct contacts with Greek and early Roman civilisations. The period of their strong influence on traditional cultures was formerly called the La Tène period, from La Tène in Switzerland. Currently, the term pre-Roman period is used which precedes the cultural change in Europe under the influence of the Roman Empire from the 1st century AD.



Process of iron production in the pre-Roman and Roman periods (drawing: A. Ryś)

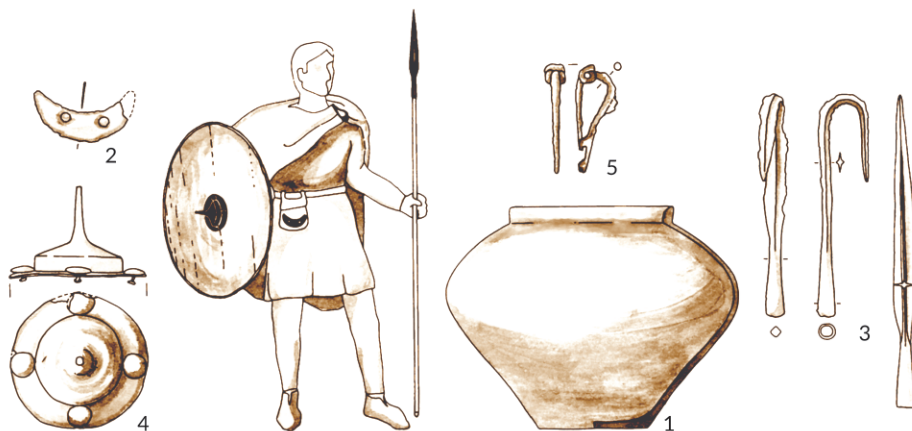
Exhibits:

- 32.1. Neck-ring, Długie, pow. Stargard
- 32.2. Fibulae, Długie, pow. Stargard
- 32.3. Neck-ring, Ognica, pow. Stargard
- 32.4. Neck-ring, Tarnówko, pow. Goleniów
- 32.5. Neck-ring, Rusowo, pow. Kołobrzeg
- 32.6. Belt hook, Kopaniewo, pow. Lębork
- 32.7. Belt hook, Warszkowo, pow. Sławno
- 32.8. Belt hook, Podole Małe, pow. Słupsk
- 32.9. Fibula, Marszewo, pow. Goleniów
- 32.10. Fibulae, Warszkowo, pow. Sławno
- 32.11. Fibula, Parsęcko, pow. Szczecinek
- 32.12. Shears, Lubieszewo, pow. Gryfice
- 32.13. Shears, Brzeźniak, pow. Łobez
- 32.14. Slag, Baczyn, pow. Choszczno
- 32.15. Iron ore, Pomerania

Iron in everyday life (~200 BC–BC/AD)

The Oksywie culture is named after the seaside district of Gdynia-Oksywie. It was formed in the lower Powiśle around the 3rd century BC. In Western Pomerania, the population of this culture appeared in the 2nd–1st centuries BC, reaching the River Ina.

The cremation rite, depositing weapons in male graves (33.1–17) and the style of pottery (34.1–5) indicate strong latenization of the Oksywie communities, which makes them different from the more conservative population of the Jastorf culture. Elements of the Oksywie culture disappear at the turn of the eras.



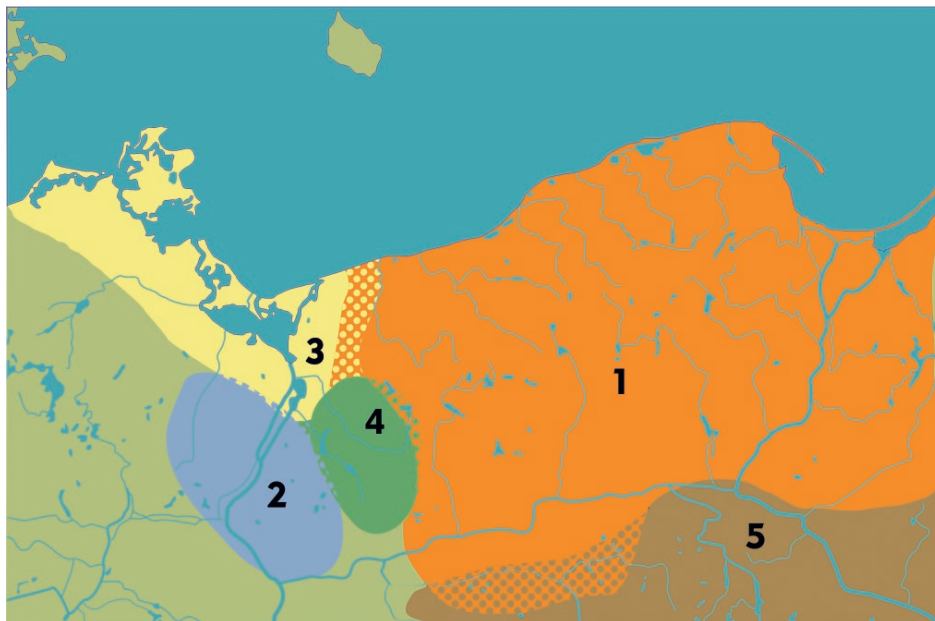
Urned grave of the Oksywie culture warrior in Wygoda: urn (1), razor (2), spearhead (3), shield boss (4), fibula (5) (after H. Machajewski) and reconstruction of the appearance of a Oksywie culture warrior with weapons and everyday objects (drawing: A. Ryś)

Exhibits:

- 33.1. *Shield boss, Kopaniewo, pow. Łębork*
- 33.2. *Shield boss, Warszkowo, pow. Sławno*
- 33.3. *Shield boss, Głobino, pow. Słupsk*
- 33.4. *Spearhead, Pomerania*
- 33.5. *Spearhead, Brzeźniak, pow. Łobez*
- 33.6. *Spearhead, Oleszno, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie*
- 33.7. *Spearhead, Buczek, pow. Białogard*
- 33.8. *Djerid head, Warszkowo, pow. Sławno*
- 33.9. *Spear-butt, Warszkowo, pow. Sławno*
- 33.10. *Spear-butt, Buczek, pow. Białogard*
- 33.11. *Sheath fittings of a single-edged sword, Kopaniewo, pow. Łębork*
- 33.12. *Sheath buckle, Buczek, pow. Białogard*
- 33.13. *Sword, Warszkowo, pow. Sławno*
- 33.14. *Swords, Oleszno, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie*
- 33.15. *Sword, Buczek, pow. Białogard*
- 33.16. *Sword, Warszkowo, pow. Sławno*
- 33.17. *Sword, Brzeźniak, pow. Łobez*
- 33.18. *Razors, Warszkowo, pow. Sławno*
- 33.19. *Tweezers, Buczek, pow. Białogard*
- 33.20. *Needle-shaped firesteel, Oleszno, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie*
- 33.21. *Needle, Oleszno, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie*
- 33.22. *Shaft-hole axe, Drawsko Pomorskie, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie*
- 33.23. *Saw, Drawsko Pomorskie, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie*
- 33.24. *Small knives with a sickle-shaped blade, Warszkowo, pow. Sławno*
- 34.1. *Pottery vessel, Buczek, pow. Białogard*
- 34.2. *Pottery vessel, Warszkowo, pow. Sławno*
- 34.3. *Pottery vessel, Konikowo, pow. Koszalin*
- 34.4. *Pottery vessel, Drawsko Pomorskie, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie*
- 34.5. *Pottery vessel, Warszkowo, pow. Sławno*

