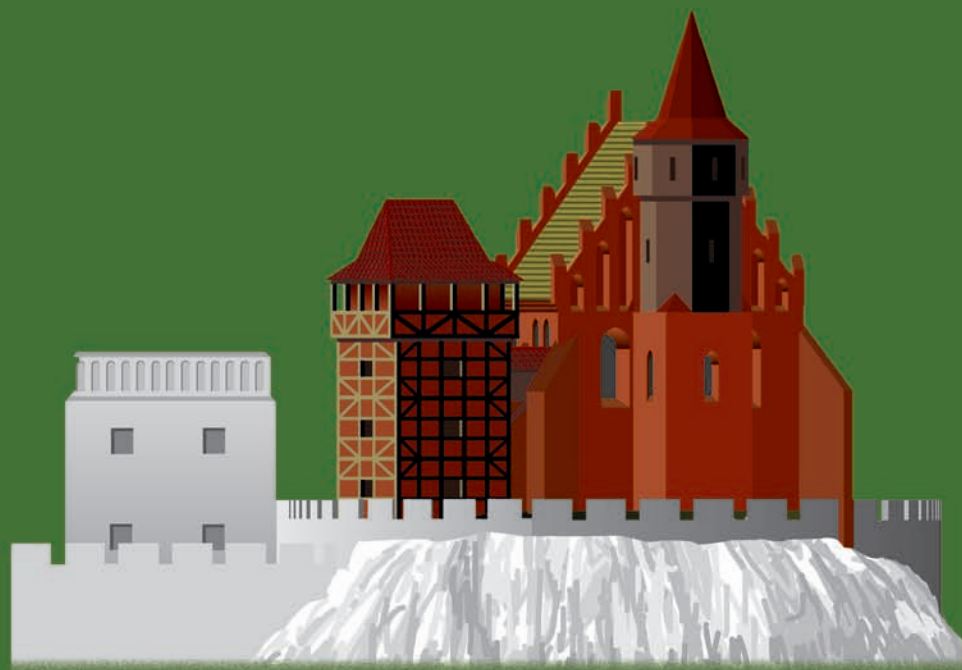


L'INSTITUT D'ARCHEOLOGIE
DE L'UNIVERSITE JAGIELLONNE
DE CRACOVIE

RECHERCHES ARCHEOLOGIQUES

NOUVELLE SERIE 2



KRAKÓW 2010

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DE L'UNIVERSITE JAGELLONNE DE CRACOVIE**

**RECHERCHES ARCHEOLOGIQUES
NOUVELLE SERIE 2**

KRAKÓW 2010

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L'Eglise StMichel et le monastère paulinien à Cracovie dans le début du XVIIe siècle
(la reconstruction par J. Poleski)

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CONTENU

ÉTUDES

Joanna Dębowska-Ludwin: <i>The necropolis at Tell el-Farkha reconsidered</i>	5
Andrei P. Borodovsky: <i>Southern Siberia bone carving of Scythian time</i>	21
Sebastian Borowicz: <i>The Cypriot economic system in the Late Classical and Early Hellenistic Periods. An analysis based on the ceramic evidence</i>	33
Michał Kasiński: <i>Bemerkungen zu den Funde der Przeworsk-Kultur in Mitteldeutschland in der jüngeren vorrömischen Eisenzeit</i>	43
Renata Madyda-Legutko, Judyta Rodzińska-Nowak: <i>Die kulturelle Situation im oberen Sangebiet in der römischen Kaiserzeit im Lichte der neuesten Forschungen</i>	65
Anna Lasota: <i>Hand-made storage vessels from the Early Roman Period from south-western Lesser Poland</i>	79
Marzena J. Przybyła: <i>Bemerkungen zu einigen lokalen Formen der Schwertgürtelschließen vom sog. Balteus-Typ aus dem Barbaricum</i>	93

RAPPORTS

Paweł Valde-Nowak, Arkadiusz Tarasiński: <i>Results of archaeological rescue excavations at Mucharz (Beskidy Mts.)</i>	185
Krzysztof M. Ciałowicz: <i>Excavations at the Western Kom at Tell el-Farkha 2007–2008</i>	203
Mariusz A. Jucha: <i>Tell el-Murra. The Polish Archaeological Survey in Ash-Sharqiyyah Governorate (Egypt, the Nile Delta)</i>	229
Ján Beljak, Noémi Pažinová, Marek Krápic: <i>Ungewöhnlicher Befund aus Zvolen–Čierne zeme (Slowakei)</i>	239
Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka, Evgenia F. Redina, Jarosław Bodzek, Wojciech Machowski: <i>Polish-Ukrainian Koshary Project, seasons 2007–2008</i>	257
Renata Madyda-Legutko, Ilona Smajek: <i>Eine Siedlung der römischen Kaiserzeit in Pakoszówka, Gde. Sanok, Woiw. podkarpackie, FSt. 1, im Lichte der von 2007 bis 2008 durchgeführten Ausgrabungen</i>	277
Jacek Poleski, Dariusz Niemiec, Mateusz Woźniak: <i>Medieval church and monastery of the Pauline Fathers “Na Skalce” in Kraków-Kazimierz in the light of archaeological investigations in 2007–2008</i>	291

VARIA

Jan Chochorowski: <i>Professor Marek Gedl. Gelehrter – akademischer Lehrer – Meister – Erzieher – Mensch</i>	319
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Paweł Valde-Nowak, Arkadiusz Tarasiński

Results of archaeological rescue excavations at Mucharz (Beskidy Mts.)

Introduction

In the recent years a large hydrological investment – the water reservoir at Świnna Poręba – has been carried out on the border of the Middle and Small Beskidy Mts. A water dam is to be built on the River Skawa below the gorge of the river between the mountain ranges of the Middle and Small Beskidy (Fig. 1). Due to the execution of the project, a number of archaeological sites are threatened with destruction. One of these sites is at Mucharz, registered in the preservation evidence under No. 12 in the village and under No. 12 in the sheet 107-52 of the AZP (Archaeological Picture of Poland). In this paper two pre-Neolithic dwelling features, discovered in this site, are mainly presented. One of them, 717/06, unquestionably represents a Late Paleolithic tanged point technocomplex of the Świdry culture, the second one, 39/05, is also Late Paleolithic with Świdry culture materials as well as few Mesolithic implements found in a secondary position. In addition, many other objects, both Late Paleolithic (e.g. 89/06, 716/06, 738/06) and younger, Mesolithic, were excavated. It is noteworthy because of the characteristic find of Ahrensburgian tanged point made of chocolate flint (Fig. 8:5), belonging to the inventory of object 716/06, which is not widely presented in this

text. Moreover, the elements of Neolithic, Early Bronze Age and medieval settlement in the wider range of site 12 in Mucharz will be discussed.

