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The settlement and cultural changes in North-Eastern Greater Poland since the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age to the Migration Period

The North-Eastern part of Greater Poland is a region, which have not lived to see any studies on the settlement from II centuries B.C. to V/VI centuries A.D. It is due to a small scale of filed research and problems with publication of new sources.

The aim of this thesis was a characterization attempt of the settlement and cultural processes, which occurred in this area. To realise this purpose I used available sources from surface surveys, excavations and archives, also analysis of paleoenvironmental and paleozoological. It was conducted to rise a catalogue, which has 798 elements, most of them are archeological sites in indefinite characters and dated in wider time frames. In a group of well-dating sites, the most numerous are the remains of the settlement, which allowed a few times to analyze a spatial arrangement, building patterns and some aspects of the economy.

In the first part of my thesis, I presented a brief characteristic of geographical and nature in this region. Second chapter states an archeological analysis of artefacts, focused on chronological and cultural issues. As a result, I separated a collection of items, which corresponds to the following phases of the settlement: turn of the older and Late Pre-Roman Iron Age (Jastorf culture), the Pre-Roman Iron Age and the beginning of the Early Roman Period (Przeworsk culture), the Younger Roman Period (Wielbark culture), the Late Roman Period (Przeworsk culture) and the Migration Period. Additionally, I separated out a group of artefacts which mixes supracultural character.

In the part dedicated to settlement analysis, I observed ten test areas in detail, designated in tributaries of Noteć (surroundings of Kcynia, Żnin, Biskupin, Mogilno and Pakość Lake) and Wełna River (surroundings of Janowiec Wlkp., Wągrowiec, Mieścisko, Gniezno and Damasławek). Archeological sites from this time were found almost exclusively near lake gutters and river valleys, therefore in zones with comparative economic advantages. At the same time we can observe that each of microregions lied in distance from 3 to 4,5 km. This distance could be covered within one hour, which allowed mutual contact, and did not cause rivalry for resources (pastures, iron ores, wather, etc.)