The first signs of Romanization (~BC/AD–AD 50)

In the 1st century, the European centre of civilisation was the Roman Empire exerting a strong influence on the culture of barbarian communities. The products of Roman workshops, and with them ideas and trends contributing to significant changes in the aesthetic and stylistic habits of local communities, reached the territories of the Barbaricum through the network of trade contacts. The most frequently imported objects from the Empire were bronze and glass vessels, weapons and dress accessories (35.1–5). In Western Pomerania, the influences from the Roman provinces are the most fully visible, therefore this part of prehistory is called the Roman period. At that time, the elements typical of Pomeranian cultures (Okseywie and Jastorf) disappeared. In their place, new ones appeared known as the Wielbark culture (35.1 and 36.1,2) as well as the Gustow (35.3) and Lubusz/Czelin (35.2) groups. Information about the Baltic territories appeared for the first time in ancient written sources. The Roman period ends with the fall of the Western Roman Empire in the 4th century.



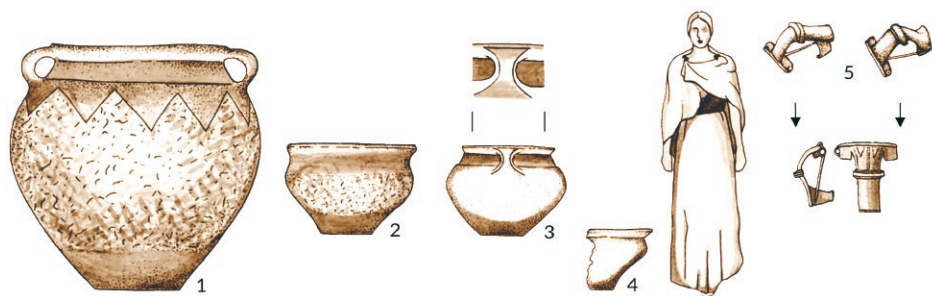
Roman period archaeological cultures in Western Pomerania: Wielbark culture (1), Lubusz/Czelin group (2), Gustow group (3), Pyrzyce group (4) Przeworsk culture (5) (drawing: K. Kowalski)

Exhibits:

- 35.1. Grave goods, Lekowo, pow. Świdwin
- 35.2. Grave goods, Czelin, pow. Gryfino
- 35.3. Grave goods, Sierostaw, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 35.4. Brooches, Jęczydół, pow. Stargard
- 35.5. Bronze brooch, Świecianowo, pow. Sławno
- 36.1. Cremation grave, Brzeźnica, pow. Łobez
- 36.2. Inhumation burial in the oak log, Bagicz, pow. Kołobrzeg

The Goths in Pomerania (~BC/AD–AD 400)

The culture which developed in the 1st–4th centuries is named after the town of Wielbark near Malbork where a cemetery was discovered with cremations and inhumations without any weapons and iron objects in burials. The Wielbark culture is characterised by highly developed non-ferrous metallurgy, especially intricate goldsmithery (37.6–13). From the area occupied by the Wielbark population, very richly furnished graves under barrows of the tribal elite (37.14,36,38 and 38.13,16) are known as well as still mysterious stone circles and structures related to religious beliefs and a sphere of ideology. Wielbark communities are generally associated with Germanic tribes of the Goths and Gepids.



Wielbark culture urned grave from Zagórzycze: urn (1), accompanying vessels (2-4), pair of bronze brooches (5) and a reconstruction of the female dress in the Wielbark culture (drawing: A. Ryś)



Pottery vessel, in the shape of a lamb, Bobrowniki – exhibit 38.1 (photograph: K. Gołębiowska, N. Laskowska)

Exhibits:

- 37.1. *Necklace of beads, Lubowidz, pow. Lębork*
- 37.2. *Necklace of beads, Lubowidz, pow. Lębork*
- 37.3. *Necklace of beads, Buczek, pow. Białogard*
- 37.4. *Necklace of beads, Lubowidz, pow. Lębork*
- 37.5. *Necklace of beads, Borkowice, pow. Koszalin*
- 37.6. *Neck-ring, Meszne, pow. Łobez*
- 37.7. *S-shaped clasp, Gronowo, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie*
- 37.8. *Brooches, Lubieszewo, pow. Gryfice*
- 37.9. *Brooch, Lubieszewo, pow. Gryfice*
- 37.10. *Brooch, Drawsko Pomorskie, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie*
- 37.11. *Brooch, Gronowo, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie*
- 37.12. *Brooch, Lubowidz, pow. Lębork*
- 37.13. *Brooch, Gronowo, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie*
- 37.14. *Brooches and a pin, Przelevice, pow. Pyrzyce*
- 37.15. *Brooch, Siecie, pow. Słupsk*
- 37.16. *Brooches, Świecie Kołobrzeskie, pow. Kołobrzeg*
- 37.17. *Brooches, Drawsko Pomorskie, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie*
- 37.18. *Brooch, Karwowo, pow. Łobez*
- 37.19. *Brooch, Żelechowo, pow. Gryfino*
- 37.20. *Brooch, Łobez, pow. Łobez*
- 37.21. *Brooch, Resko, pow. Łobez*
- 37.22. *Brooches, Redło, pow. Świdwin*
- 37.23. *Brooch, Długie, pow. Stargard*
- 37.24. *Brooch, Żukowo, pow. Stargard*
- 37.25. *Brooch, Żalęcino, pow. Stargard*
- 37.26. *Comb, Redło, pow. Świdwin*
- 37.27. *Combs, Borkowice, pow. Koszalin*
- 37.28. *Combs, Żalęcino, pow. Stargard*
- 37.29. *Bracelet, Buczek, pow. Białogard*
- 37.30. *Bracelets, Lubowidz, pow. Lębork*
- 37.31. *Bracelet, Borzytuchom, pow. Bytów*
- 37.32. *Strap-end, Karwowo, pow. Łobez*
- 37.33. *Bronze elements of a belt set and a pendant, Siecie, pow. Słupsk*
- 37.34. *Strap-end, Gostkowo, pow. Bytów*
- 37.35. *Spur, Lubogoszcz, pow. Szczecinek*
- 37.36. *Spur, Nowy Łowicz, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie*
- 37.37. *Spur, Obliwice, pow. Lębork*
- 37.38. *Spurs, Gronowo, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie*
- 38.1. *Pottery vessel, Bobrowniki, pow. Stargard*
- 38.2. *Pottery vessel, Stargard, pow. Stargard*
- 38.3. *Pottery vessel, Obliwice, pow. Lębork*
- 38.4. *Pottery vessel, Pomerania*
- 38.5. *Pottery vessel, Miechęcino, pow. Kołobrzeg*
- 38.6. *Pottery vessel, Drawsko Pomorskie, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie*
- 38.7. *Pottery vessel, Łobez, pow. Łobez*
- 38.8. *Pottery vessels, Lubieszewo, pow. Gryfice*
- 38.9. *Pottery vessels, Meszne, pow. Łobez*
- 38.10. *Pottery vessel, Bonin, pow. Łobez*
- 38.11. *Pottery vessel, Lekowo, pow. Świdwin*
- 38.12. *Pottery vessels, Bobolice, pow. Koszalin*
- 38.13. *Pottery vessels, Gronowo, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie*
- 38.14. *Pottery vessels, Iglice, pow. Łobez*
- 38.15. *Pottery vessel, Zagórzycze, pow. Łobez*
- 38.16. *Pottery vessel, Gronowo, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie*