History of research in Skawa Gorge

The area of the water reservoir that was under construction became a concern of archaeologists as early as the 1970s. The first searching action was led personally by the author (P. Valde-Nowak) in 1976, when the right bank of the Skawa River, between Skawce and Wadowice, was penetrated. As a result, a small retouched flake of Cracow Jurassic flint, of a Mesolithic character, was discovered. This action was continued the next year, in spring, together with J. Rydlewski. Then other Mesolithic materials were discovered on the southwest slope of Mucharska Góra (part of the southeast massif of Upalisko Mountain, 442 m a.s.l. – see Rydlewski, Valde-Nowak 1979). In October and November 1977, in the area of the reservoir, students of archaeology from Wrocław University, under the supervision of Z. Bagniewski, conducted the rescue survey (Bagniewski 1977). As a result, 12 sites of varying accumulation of archaeological material were discovered. The chronological range of the sites was from the Late Paleolithic up to the Early Middle

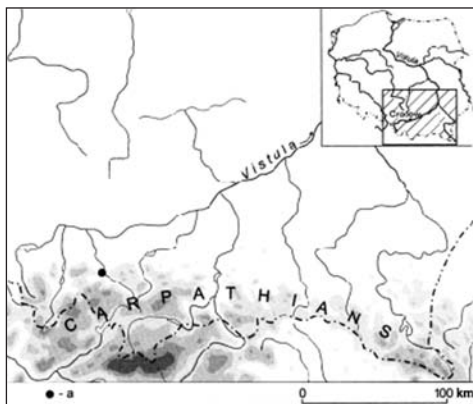


Fig. 1. Mountainous territory of the West Carpathians with rescue excavated multicultural archaeological site 12 in Mucharz, distr. Wadowice, a – archaeological site

Ages, 10th–12th century. More superficial research was conducted under the project of AZP (Archaeological Picture of Poland, sheets Nos 107-52 and 107-53). The 1986 research was led by E. and E. M. Foltyn (Foltyn, Foltyn 1986) and in 1987 by J. Rydlewski (Rydlewski 1987). The subsequent surface collecting was led by T. Kosmala, A. Staroń and L. Wiewióra in 1990 (Kosmala *et al.* 1990). As a result of all superficial research conducted until the end of June 1993, twenty-five archaeological sites were localized in the area of the water reservoir and a dozen of flint artefacts were obtained. In the course of the following archaeological procedures, a number of these sites were verified negatively, and several other were designated as areas of excavation works. The latest research in the zone stretching below the cemetery in Mucharz was organized by A. Tarasiński in February 2007. It yielded a massive Mikuszowice hornstone artefact with traces of splintered technique as well as a ceramic fragment, the first in the area, probably dating from the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age (Tarasiński 2006). This article discusses the main results of current archaeological and rescue works on

the so-called Mucharz Clay Deposit, embracing almost the whole area of an exposed promontory, sloped deep into the Skawa valley. In the neighbourhood of this deposit several archaeological sites have been identified, including the largest one, number 12.

Archaeological site 12 at Mucharz

The site lies on the left bank of the Skawa River, undercut by erosion, on the northern periphery of the village of Mucharz. It is also the foot of Upalisko Mt. In this place the bank of the Skawa River is modelled into an exposed promontory (Figs 2–3).

This site was discovered during the 1986 survey by E. Foltyn and E.M. Foltyn. A few non-characteristic stone artefacts come from these investigations. In November 2003 T. Kosmala began the first excavation at this site and found few Neolithic stone implements, presented below (Kosmala 2003).

In August 2004 a team led by A. Tarasiński undertook long-term investigations at the site. They consisted in taking off a layer of arable soil from the whole promontory. This stage of investigations gave some positive results in the form of Late Paleolithic and Mesolithic stone inventories as well as pottery of the Early Bronze Age Mierzanowice culture and medieval pottery. It should be stressed that many of the mentioned materials were found in the filling of objects.

Late Paleolithic and Mesolithic settlement

Close to the border between the plateau of the promontory and the river-bed of the Skawa River, a silver-grey, crescent-shaped structure was found and recognized as object 39/05. The length of its longitudinal axis is 3.60 m. In profile, the object was syncline-shaped. At its two ends, posthole traces were recognized. Their location on consequent plans (every 10 cm) suggests that these were either piles or poles driven slantwise into the ground and inclined

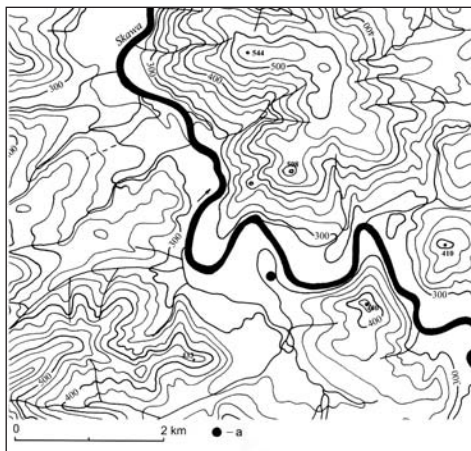


Fig. 2. Mucharz, site 12, distr. Wadowice. Topography of the site (a)

inside the object, where a trace of a vertically driven central pole was recognized. The slanted poles seem to have been an element of the bearing structure of the dwelling cover in its entrance part (Figs 4–5). Their overground ends must have rested on the end of the central vertical pole. It should be

noticed that the part with the endings of the crescent-shaped outlines of the whole object was the shallowest one. In the opposite part, the deepest one, a certain number of charcoal pieces were found. A sample for the AMS test was collected there (but not from the deepest layer of the pit in this place). In this part of the filling, a fragment of a hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) was recognized (kind determination: Ass. Prof. Dr. Maria Lityńska-Zajac).

In the filling of object 39, artefacts made of Cracow Jurassic flint (33), chocolate flint (4), Jurassic flint of variety G (2), Pieniny radiolarite (7), Mikuszowice hornstone (3) and burned flint (6) were found. The majority of them may be referred to the Late Paleolithic Świdry culture; first of all a regular “Świderian” tanged point with a characteristic flat retouch on the ventral side (Fig. 6:3). Some others, especially a fragment of a microlithic triangle (Fig. 6:4), found at the depth of 0–15 cm (counting from the first cleaned level), as well as a radiolarite core (Fig. 6:5) represent a Mesolithic settlement.

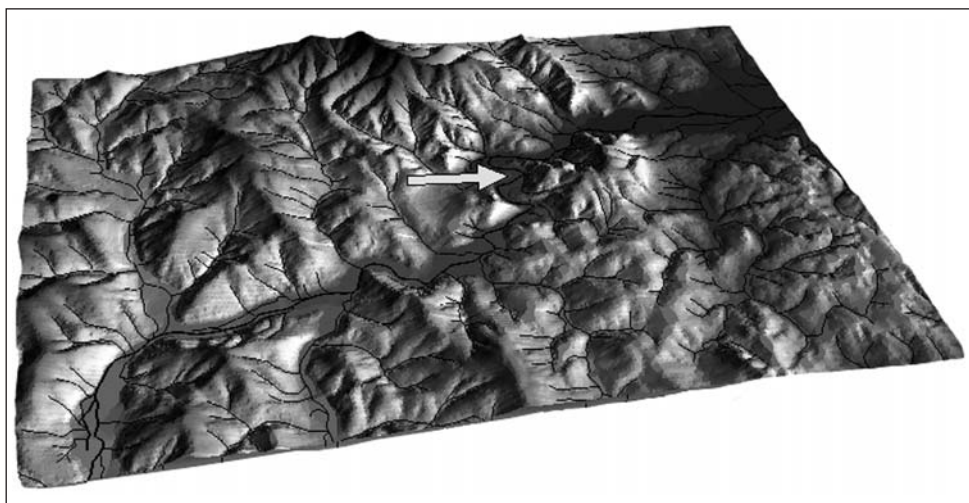


Fig. 3. Skawa River gorge with topography of site 12 at Mucharz, distr. Wadowice (arrow), and three-dimensional model of the Beskid Mountains environs (prepared by B. Hołub, after Valde-Nowak, Łanczont 2008)

