

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES AND RESEARCH IN THE SIERADZ REGION
BEFORE WORLD WAR II

Abstract

Marek Urbański's dissertation, written under the supervision of prof. dr hab. Anna Marciniak-Kajzer at the University of Lodz, was created as a result of the author's interest in the development of archaeological research in the area where he works on a daily basis.

The thesis has been divided into 11 parts: 7 chapters followed by a bibliography, a catalogue of archaeological sites, appendices, and illustrations.

Chapter 1 presents preliminary information, discussing the aim of the dissertation, as well as the territorial scope and the chronological range, set as an examination of the development of archaeological discoveries and research in the south-western part of today's Lodz voivodeship from the oldest finds in the 18th century to the outbreak of World War II.

Chapter 2 describes the sources that were used, their types, the state of research, and the publications on the basis of which the catalogue data was collected and this work was written.

Chapters 3 and 4 are a summary of the history of Polish archaeology from the Middle Ages to the end of the Second Polish Republic. The history of archaeology in Poland, the research topics, and the development of research methods all form an indispensable comparative background for the study and reconstruction of the history of archaeology in the Sieradz region.

In chapter 5, on the basis of the collected material, the course and development of the discoveries and research on the discussed territory, from the 18th century to the beginning of World War II, is presented in chronological order. This long period is divided into two main periods: until the end of World War I and the interwar period. They are further divided into several shorter stages that are distinguished in the development of Polish archaeology, correlated with social, cultural, and political processes.

Chapter 6 is an attempt to outline the research-related specificity of the Sieradz region before the outbreak of World War II. The synthesis of the development of archaeological research is based on an analysis of the structure, in terms of time and space, of groups of archaeological sites from different periods and cultures, in connection with the research topics and interests of generations of professional archaeologists and explorers who worked on the Sieradz land. The socio-cultural background, the development of museums, associations, and collections are discussed as well.

Chapter 7, concluding the descriptive section, highlights the characteristic features of the Sieradz region archaeology, based on what can be observed in more than 200 years of its development.

The descriptive section is followed by a bibliography, listing the works used during the writing process. It comprises scientific as well as popular-science, press, and other publications.

Chapter 9 makes the second major part of this study; it is an extremely important record of factual information. It is a set of almost 780 items, containing data on the

discovered, studied, published, sometimes only registered finds, including single or accidental finds, treasures, cemeteries, and settlements. This database was employed to write this thesis. The appendices present a table of catalogue-derived data. The final part is a selection of illustrations showing the finds, the people who discovered them, and the notes that they left behind.

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