Roman imports in Pomerania (~BC/AD–AD 400)

Products of Roman workshops began to appear in Western Pomerania at the beginning of the 1st century. They were mostly buckets, the so-called *situlae* (39.8,16), bowls (39.7,11,12,15), bronze saucepans and colanders (39.9), glass bowls and beakers (39.1–4). Roman pottery made at specialised workshops, the so-called *terra sigillata* (39.17), as well as brooches, buckles and belt fittings were much rare. Roman weapons, mainly double-edged swords, the so-called *gladius*, are also found in the territory of the Barbaricum. All these objects reached Pomerania through the Marcomanni who at the beginning of the 1st century established their own kingdom in the Bohemian Basin with Maroboduus as a king. The threat of an armed conflict with Rome required to secure peace with barbarian neighbours from the north, using, for example, valued Roman products. After the collapse of the kingdom of Maroboduus, the role of an intermediary between Rome and the Barbaricum was taken over by the Quadi living in the area of present-day Slovakia. In the middle of the 2nd century, as a result of the Marcomannic wars, the southern route of the influx of Roman imports to the Baltic Sea ceased to exist. However, a new, less direct route appeared through, for example, the Danish Islands.



Finds of Roman imports in Pomerania (drawing: K. Kowalski)

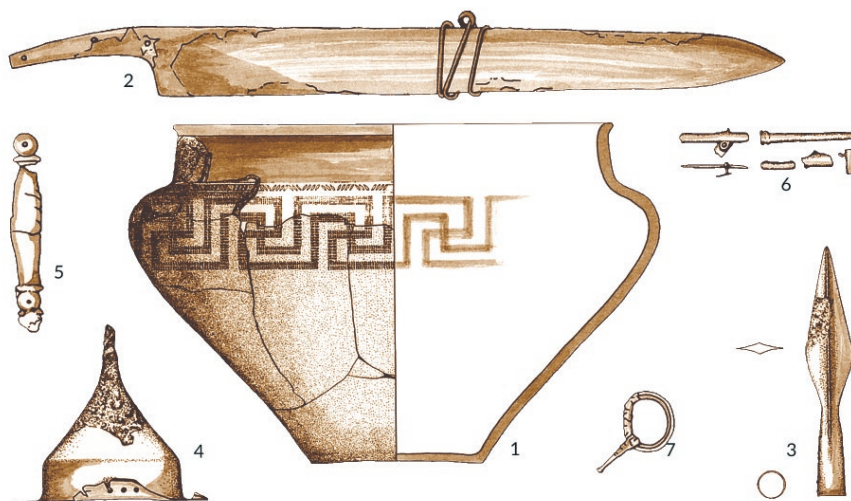
Exhibits:

- 39.1. Glass vessel, Witkowo, pow. Słupsk
- 39.2. Glass vessel, Borkowice, pow. Koszalin
- 39.3. Glass vessel, Pótlchleb, pow. Świdwin
- 39.4. Glass vessels, Kosin, pow. Pyrzyce
- 39.5. Bead, Włościbórz, pow. Kołobrzeg
- 39.6. Distaff, Lubowidz, pow. Lębork
- 39.7. Bronze vessel, Lubieszewo, pow. Gryfice

- 39.8. Bronze vessel, Postomino, pow. Sławno
- 39.9. Bronze colanders, Pomerania
- 39.10. Bronze vessel, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 39.11. Bronze vessel, Grąbczyn, pow. Szczecinek
- 39.12. Bronze vessel, Gronowo, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie
- 39.13. Oil lamp, Szczecin-Zdroje, pow. Szczecin
- 39.14. Oil lamp, Słupsk, pow. Słupsk
- 39.15. Bronze vessel, Lubieszewo, pow. Gryfice
- 39.16. Bronze vessel, Barnisław (Barnisławiec), pow. Police
- 39.17. Pottery vessel, Gronowo, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie

Between strong neighbours (~BC/AD-AD 300)

In the 1st-3rd centuries, the zones of influence of three great cultural formations met in the region of the lower Oder: the Przeworsk culture from the Greater Poland, the Wielbark culture from Pomerania and "the Elbian culture complex" from the region west to the Oder. Scandinavian influences were also strong. Local communities affected by these influences developed their own cultures and groups. The Lubusz/Czelin group is characterised by a funeral rite (40.9-11), forms of vessels typical of the Elbe region (40.1,2) and weapons in graves (40.3-8) which is typical of the Przeworsk culture. The communities of the Gustow group at the mouth of the Oder used vessels which style is similar to the Wielbark culture, practised both cremation and inhumation, and did not equip the dead with weapons. In the 1st century, in the lower Oder region, similarly as in the entire Barbaricum, social divisions within tribal communities were visible, leading to formation of the elite. These processes are most fully reflected in burials accompanied by rich grave goods, for example, Roman objects (40.5).



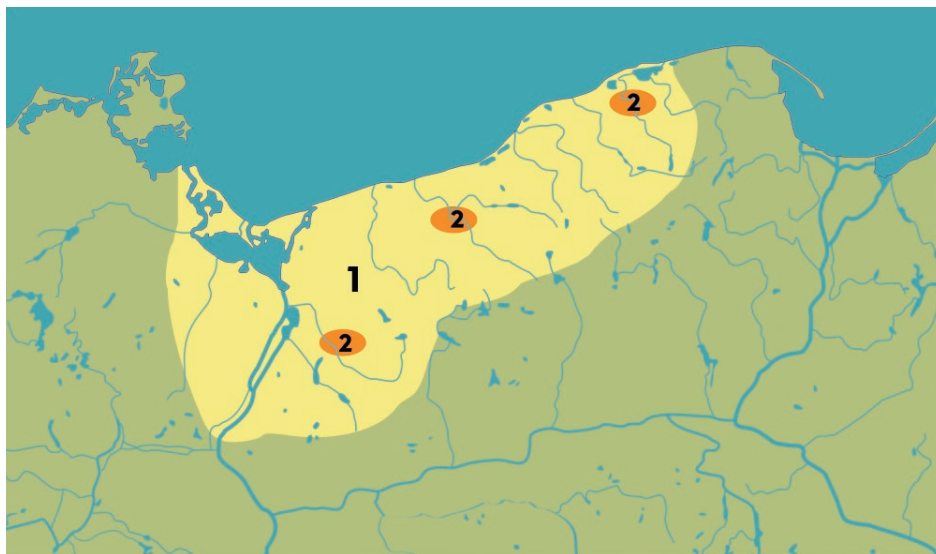
Furnishings of a warrior's grave from Czelin: urn (1), single-edged sword with sheath buckles (2), spearhead (3), metal shield elements (shield boss - 4, grip - 5, edgings - 6), belt buckle (7) (drawing: A. Rys)