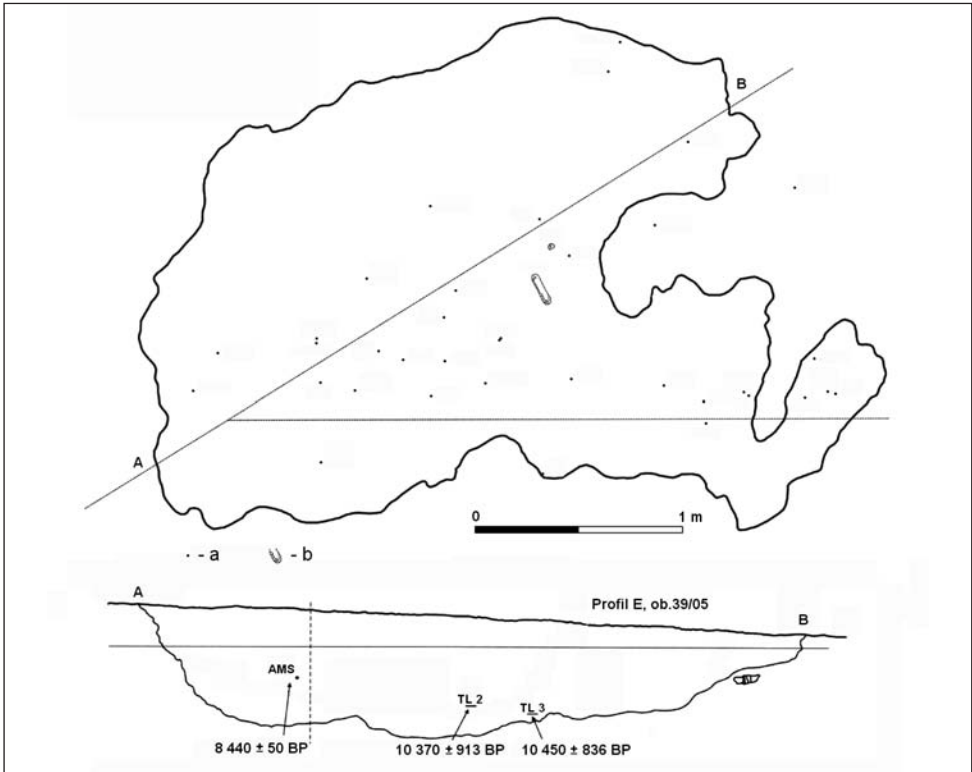


Fig. 4. Mucharz, site 12, distr. Wadowice. The shape of structure 39 dated to the Late Paleolithic (Świdry culture) with some Mesolithic elements of secondary position in the filling of the pit, a – flint artefacts, b – hammerstone-retouchers made of Mikuszowice hornstone

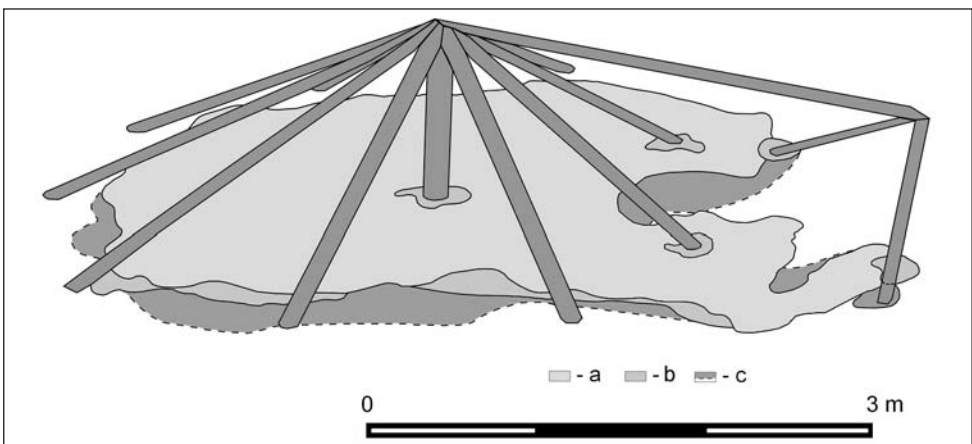


Fig. 5. Mucharz, site 12, distr. Wadowice. Three-dimensional reconstruction of object 39: a–c – successive depth interval (after Tarasiński 2007, cf. Valde-Nowak, Łanczont 2008)

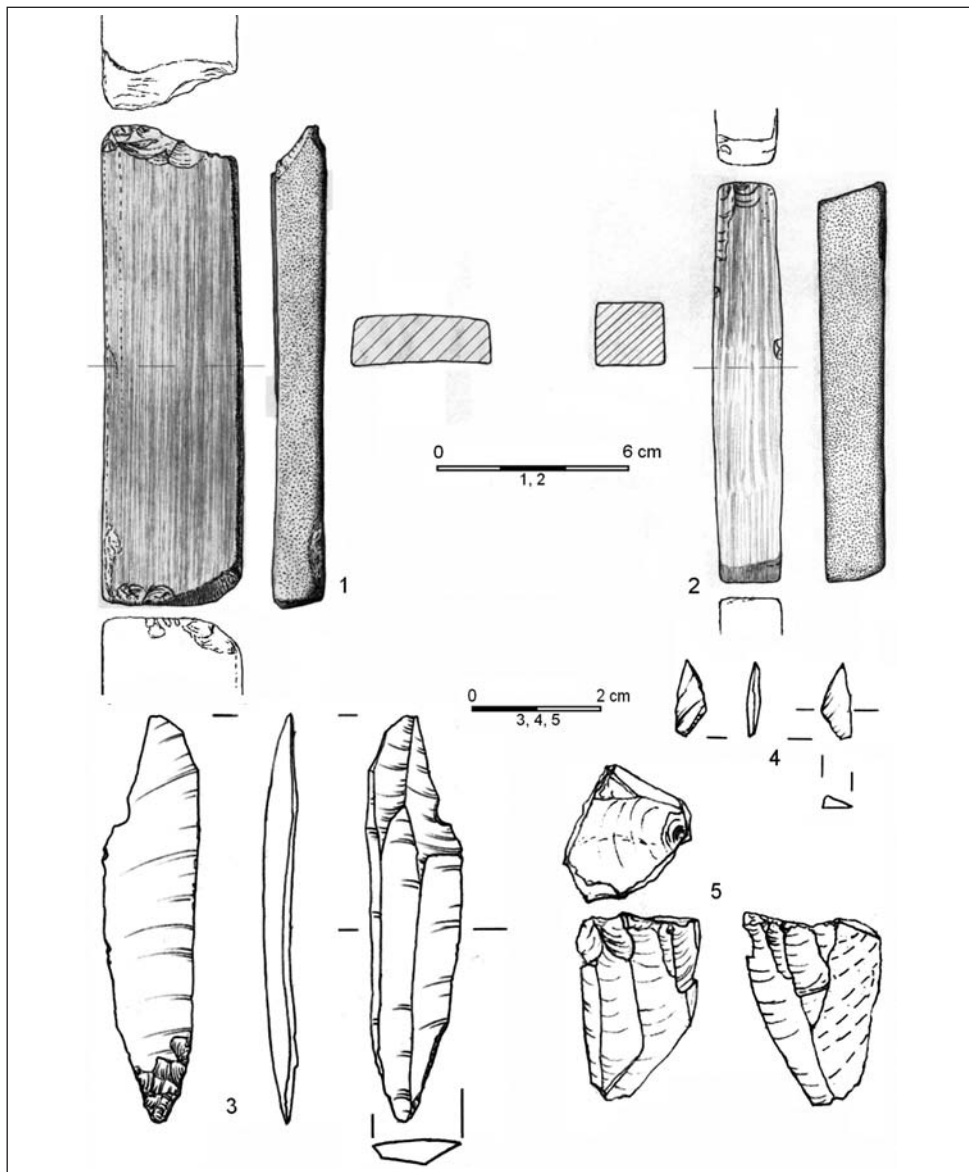


Fig. 6. Mucharz, site 12, distr. Wadowice. The inventory of object 39/05. 1–2 – hammerstone-retouchers, 3 – tanged point, 4 – Mesolithic triangle, 5 – core; 1–2 – Mikuszowice hornstone, 3 – chocolate flint, 4 – burned flint, 5 – radiolarite. Drawing by A. Kraszewska (3) and D. Kasprowski

Deeper, in the central part of the filling, at a distance of 30 cm from the find of the tanged point of the Świdry culture, two slim hammerstone-retouchers were found.