Exhibits:

- 40.1. Pottery vessels, Czelin, pow. Gryfino
- 40.2. Pottery vessel, Cedynia, pow. Gryfino
- 40.3. Sword, Czelin, pow. Gryfino
- 40.4. Sword, Czelin, pow. Gryfino
- 40.5. Sword, Czelin, pow. Gryfino
- 40.6. Spearheads, Czelin, pow. Gryfino
- 40.7. Shield grips, Czelin, pow. Gryfino
- 40.8. Shield bosses, Czelin, pow. Gryfino
- 40.9. Goods from a male grave, Czelin, pow. Gryfino
- 40.10. Goods from a male grave, Czelin, pow. Gryfino
- 40.11. Goods from a male grave, Czelin, pow. Gryfino

The Migration period in Pomerania (AD ~350–600)

The period of large-scale migrations of peoples in Europe which were initiated by the invasion by the Huns was in the 4th century to the turn of the 5th and 6th centuries. Changes in Pomerania involved the disappearance of the population of the Gustow and Lubusz/Czelin groups. The place of the Wielbark culture was taken by communities known as the Dębuczyno group practising the bi-ritual funeral rite. The fall of the Roman Empire which set European cultural patterns and the chaos brought by the migrations of subsequent peoples caused a return of simple vessel forms, in Pomerania clearly modelled on ones from the Elbe region (41.7,9,16,17). Dress accessories, especially brooches and buckles, became more massive in form with a clearly visible style of the Elbian, Danubian and Scandinavian culture complexes (41.1,2,11–14). There were also Pomeranian enclaves of Scandinavian settlers (41.5).



Cultural groups in Western Pomerania in the Migration period: Dębuczyno group (1), Scandinavian settlement (2) (drawing: K. Kowalski)

Exhibits:

- 41.1. Brooches, Świelino, pow. Koszalin
- 41.2. Brooch, Trzebiatów, pow. Gryfice
- 41.3. Plates, Skalin, pow. Gryfice
- 41.4. Neck-ring, Stargard, pow. Stargard
- 41.5. Hoard of gold objects, Suchań, pow. Stargard
- 41.6. Hoard of solidi, Karsibór, pow. Świnoujście
- 41.7. Hoard of denarii in a pottery vessel, Resko, pow. Łobez
- 41.8. Hoard of folles of Constantine I, Sibir, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 41.9. Pottery vessel, Resko, pow. Łobez
- 41.10. Brooches, Suchań, pow. Stargard
- 41.11. Brooch, Borkowice, pow. Koszalin
- 41.12. Brooch, Potczyn Zdrój, pow. Świdwin
- 41.13. Brooch, Redło, pow. Świdwin
- 41.14. Brooch, Borkowice, pow. Koszalin
- 41.15. Pendants, Borkowice, pow. Koszalin
- 41.16. Pottery vessel, Lubieszewo, pow. Gryfice
- 41.17. Pottery vessel, Dębczyno, pow. Białogard



Hoard of gold objects from Suchań – exhibit 41.5 (photograph: K. Gołębiowska, N. Laskowska)



Kaptorga pendants from Piaski Wielkie – exhibits 49.6 (photograph: K. Gołębiowska, N. Laskowska)

ROOMS 3 AND 4. THE MIDDLE AGES (AD ~650/700–1200)

The Middle Ages in Europe are a period between the 5th and 15th century, nearly a thousand years between the fall of the ancient civilisation and the beginning of the European overseas exploration which marks the beginning of the early modern period. The Early Middle Ages starts in Pomerania in the 6th–8th centuries together with the characteristic Slavic culture. There was gradual progress in the construction of houses, roads, bridges and dikes. Apart from rural settlements, multi-ethnic centres with features of early urban settlements were established in Pomerania. Under such conditions, part of the household chores was turned into crafts aimed at selling goods on the close and distant markets. It is also a period of armed conflicts between the Slavic tribes, the young Polish state and the German Empire. Changes fraught with consequences took place in the first half of the 12th century with the introduction of a new religion – Christianity. The existing oligarchic system – the rule of magnates and priests – was replaced by the castellan. A new phase began in the history of Pomerania, leading to the emergence of new towns receiving the municipal rights, with regular housing and public utility buildings, which ends the early medieval period in Pomerania.

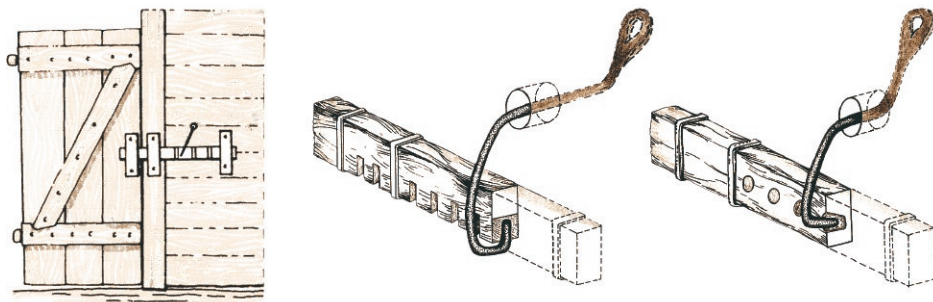
At the end of the 8th century and the beginning of the 9th century on the Pomeranian coast, at mouths of rivers, emerged unique settlements called emporia – trading and manufacturing centres with multi-ethnic population following different religions and respecting various customs. A network of such centres, connected by sea and overland routes, was established around the Baltic Sea, a purpose of which was the long-term exchange of mass and exclusive goods, covering distant lands from Scandinavia through Ruthenia to Constantinople and the Arab lands. The active participation of inhabitants of Pomeranian centres in the creating of this zone resulted in the acquiring of foreign cultural elements and some technical skills as well as ideas and cultural patterns, facilitating the unification of societies that lived in the Baltic region. The Pomeranian centre of the greatest significance at the time was Wolin. The decline in the importance of far-reaching trade resulted in the collapse of emporia. Some of them ceased to exist, others were transformed into centres operating within new rules. In the West Pomeranian Duchy, divided between members of the native Warcisław dynasty from the end of the 12th century, officials – castellans residing in strongholds (*castra, castella*) ruled on the Duke's behalf. They were appointed by the Duke and usually came from local magnates. Starting from the second half of the 12th century in Pomerania, there is an intensive settlement action and an increase in economic activity of not only ducal but also clergy's and possibly knights' property. Apart from the indigenous Slavic people, also Danes and Germans participated in this settlement action.



Stone stele from Stupsk – exhibit 50.1 (photograph: K. Gołębiowska, N. Laskowska)

Part V. The Early Middle Ages (AD ~650/700–1200) At home (AD ~650/700–1200)

Culture of everyday life is determined by, for example, living conditions and the quality of objects used. Early medieval houses built from wooden laths or wicker covered with clay had entrance doors closed with locks and staples (43.1–6). The main task of the inhabitants was to obtain and process food (42 and 43.7–16). All family members were also involved in the household works (44).



Mechanism of the door lock (after K. Czarnecka) (drawing: A. Rys)



Weaver at a loom – the making of the fabric (drawing: A. Rys)

Exhibits:

- 42.1. Pottery vessels, Dziedzice, pow. Myślibórz
- 42.2. Pottery vessel, Mścięcino, pow. Police
- 42.3. Pottery vessel, Cedynia, pow. Gryfino
- 42.4. Pottery vessels, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 43.1. Padlock key, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 43.2. Padlock keys, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 43.3. Key, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 43.4. Keys, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 43.5. Door locks, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 43.6. Padlock, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 43.7. Bow, Pomerania
- 43.8. Bowl, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 43.9. Spoon, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 43.10. Spoon, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 43.11. Bowl, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 43.12. Scoop, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 43.13. Scoop, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 43.14. Pin, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 43.15. Bowl, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 43.16. Pottery vessel, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 44.1. Knife with a handle, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 44.2. Knife, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 44.3. Antler spacers, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 44.4. Knife handles, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 44.5. Fire strikers, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 44.6. Sheath fitting, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 44.7. Sheath fitting, Cedynia, pow. Gryfino
- 44.8. Sheath fittings, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 44.9. Sheaths, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 44.10. Whetstone, Pomerania
- 44.11. Whetstone, pow. Wolin, Kamień Pomorski
- 44.12. Weaving combs, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 44.13. Textile, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 44.14. Spindle, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 44.15. Spindle with a spindle whorl, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 44.16. Spindle whorls, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 44.17. Spindle whorl, Gardziec, pow. Pyrzyce
- 44.18. Spindle whorls, Jarszewo, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 44.19. Needles, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 44.20. Needle-case, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 44.21. Needle-case, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 44.22. Awl, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 44.23. Awls, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 44.24. Awl, Kodrąb, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 44.25. Awl, Jarszewo, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 44.26. Awl, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 44.27. Awl, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 44.28. Loomweight, Pomerania
- 44.29. Shears, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 44.30. Shears, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin

At work (AD ~900–1200)

Work in households involved using various craft tools that were made there (45.5) or were purchased in workshops from specialised craftsmen, such as blacksmiths, founders, coopers or turners (45.6–19 and 45.10,16–19). Various iron tools were used to process main raw materials: wood, antler and bone, for example in boat-building, carpentry and horn-working (45.6–9,11–15). Everyday farm work included cultivating the land (45.1–4) and gathering crops (46).



Techniques of making pottery vessels (drawing: A. Rys)



Production of ornaments from metal alloys using the casting method (photograph: S. Słowiński)

Exhibits:

- 45.1. Sickle, Golczewo, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 45.2. Sickle, Pomerania
- 45.3. Sickle sheath, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 45.4. Ploughshare, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 45.5. Club, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 45.6. Hammer, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 45.7. Punch, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 45.8. Chisel, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 45.9. Chisel, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 45.10. Casting moulds, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 45.11. Axe, Pomerania
- 45.12. Saw, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 45.13. Adz, Widuchowa, pow. Gryfino
- 45.14. Chisel, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 45.15. Chisel, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 45.16. Casting ladle, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 45.17. Crucible, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 45.18. Crucible tongs, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 45.19. Silver scrap, Bogucino, pow. Kołobrzeg
- 46.1. Storage vessel, Lębork, pow. Lębork

At war (AD ~900–1200)

From the beginning of the Middle Ages Western Pomerania was a place of fights between tribes of the Pomeranian and Polabian Slavs, an expansive Polish state and the German Empire. In the period of the formation of West Pomeranian state, in the times of the first members of the Griffin dynasty, “the lands by the sea” were briefly controlled by Poland. Under the rule of Ratibor I, it was also the aim of the northern crusade. The Pomeranian population always put up strong resistance (47). The Danish chronicler, Saxo Grammaticus, explained the failure of the Danes who tried to conquer Szczecin in the second half of the 12th century that Szczecin’s ramparts were too high. He wrote that the town was protected by “nature and art” (*naturae arteque*) so that it could be considered impregnable (48). Even the proverb noted by Saxo was to enter circulation: “You boast in vain that you are safe, after all you are not protected by the walls of Szczecin”. After the battle was over, “the wall was full of arrows from the bottom to the top, so that it looked like dense reeds”; inhabitants of Szczecin painstakingly collected these arrows.



Reconstruction of 12th-century shield form Szczecin (drawing: R. Kamiński)



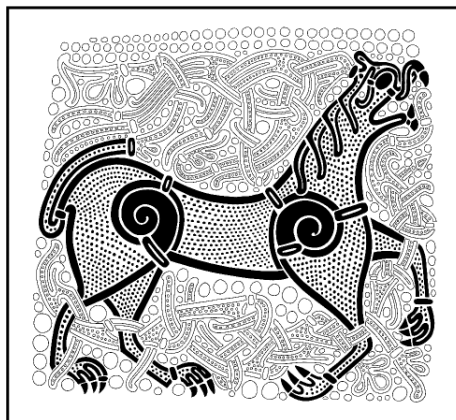
Iconographic details from Bayeux Tapestry – embroidered cloth, a work of secular art depicting the conquest of England by William the Conqueror in 1066

Exhibits:

- 47.1. Swords, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 47.2. Sword, Lubiatowo, pow. Pyrzyce
- 47.3. Sword, Żydowo, pow. Koszalin
- 47.4. Arrowheads, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin and Pomerania
- 47.5. Tips, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin and Pomerania
- 47.6. Spurs, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 47.7. Stirrup, unknown findspot, pow. Pyrzyce
- 47.8. Horse bit, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 47.9. Shaft-hole axes, Moczyły, pow. Police
- 47.10. Battle axes, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 48.1. Shield, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin

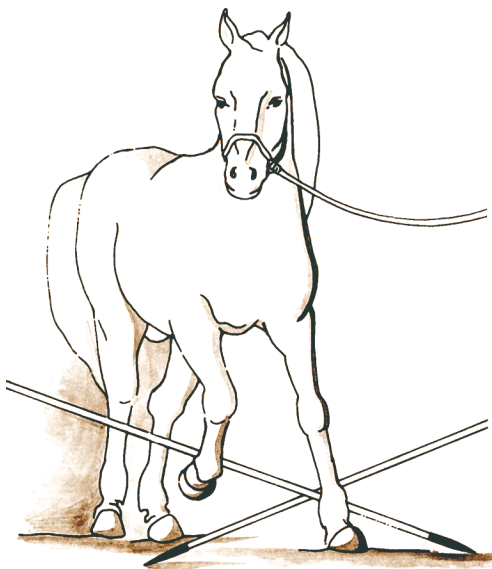
The sacred (AD ~900–1200)