They were made of initial pebbles of the Mikuszowice hornstone. In their top part, both bear characteristic traces of wear (Fig. 6:1–2).

From the filling of the object, two TL dates (Valde-Nowak, Łanczont 2008) and one AMS were obtained (Fig. 4). The first ones, from the lower part of the filling, are within the range 10.370 ± 913 (TL 2) to 10.450 ± 836 BP (TL 3) and indicate to Dryas III. The AMS date, taken from the charcoal found in the upper part of the filling, was 8.440 ± 50 BP (7.590 ± 50 cal. BC), and thus it corresponds with the beginning of the Boreal period. Close to the charcoal deposits, a fruit of hazelnut was found, which, indirectly, can indicate the Boreal period. The discordance of these chronometric results may be easily explained by the presence of Mesolithic remains in the upper layer of the filling of the object which, most probably, was built in the Late Paleolithic, exactly in Dryas III.

There is, however, another possibility: it may be a Mesolithic object to whose filling older and out-of-the-context, stray, Late Paleolithic Świdry culture remains found their way. A good state of preserved traces of the slantwise driven poles, quite readable in the top floor part of the object, may speak for this thesis. If we assume that the object is a relic of a Late Paleolithic structure, disturbed in the Mesolithic, the older (Late Paleolithic) posthole traces would not be so well preserved or would not be noticeable at all. The set of artefacts found in the middle and floor part of the object, including a typical tanged point of the Świdry culture as well as two massive but slim hammer stones or retouchers, indicates a "household" inventory of the Świdry culture. A broken and burned triangle, without doubt a Mesolithic one, is a proof of post-depositional processes which occurred after the Late Paleolithic. It is important to mention that in close vicinity of object 39, scattered stone artefacts of Mesolithic features were encountered but Late Paleolithic materials did not occur. Another possibility,

a natural form such as a hollow left by a fallen tree, which should be rather excluded from many reasons, will be discussed later on.

The shape of object 717/06 was not clearly marked in the ground on the level of the first plant. It was, however, evident and similar to the outline of the round patch of intensively orange-grey coloured ground. The majority of the material was excavated from the mentioned object, deposited as deep as 60 cm below the first exploration level. In its transverse section, the object was synclinal. Its underlay part was washed away and at the depth of about 65 cm from this level it turned into the rock bed. Stone artefacts were scattered over a somewhat larger area than the range of object 717. These relics formed a "crescent" system in the vicinity of the NE part of object 717 (Fig. 7).

Altogether, nearly 2000 flint artefacts were found in object 717. Most of them were produced of Jurassic flint from the Kraków area. In many cases it was a characteristic kind of this flint, marked with a red structure inside the silica mass. This kind of Jurassic flint is registered e.g. in the vicinity of the villages of Mników and Brzoskwinia, situated to the west of Cracow (courtesy personal communication of Prof. Dr. Bolesław Ginter and Ass. Prof. Dr. Krzysztof Sobczyk).

The structure of the inventory is as follows:

- cores and pre-cores 18
- flakes 555
- blades 346
- pieces with negatives 10
- tools 100

The set of tools consists of 1 tanged point, 8 end-scrapers, 10 burins (including 4 burin spalls), 16 truncated blades, 3 perforators, 1 borer, 29 retouched blades, 24 retouched flakes, 2 fragments of undetermined tools, and 4 others.

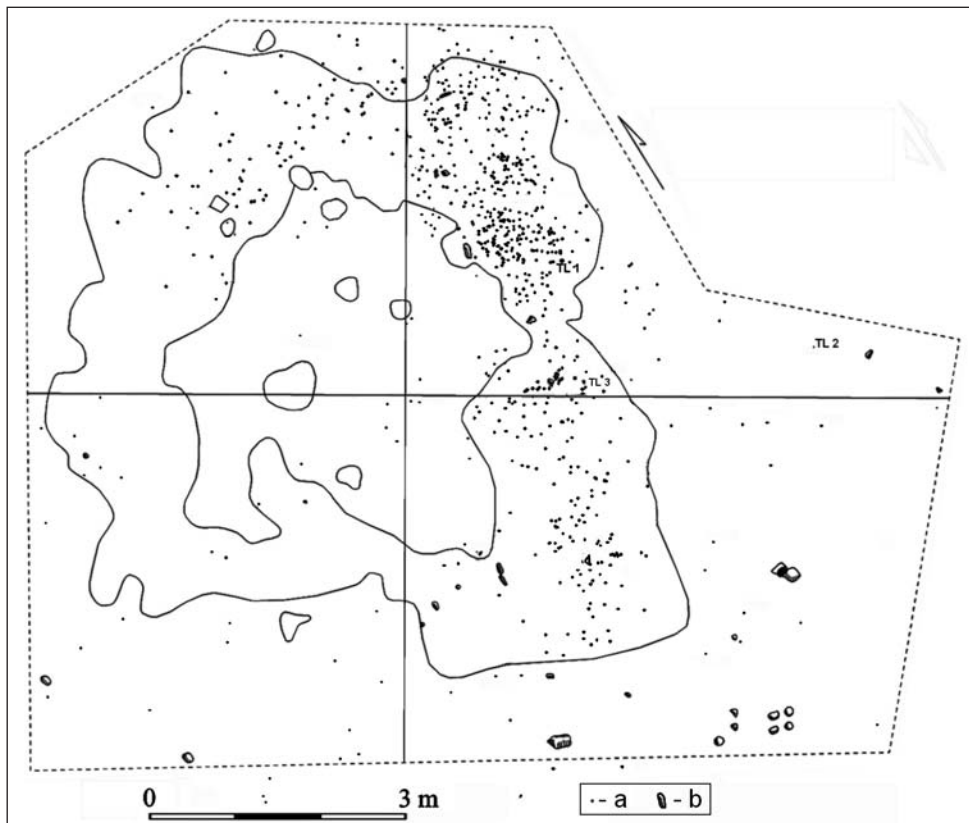


Fig. 7. Mucharz, site 12, distr. Wadowice. Planigraphy of object 717/06. a – flint artefacts, b – stones

The cores represent a typical double platform of Świderian cores preserved in the advanced stage of exploitation (Fig. 8:1–4). The tanged point is broken – the tang and the top (Fig. 8:6). The two end-scrapers represent short forms of the Tarnowa type (Fig. 8:7–8). Among the burins, small but massive and stumpy units are the most characteristic. A high number of slant or straight truncated blades and a burin combined with a borer draws our attention. The described elements have strong technological and typological connections with the Świdry culture inventories.