The first attempts to Christianise Pomerania date back to the 10th century. In 1000, on the initiative of Bolesław I the Brave, a bishopric was established in Kołobrzeg ruled by Bishop Reinbern. It functioned for a short time, until the death of the first Polish crowned king and the military defeats of his successor, Mieszko II. An unsuccessful attempt to convert Pomeranians was made no earlier than in the first half of the 12th century by Bernard, the Spanish hermit and ascetic, who was sent by Bolesław III the Wrymouth. His mission ended in a complete failure. Mocked at his poverty, badly beaten by inhabitants of Wolin, he was saved by pagan priests and sent back to Poland. A few years later, Bishop Otto of Bamberg set out to Pomerania. His Christianisation missions took place in 1124–1125 and 1128, and were preceded by bloody fights for Pomerania, finally won by Bolesław III, the Duke of Poland. Warcisław, the first historical ruler of the independent Duchy of Pomerania, was defeated and had to accept control of Poland. He agreed to pay annual tribute and introduce Christianity. In 1124, Otto, later known as the Apostle of Pomerania, was received with all due ceremony by the Pomeranian duke. The bishop was awaited with great enthusiasm, for example in Pyrzyce and Kamień Pomorski,



Mammen style designs carved in elk antler on the reliquary of St Cordula (drawing: A. Rys)

but it was not a rule. He was met with reluctance and distrust in Wolin. In Szczecin, the mother of Pomeranian cities, the bishop demonstratively destroyed the temple of the pagan deity Triglav (49.1–14). He baptised inhabitants of Szczecin after he had given generous gifts to the rich and invited the poor to feasts (49.15). As a result of his missions, a bishopric with the seat in Wolin was founded. It was moved to Kamień Pomorski with time (51). Pomerania officially ceased to be the last bastion of paganism in this part of Europe (50).



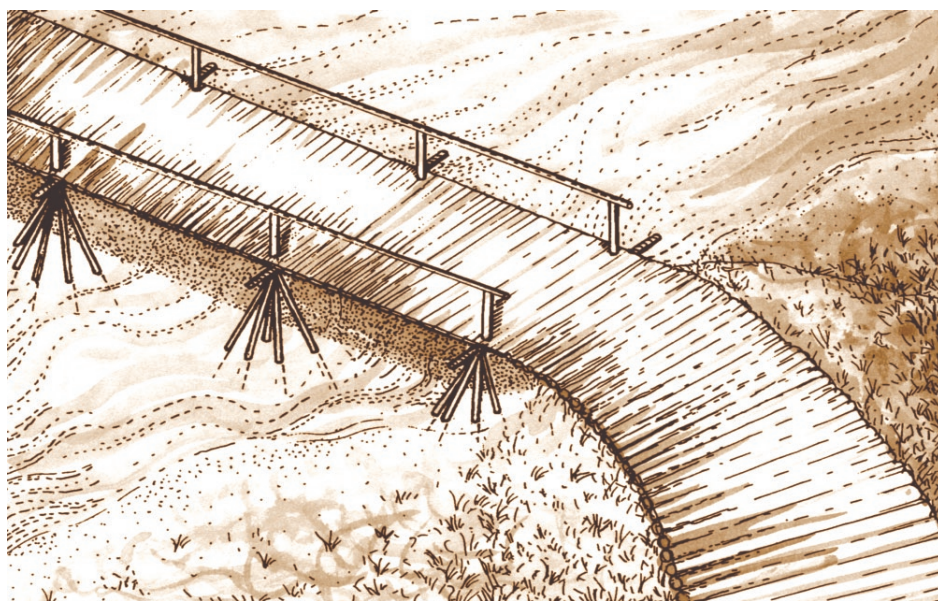
Horse passing through spears, a magic ritual described by Herbord, St Otto's hagiographer (drawing: A. Rys)

Exhibits:

- 49.1. Anthropomorphic figurine, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 49.2. Zoomorphic figurine, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 49.3. Zoomorphic figurine, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 49.4. Anthropomorphic figurine, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 49.5. Zoomorphic figurine, Cedyňa, pow. Gryfino
- 49.6. Kaptorga pendants, Piaski Wielkie, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 49.7. Kaptorga pendant, Dobrociechy, pow. Koszalin
- 49.8. Bell-shaped pendants, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 49.9. Amulets, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 49.10. Amulet, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 49.11. Rattles, Cedyňa, pow. Gryfino
- 49.12. Rattle, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 49.13. Rattle, Kołobrzeg, pow. Kołobrzeg
- 49.14. Wicker wreath, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 49.15. Cross-shaped pendants, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 49.16. Cross-shaped pendant, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 50.1. Stele, Słupsk, pow. Słupsk
- 51.1. Reliquary, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski

Travelling (AD ~900–1200)

The oldest evidence for using the means of land transport by Western Slavs come from the 9th century. In Pomerania, the development of communication devices and road network certainly facilitated the emergence of craft and trade centres operating in the Baltic economic zone. Course of the land routes depended on the topography. The hydrographic network was especially important as rivers naturally determined directions of travelling. The Pomeranian Slavs also built wood-lined roads, bridges, piers and dikes, whereas within the settlements – streets on joists, on which carts on wooden wheels could move (52). In the account of the 10th-century Jewish traveller and merchant Ibrahim ibn Yaqub from Spain which was Muslim at the time, there is a description of a journey in “great carts that move on four wheels. In the corners, four strong beams are set, from which the cradle is hung on strong chains. It is lined with brocade, so that those sitting in it do not shake when the cart jolts. Those vehicles are also prepared for the sick and wounded”.



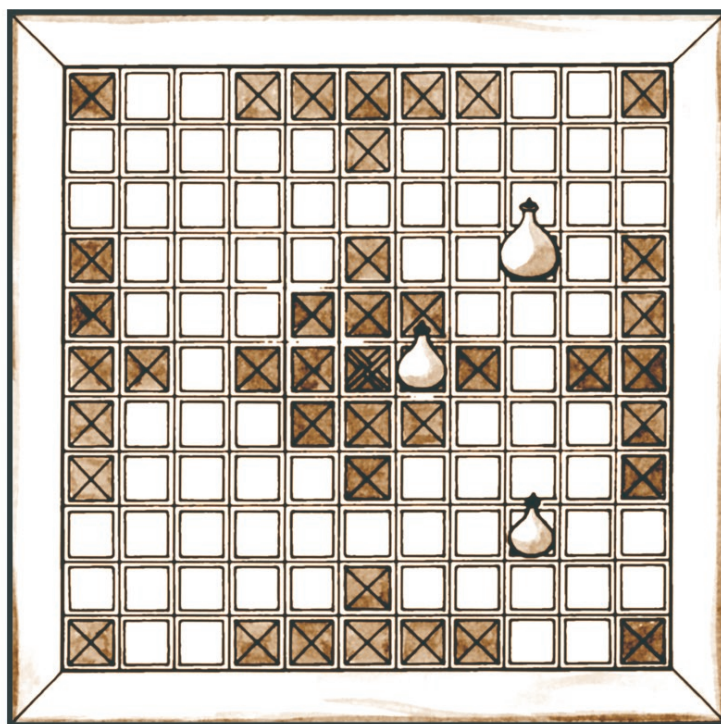
Reconstruction of an early medieval street on joists and a bridge on stilts (drawing: A. Rys)

Exhibits:

52.1. Wheel, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski

Celebrating (AD ~800–1200)

In the frequently quoted work on the history of childhood, the French historian Philippe Ariès stated that in the Middle Ages childhood and adolescence were not yet known because family life based on intimacy and feelings did not appear until later centuries. Archaeological finds allow to easily investigate the “invisible” childhood in the Early Middle Ages. Material indicators of childhood – toys – for example modelled

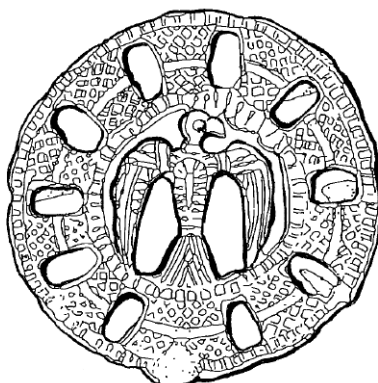


Game board and counters for Hnefatafl, Nordic strategy game
(drawing: A. Ryś, photograph: K. Gołębiowska, N. Laskowska)

on objects “from the world of the adults” mini-vessels and weapons, zoomorphic figures, dolls, little boats, whistles and pipes are a contribution to the discussion on the ambiguous perception and interpretation of archaeological record (53.1–8,12–13). A major role in social life was played by games and perhaps also by rituals associated with the use of various musical instruments and objects that produce certain sounds (53.9,10); while material characteristics of aesthetic qualities and the need to stand out are various head, neck and hand ornaments (54 and 55.1–17). Items indicating the need for personal hygiene are also of interest (55.18–22).



Method of winding a wooden spinning top, a children’s toy that emits a specific, buzzing sound (picture based on the painting by Pieter Bruegel the Elder – *The Fight Between Carnival and Lent*) (drawing: A. Rys)



Application with a depiction of an eagle, an ornament attached to textile or leather clothing, type of emblem (drawing: A. Rys)

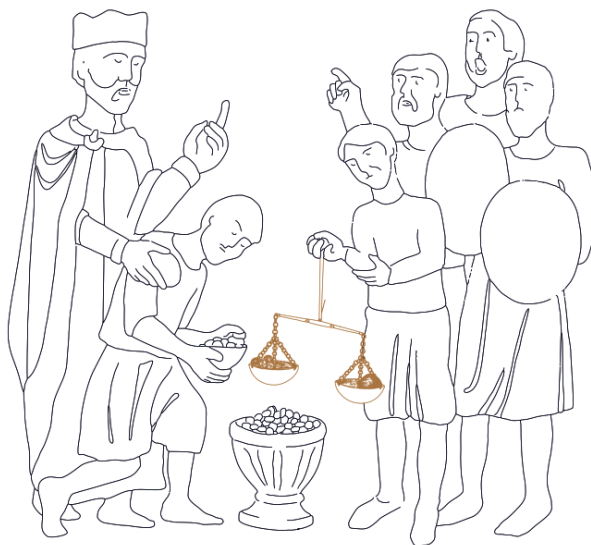
Exhibits:

- 53.1. Toys, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 53.2. Spinning top, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 53.3. Miniature boats and an oar, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 53.4. Miniature sword, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 53.5. Miniature sword, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 53.6. Dice, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 53.7. Gaming counter, unknown findspot, pow. Białogard
- 53.8. Gaming counters, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 53.9. Mouthpieces, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 53.10. Whistle, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 53.11. Tarlo-percussion instrument, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 53.12. Bone skate, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 53.13. Sledge runner, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 54.1. Temple rings, Cedyńia, pow. Gryfino
- 54.2. Temple rings, Żóćcino, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 54.3. Temple rings, Mosina, pow. Szczecinek
- 54.4. Temple rings, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 54.5. Temple rings, Pomerania
- 54.6. Temple rings, unknown findspot, pow. Kołobrzeg
- 54.7. Earring, Kurowo, pow. Koszalin
- 54.8. Earring, Piaski Wielkie, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 54.9. Necklace of beads, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 54.10. Necklace of beads, Żóćcino, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 54.11. Necklace of beads, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 54.12. Necklace separator, Cewlino, pow. Koszalin
- 54.13. Neck-ring, Złoceniec, pow. Drawsko Pomorskie
- 54.14. Neck-ring, Połczyn Zdrój, pow. Świdwin
- 54.15. Necklace clasp, Bogucino, pow. Kołobrzeg
- 54.16. Necklace clasp, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 54.17. Decorative button, Kurowo, pow. Koszalin
- 54.18. Pendant, Kurowo, pow. Koszalin
- 54.19. Pendant, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 54.20. Pendant, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 54.21. Pendant, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 54.22. Bracelet, Stargard, pow. Stargard
- 54.23. Finger-ring, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 54.24. Finger-rings, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 54.25. Finger-ring, Noskowo, pow. Stawno
- 54.26. Finger-ring, Brzesko, pow. Pyrzyce
- 54.27. Beads, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 54.28. Bead, Jarszewo, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 54.29. Beads, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 54.30. Beads, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 54.31. Bead, Żóćcino, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 54.32. Bead, Cedyńia, pow. Gryfino
- 54.33. Beads, Kurowo, pow. Koszalin
- 54.34. Bead, Jarszewo, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 54.35. Lump of amber, Pomerania
- 54.36. Semi-finished and fragmented amber beads, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 55.1. Openwork application, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 55.2. Openwork application, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 55.3. Openwork application, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 55.4. Buzz bone, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 55.5. Buzz bone, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin

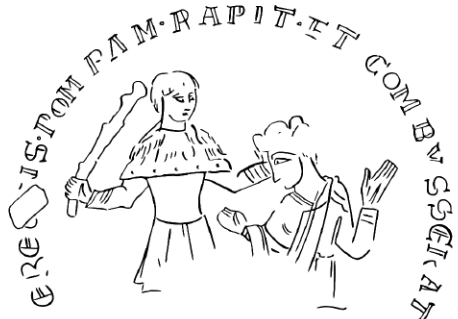
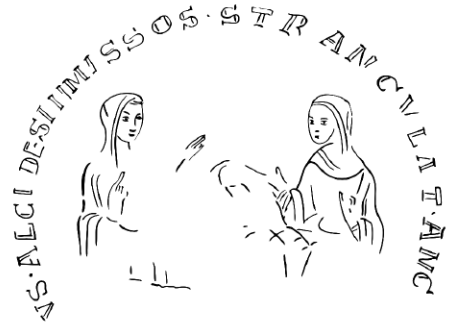
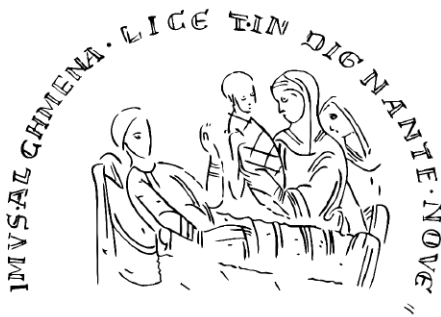
- 55.6. *Button, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski*
- 55.7. *Textile, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski*
- 55.8. *Pins, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin*
- 55.9. *Pin, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski*
- 55.10. *Buckle, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin*
- 55.11. *Buckle, Kołobrzeg, pow. Kołobrzeg*
- 55.12. *Buckles, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin*
- 55.13. *Buckle, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski*
- 55.14. *Belt fitting, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin*
- 55.15. *Strap-end, Kołobrzeg, pow. Kołobrzeg*
- 55.16. *Pouch, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin*
- 55.17. *Footwear, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin*
- 55.18. *Combs, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin*
- 55.19. *Combs, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski*
- 55.20. *Comb, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski*
- 55.21. *Comb cases, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski*
- 55.22. *Comb case, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin*