The object was dated with the use of the thermoluminescence method. From

among the four collected TL samples, two come from the filling itself, and two others from a place outside the object, though they were collected at a distance smaller than 1 metre from it. The obtained data from the filling are within the range 10.630 ± 1170 BP and 11.020 ± 1200 BP (Valde-Nowak, Łanczont 2008), in accordance with our expectations. The obtained flint inventory is from the Late Paleolithic and may be referred to the Świdry culture. That is evidenced not only by typical Świderian double-platform cores but also by the tanged point and the short end-scrapers with a wide working edge (Schild 1975:276–335).

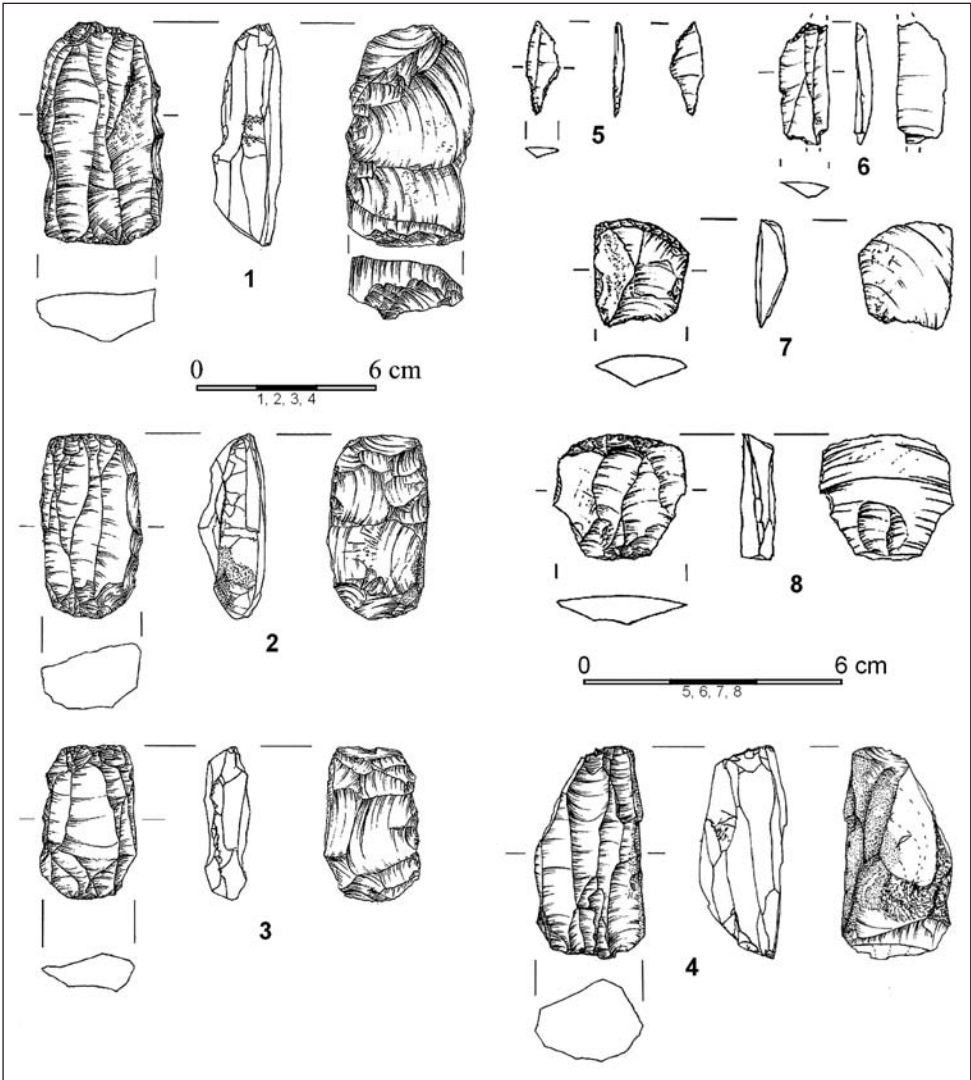


Fig. 8. Mucharz, site 12, distr. Wadowice. Stone implements from object 717/06 (1–4, 6–8) and 716/06 (5): 1–4 – cores, 5–6 – tanged points, 7–8 – end-scrapers; 5 – chocolate flint, others – Cracow Jurassic flint. Drawing by J. Ożóg

Late Paleolithic objects are not frequently discovered. There is a common belief that due to a mobile lifestyle of hunter groups, e.g. of the Świdry culture, these objects are not very perceptible. A better insight into such a relatively stabilized form of

settlement can be gained thanks to discoveries and investigation results – rightly regarded as classic – from places such as the Tunnel valley in the region of Ahrensburg and Meiendorf (Rust 1958; cf. also Ahrens 1990, 70–71), Grzybowa Góra, site Rydno

IV/57 (Schild 1967; 1975, 306–307) or Trzebca (Ginter 1974, 108–110 Fig. 8). In spite of further, valuable traces of this kind, recognized recently in the complex of sites on the Kamienna River, e.g. Michałów Piaska, commune Skarżysko Kamienna (investigations in the years 1996–1999 by the teams of the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw, led by Dr. J. Tomaszewski, and of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, led by Prof. Dr. R. Schild; unpublished results), the number of such finds is still too small to obtain a fuller opinion on the forms of settlement of the technocomplex with tanged point population, especially of the Świdry culture. The crescent ends in the shallowest part of object 39 at Mucharz may be interpreted as its entrance space. It suggests a certain analogy to the often cited discovery at Rydno IV, where the entrance space was delimited by clearly visible groove-like hollows (Schild 1967; 1975, 306–307). One may also stress some differences between the objects of the Świdry culture and the backed point, noticeable, for example, on the sites on the Kamienna River (kind information of H. Królik, M.A.). They concern both the shape of the objects sunken in the underlay and the relation between the scattered flint artefacts and its range. By the way, one of the objects of the Świdry culture from the above mentioned site Michałów Piaska is in many ways similar to object 717 at Mucharz, e.g. as to the shape of the objects, and to the horse-shoe shaped area where the flint artefacts were scattered.

In general, it must be said that such settlement traces are poorly documented. In some cases it is difficult to decide if we have to do with a natural form such as a hollow left by a fallen tree, or if it may actually be a part of a dwelling structure sunken in the ground. Such doubts were discussed in the case of discoveries at Trzebca (kind information

of Prof. Dr. B. Ginter; cf. Ginter 1974, 108–110, Fig. 8). Both cases discussed in this article present cultural structures which were confirmed by sedimentary and paleopedological investigations (Prof. Dr. S. Skiba, to whom we express our gratitude). There cannot be any doubt as to object 717, which is evidently a prehistoric structure. That is confirmed by its large dimensions, regular shape, stratigraphy and homorganic cultural content. Object 39 is less evident with regard to the admixture of Mesolithic materials in the upper part of the filling and the divergence in dating, which may cause some doubts. It must be admitted, however, that both dates (TL and AMS) correspond exactly with the chronology of relics found in the object, and they document two settlement phases of this place: TL – the Late Paleolithic phase, AMS – the Mesolithic one. Here we do not intend to discuss dates from other chronological divisions, connected e.g. with the windstorm which destroyed the forest at a much later time when there was no settlement any more. An obvious household character of the inventory (with the tanged point and hammerstones) should also be noticed.

Neolithic penetration

In the northeast part of the site, right upon the high bank of the Skawa River, beside the objects, within the range of a few metres, four flint artefacts (Fig. 9) were found which very likely might be connected with the penetration of the Funnel Beaker culture. All of them are made of Jurassic flint of the variety G, as it is known, which is indicative of the younger stage of development of this culture in the area of Lesser Poland. The artefacts are the butt part of a rectangular axe (Fig. 9:1), two characteristically retouched blades with laminar oblique retouch (Fig. 9:2–3), and also a blade-like flake. Regarding the presence of materials characteristic

of the Baden culture on the neighboring site Zagórze 1 (former Świnna Poręba 9), it cannot be excluded that the mentioned series of Jurassic flint variety G wares is linked exactly to this culture (cf. Valde-Nowak, Tarasiński 2007; Valde-Nowak 2008).

Beginning of the Bronze Age – Mierzanowice culture

A relatively large portion of relics is represented by ceramic fragments dating from the Bronze Age. Their presence was observed in a dozen of archaeological objects, located throughout the researched site. The relics are scraps of heavily fragmented ceramics, with characteristic corded imprints in the upper part of the pot. The ceramic mass was made with the use of semi-fine and fine mineral admixture. Another typical decorative motif of this culture is strands of clay forming diagonal ribs. The mentioned decoration is characteristic of the Pleszów group of the described culture (Kadrow, Machnik 1997, 122–131; Madej 1998). Such characteristic ceramics was found e.g. in object 535/05 (Fig. 10:6–8). The charcoals from this object gave an AMS date 3520 ± 35 BP. This and others radiometric results linked with the Mierzanowice culture at Mucharz are as follows:

Mucharz object 39/05 (charcoal)	Poz-16112	3705 ± 35 BP
Mucharz Mu 1 (sludge on ceramic from object 2/03)	Poz-16113	3760 ± 35 BP
Mucharz Mu 2 Sr (clod of tar from object 2/03)	Poz-16114	3710 ± 35 BP
Mucharz object 717/06 (charcoal)	Poz-18660	3545 ± 35 BP
Mucharz object 535/05 (charcoal)	Poz-14662	3520 ± 35 BP

The foregoing estimates lead us to the conclusion that for at least 250 years the Mucharz valley settlement was occupied by the population of the Mierzanowice culture. The majority of ceramic fragments linked with this occupation can be ascribed to the Pleszów group of this culture, which remains the main Mierzanowice cultural substratum in the North-Carpathians, as was suggested by radiocarbon dates obtained from many samples from Trzcinica near Jasło (Gancarski 1999). However, the pieces of pots found in object 568/06 are different from the discoveries that characterize the Pleszów group of the Mierzanowice culture. Their features, such as small, punctured nodules (Fig. 10:1–2) located on the edge, as well as typical, slightly smoothed textile imprints (Fig. 10:3–4) indicate the Giebułtów group (Kadrow, Machnik 1997, 113–121). This important fact undermines the domination of the Pleszów group in the Carpathians, which for a while has been a recognized phenomenon. The materials of non-Pleszów provenance, but belonging to the Mierzanowice culture, found in the area of Korczyzna in the Jasło-Sanok Depression seem to corroborate as much (kind information of Jan Gancarski, M.A.). Among the few stone artefacts belonging to inventories from objects of the Mierzanowice culture in Mucharz, worth of attention is the knife made of a large and flat flake of Volhynian flint, found in object 21/05 (Fig. 11).

The Middle Ages and modern times

The archaeological research in Mucharz supplied also materials dating from the Middle Ages and younger, modern times. In this context peculiar attention should be paid to site 29/13/56, located in a different topographic situation than Mucharz 12, but within the boundaries of the water reservoir. As a result of the conducted archival query (Kosmala *et al.* 1990) it is clear that the

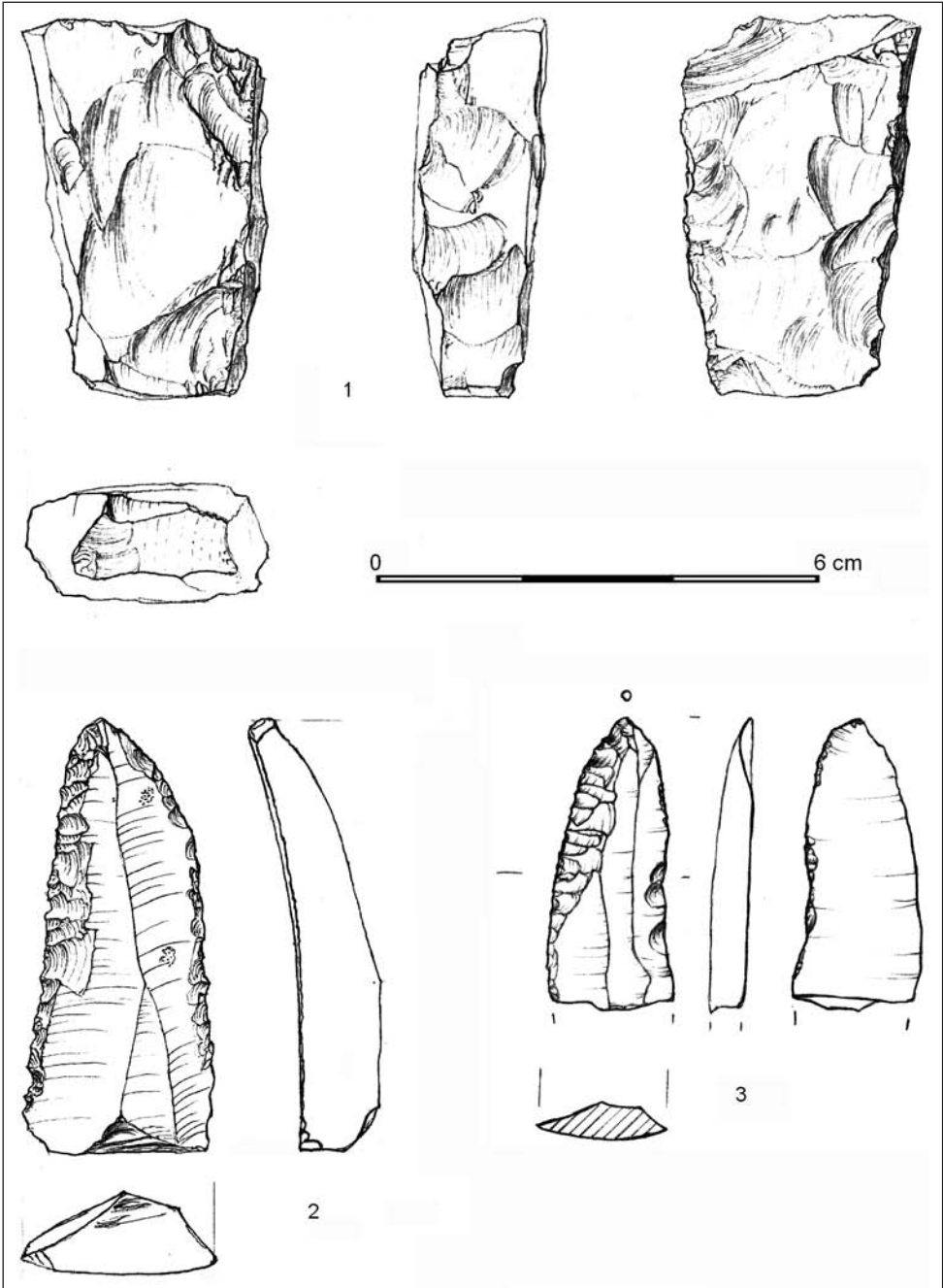


Fig. 9. Mucharz, site 12, distr. Wadowice. Artefacts of the Funnel Beaker or Baden culture made of Jurassic flint of variety G: 1 – broken axe, 2–3 – fragments of retouched blades (discovered by T. Kosmala in 2003). Drawing by J. Ozóg