In the community (AD ~800–1200)

A key to understanding changes taking place in medieval craft from “household” production to a manufactured product sold on the market is to learn about the economic and social foundations of its development, as well as to trace the evolution of manufacturing techniques, construction and style of products over several centuries. The pace of these changes resulted from the dynamics of development of other elements of the economy – exchange and trade (56.1–11), agricultural base, supplies of raw materials, organisation of the internal market, and consumers’ needs.



Method of holding in a hand a manual balance consisting of a fork, a pointer, beams and pans (picture based on the scene from the Gniezno Doors) (drawing: A. Rys)



Ornament showing the labours of the Greek hero Heracles on a Romanesque bowl from Nowe Objezierze (after A. Janowski and S. Stowiński - drawing: R. Kamiński)

The oldest workshops were established in the 8th and 9th centuries in emporia. Their products were characterised by the repetition of forms, the use of the same technology and ornaments. This special group includes glass processing, blacksmithing and hornworking. With time, other branches of production acquired the status of crafts, which was associated with the development of local markets and their monetisation. Products, often unique, from other culture complexes reached Pomerania (56.12–24 and 57).

Exhibits:

- 56.1. Balance, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 56.2. Balance, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 56.3. Balance, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 56.4. Balance weights, Pomerania
- 56.5. Balance weight, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 56.6. Balance weight, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 56.7. Coin, Łupawa, pow. Słupsk
- 56.8. Coins, Orzeszkowo, pow. Łobez
- 56.9. Coins, Stary Chwalim, pow. Szczecinek
- 56.10. Coins, Szczecin-Niemierzyn, pow. Szczecin
- 56.11. Birka-counting stick, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 56.12. Spoon, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 56.13. Spindle whorl, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 56.14. Spindle whorl, Pomerania
- 56.15. Key, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 56.16. Plate, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 56.17. Container, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 56.18. Scabbard chape, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 56.19. Scoop handle, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 56.20. Bone with a runic inscription, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 56.21. Handle, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 56.22. Handle, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 56.23. Knife with a handle, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 56.24. Brooch, Świelubie, pow. Kołobrzeg
- 57.1. Colander, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 57.2. Cauldron, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 57.3. Bowl, Nowe Objezierze, pow. Gryfino
- 57.4. Casket lid, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 57.5. Container, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 57.6. Vessel fragment, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 57.7. Vessel fragment, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski

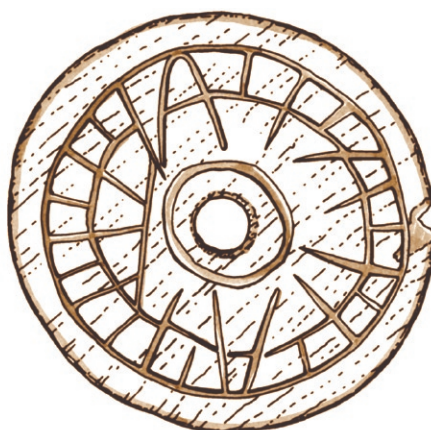
In and on the water (AD ~800–1200)

In traditional fishing, there are many techniques that can be successfully recreated from archaeological record. These include fishing with spears, fishing rods and nets. Most of the objects are associated with group fishing. These include mainly bark net floats (59.1,2) and net weights made of clay or stone (59.4–6); less common are harpoons, leisters (59.12–14) and fish hooks (59.7–9) – items related to individual fishing, as well as iron crampons for walking on ice (59.19,20) and wooden netting needles for making and repairing nets (59.3). Early medieval Pomeranian boatbuilding was at a very high level (58 and 59.15–18). Stave and single-decked boats were

used for inland and sea transport as well as fishing. Waterways played a key role in the exchange of mass goods.



Map of early medieval trade routes (after W. Chudziak and E. Siemianowska)



Navigation device – a solar compass made of oak wood discovered in the emporium in Wolin (drawing: A. Rys)

Exhibits:

- 58.1. Plank-built boat, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 58.2. Oars, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 59.1. Net float, Pomerania
- 59.2. Net floats, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 59.3. Netting needles, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 59.4. Net weight, Lubiatowo, pow. Pyrzyce
- 59.5. Net weight, Cedynia, pow. Gryfino
- 59.6. Net weights, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 59.7. Fish hooks, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 59.8. Fish hook, Mścięcino, pow. Szczecin
- 59.9. Fish hooks, Kamień Pomorski, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 59.10. Double hooks, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 59.11. Fish remains, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 59.12. Leisters, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 59.13. Leister, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 59.14. Harpoon, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 59.15. Boat rivets, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 59.16. Moss, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 59.17. Rigging chock, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 59.18. Dowels and wedges, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin
- 59.19. Crampon, Wolin, pow. Kamień Pomorski
- 59.20. Crampons, Szczecin, pow. Szczecin



Early medieval plank-built boat from Szczecin – exhibit 58.1
(photograph: K. Gołębiowska, N. Laskowska)

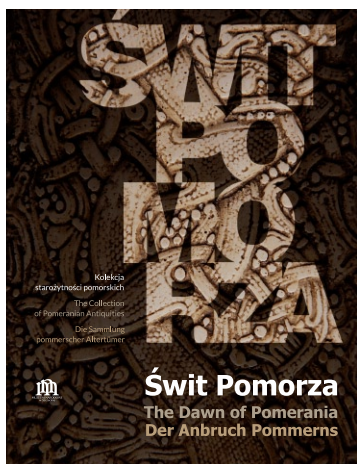


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Free publications related to the exhibition



Catalogue

of the permanent archaeological exhibition *The Dawn of Pomerania. The Collection of Pomeranian Antiquities* in a digital form is available for download at the Digital Library of the National Museum in Szczecin.



Activity booklets for permanent exhibitions: *The Dawn of Pomerania. The Collection of Pomeranian Antiquities, The Mystery of Light. Medieval art in Pomerania* and *Hidden Meanings. History of art in Pomerania in the 16th and 17th centuries*:

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**Exhibition**

The Dawn of Pomerania. The Collection of Pomeranian Antiquities

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Krzysztof Kowalski

Cooperation:

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Koma Nord, Twórcza 10

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Minister-President of the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
Manuela Schwesig



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