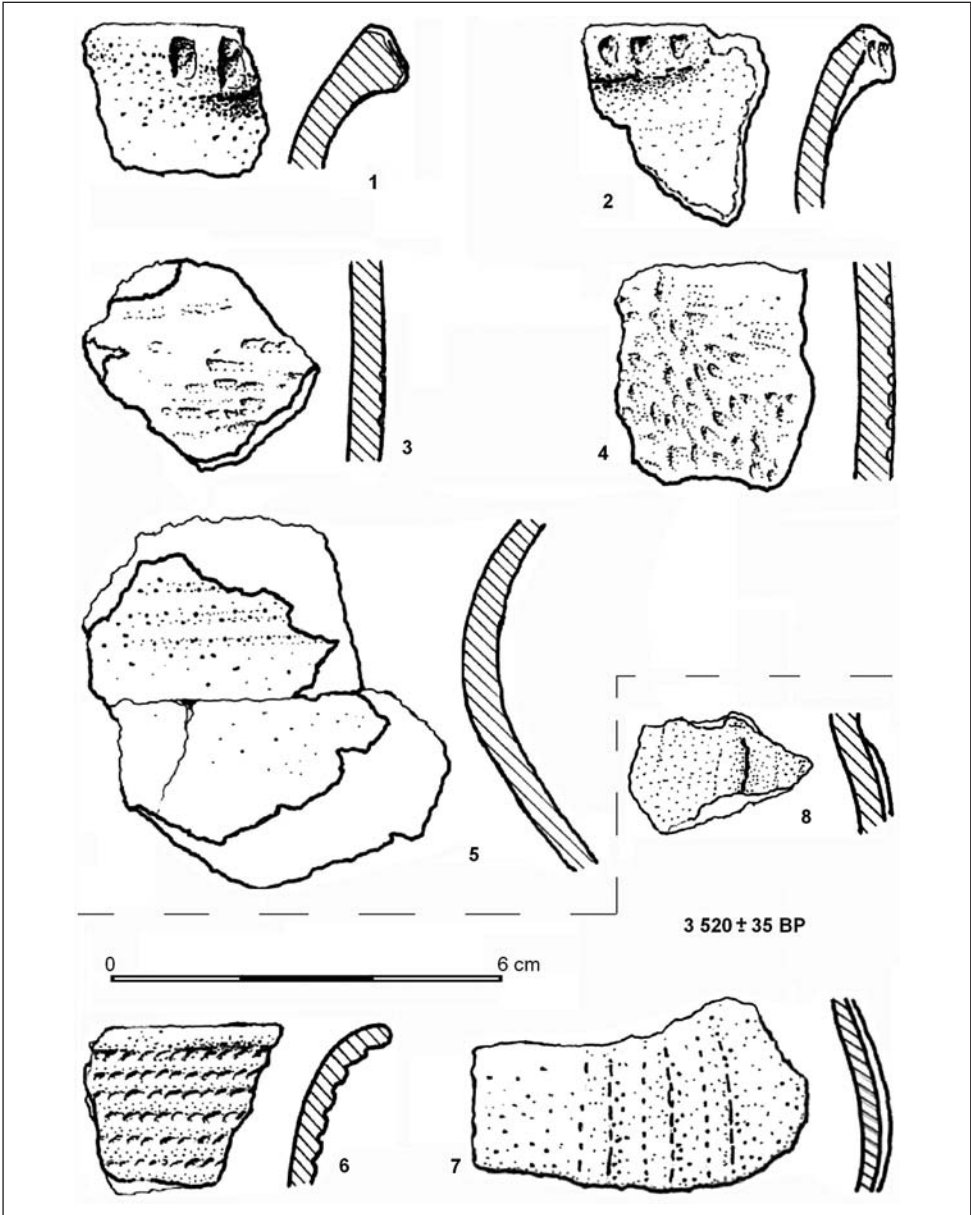


Fig. 10. Mucharz, site 12, distr. Wadowice. Pots of the Giebułtów (1–5) and Pleszów (5–8) group of the Mierzanowice culture; 1–5 – object 568/05, 6–8 – object 535/05. Drawing by J. Ozóg

18th-century building functioning within the site was seated on the place of former medieval estate. The first records about

Zagórze come from 1389, when Nicholas, the inheritor of Zagórze and Brańkówka, is mentioned (Kosmala *et al.* 1990, 32). The

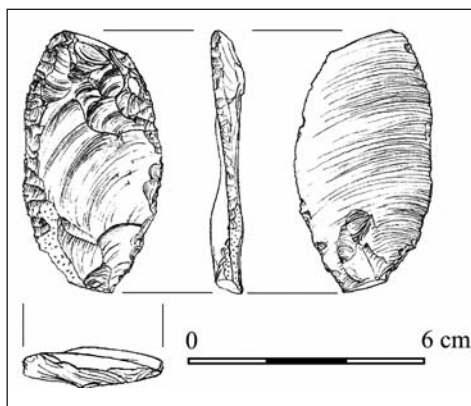


Fig. 11. Mucharz, site 12, distr. Wadowice. Object 21/05. Knife-like tool made of Volhynian flint. Drawing by J. Ozóg

reconnaissance work conducted in 1991 (Kosmala 2003, 12–13) confirmed the existence of an older structure superseded by the 18th-century building, a manor. That oldest structure is dated on the basis of ceramics from the 14th–15th century (Kosmala 2003). In the area of the Mucharz Clay Deposit, so in the less immediate vicinity of site 12, in relation to objects younger than prehistory, there was observed a distinct difference as to the colour of the filling, which strongly contrasted with the environment. Approximately 10 such objects were identified. It must be said, following an analysis of their territorial distribution that they clearly concentrated in two separate groups. The outlines of the objects were generally oval or close to oval. In no case was a pillar construction identified which could be linked with a concrete object. The filling was uniformly grey-brown soil. During the works no internal stratigraphy was observed and it might seem individual objects were buried at one time. The objects were situated at a different depth, which generally did not exceed one metre. It is difficult to determine the function of the remains. It

might be supposed they were garbage cavities or negatives of drifts of raw materials. The deposit of clay is not too rich; its thickness is estimated from several dozen cm to about 3 metres. So it is too poor to establish a brickyard, but sufficient for local potters.

The discovered Medieval relics are examples of vascular ceramics, without enamel, dating from the 13th–14th century. The firing took place mostly in the reductive atmosphere, which made surfaces dark-grey, in parts black. Besides the mentioned specimens, there are other, fired in the presence of more oxygen. The vessels were made on the wheel; in many places the pottery sequences are visible. In several cases there are also traces of reeling, in the form of smoothed rolls, especially near the bottom. The breakthroughs are in solid colour, the temper is fine grain quartz. The thickness of walls varies and the predominant specimens are medium- and thick-walled (4 mm and more). The surfaces of the vessels are decorated with plastic elements like incisions and semi-rollers. Incised ornaments are to be found mainly in the top parts, below the mouth. Plastic elements occur also on the belly.

A fragment of a vessel from object 90/06 should be included among more interesting specimens. It was the mouth of a small pot decorated with incisions all around where the mouth meets the belly. Below the incisions, vertical stamps are observed, the so-called nail ornament, underlined with a horizontal incision (Fig. 12:1). Another interesting item was a fragment found in object 1120/05. On the surface of the bottom, it bears a mark left by the pottery wheel (or the craftsman), in the form of a hexagonal star. The surface is blackened, severely eroded. Inside, distinctive pottery sequences are visible, the outer surface is decorated with delicate engraving all around (Fig. 12:2).

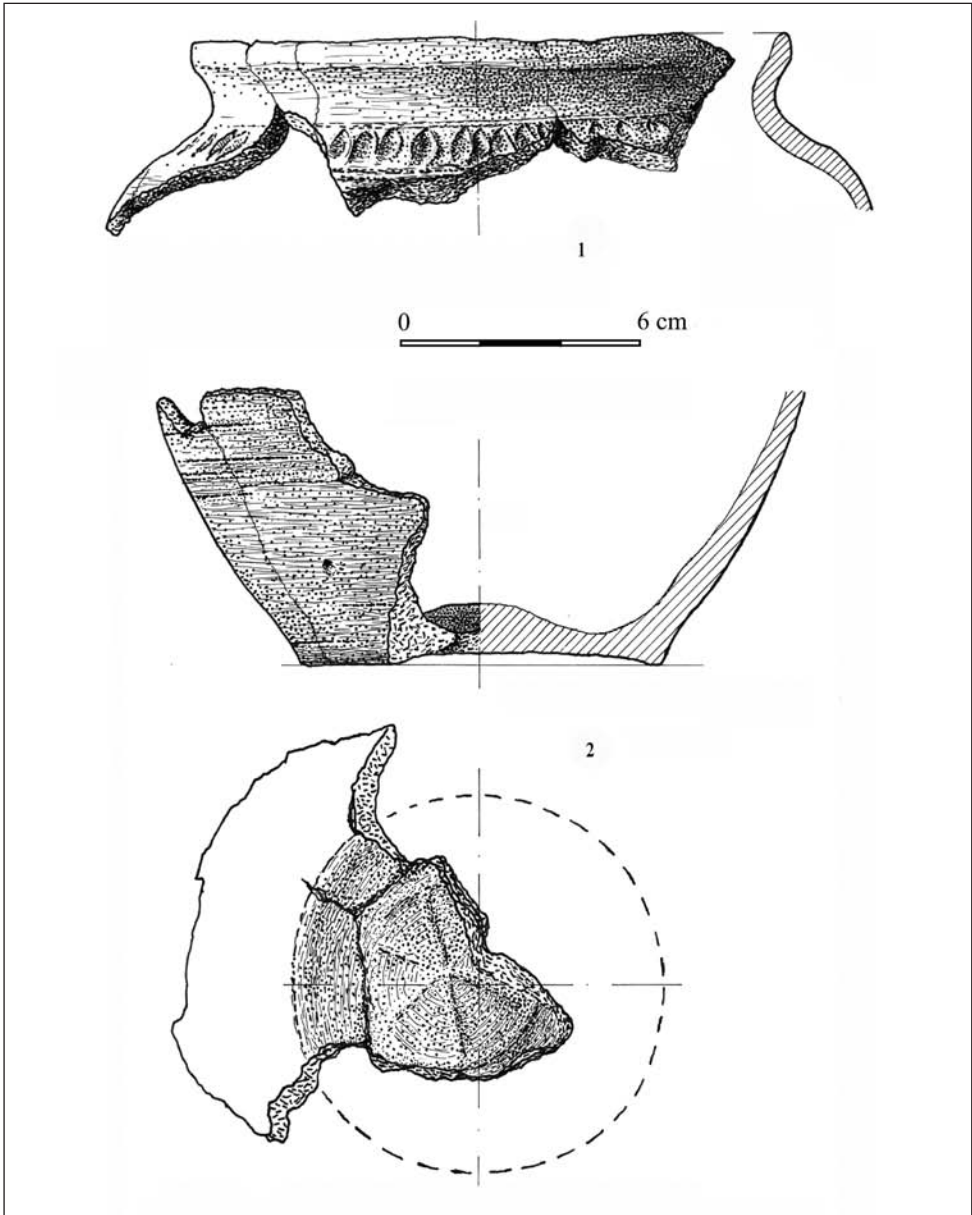


Fig. 12. Mucharz, site 12, distr. Wadowice. Medieval pots. a – object 90/06, b – 1120/05. Drawing by D. Kasprowski

Summing up, one needs to state that in the described area, the findings dating from the Middle Ages and younger period are much less numerous than more ancient

objects, mainly from the Stone Age. However, it should be noted that hitherto efforts concentrated mainly in the area of the deposit, which area, even in the Middle Ages,

because of its situation, could be rather treated as tilled land. Settlement areas were surely situated higher. In this context, the site Zagórze 29/13/56, located on the other bank of the Skawa River, on a small, naturally levelled promontory, is of great interest.

Final remarks

These conclusions are to be treated as rather preliminary, and it ought to be remembered that archeological research in these areas is to be continued in the following seasons. Besides the mentioned areas of Mucharz and Świnna Poręba, future research is going to embrace the locality of Zagórze (Brańkówka hamlet) and Dąbrówka (sites Dąbrówka 21 and 22). The site Dąbrówka 22 was examined in 1980 (Genczewska-Rydzewska, Rydzewski 1982), when the size of the site was tentatively determined and its chronology was defined as the Bronze Age.

There remains the extraordinarily interesting issue of the selection of raw materials used in the production of stone artefacts. Alongside the common use of Jurassic flint, there is also occasional occurrence of the flints of variety G, slightly more frequent chocolate flint and the Volhynian flint too. One of the used materials, however rarely, was the Pieniny radiolarite, including its

steel-grey variety. An exceptional material, though encountered on the site, is the Mikuszowice hornstone, whose outcrops are situated in the neighbourhood of the Mucharz sites (approximately 10 km from them), e.g. in the village of Kaczyna. The choice of such a material to be used seems, in comparison with a similar site such as Mucharz, rather unique.

Based on the analysis of the existing inventories, it can be postulated that this raw material was preferred by Mesolithic populations, though we also know spectacular examples of the use of this hornstone by Late Palaeolithic groups. The excavations at Mucharz, site 12 and in its closest neighbourhood, not only yielded interesting archaeological material, but also throw a new light on the range of individual cultural circles, both in the Stone Age and the Early Bronze Age. Again, one should mention the surprising discoveries of the Baden culture on the site Świnna Poręba 9 (currently Zagórze, site 1) and probably of the Funnel Beaker culture. Highly surprising were also ceramic materials of the Mierzanowice culture, which were found in many places of the examined topographic form, making an impression of a vast and apparently stable settlement.

Wyniki ratowniczych badań wykopaliskowych w Mucharzu (Beskidy)

Podczas badań ratowniczych na terenie budowy zbiornika retencyjnego w dolinie Skawy (Beskidy Zachodnie) nieoczekiwanie zostały odkryte ślady obozowiska późnopaleolitycznej kultury świderskiej, wśród nich pozostałości dwóch konstrukcji mieszkalnych. Na stanowisku stwierdzono ponadto stosunkowo liczne artefakty mezolityczne, ślady związane z okresem neolitu, zespoły reprezentujące dwa różne warianty kultury mierzanowickiej z wczesnej epoki brązu i wreszcie pozostałości osadnictwa średniowiecznego. Wykazano, że – głównie w mezolicie – eksploatowane były pobliskie złoża rogowca mikuszowickiego. Stwierdzono również obecność artefaktów z gatunków skał krzemionkowych pochodzących z wymiany dalekosiężnej, z obszaru Pienin, Jury Krakowsko-Częstochowskiej, Gór Świętokrzyskich i z Wołynia. Prezentowane wyniki stawiają w zupełnie nowym świetle problem wykrywalności stanowisk na górskich obszarach polskiej

strefy karpackiej, a także charakteru i formy prehistorycznego i średniowiecznego osadnictwa na tym obszarze.

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