

# ARTYKUŁY I MATERIAŁY

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## SACRED HILL (ŚWIĘTA GÓRA) IN THE MASURIAN LAKELAND. AN EARLY MEDIEVAL HILLFORT OR A MILITARY CAMP FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY?



**Słowa kluczowe:**

**Schlüsselwörter:**

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### The site and its location

The site named Sacred Hill (Święta Góra) is located in the Masurian Lake District, in the young glacial, lakeland landscape. It occupies a distinct elevation, elongated along the North-South axis, formed as a result of glacial accumulation during the last glaciation. It is well distinguished in the landscape in terms of its form and the bodies of water within its vicinity. To the East and to the South it is surrounded by the valley of the river Staświnka and to the West by Lake Wojnowo (fig. 1). The area of the site, located at the top of the elevation, is approximately triangular, ca 245 m long, with a wide embankment at its northern edge. The southern part of the inner space of the site is raised about 2 m above the surrounding area. It is probable that the inner embankment may be located there (fig 2).

During the Early Iron Age, Sacred Hill was located within the area of the Western Balts Barrow Culture, in the Roman Period and Early Migration Period within the area of the Bogaczewo Culture, and in the Late Migration Period within the area of the east periphery of the Olsztyn Group. In the Middle Ages it was probably a part of the Prussian settlement micro-region – *lauks* Staświny – within the Prussian tribal territory of Galindia. After the Teutonic Order's conquest and the rise of their state in Prussia, this area became a part of the Commandery of Bran-

denburg. In 1525, as a result of the secularisation of the Teutonic Order, the Duchy of Prussia was created. The village of Staświny was then located in the territory of the Lec District<sup>1</sup>. In 1701 the Duchy of Prussia was transformed into the Kingdom of Prussia and since 1772 the Masurian Lakeland was situated within the part of that kingdom called East Prussia<sup>2</sup>. Nearly all of these prehistoric and historical periods are reflected by the archaeological data from Sacred Hill.

### History of research

Sacred Hill in Staświny village was registered as a Prussian hillfort for the first time by Johann Michael Guise in 1828, during the compilation of the first inventory of hillforts in Prussia<sup>3</sup>. Since that time the site was regarded as a Prussian hillfort. It was noted as the remains of an Early Medieval castle also by Emil Hollack and Hans Crome. On this occasion Crome also gave different notations of the Slavonic and German names for the site: “Swinta Gora”; “Swienta gora”; “Heiliger Berg” and “heilige Berg”<sup>4</sup>. Before World War II, Sacred Hill was excavated four times. First in the autumn of 1881 by a teacher from the local school named Scherbing. The next year his work was continued by H. Lorek, a member of the *Altertumsgesellschaft “Prussia”* (The Society of Antiquity „Prussia”) from Königsberg<sup>5</sup>. Later, in 1922 and 1923, H. K. Hess von Wichdorff lead a new excavation (fig. 3). He was searching for the remains of the castle of Ysegubs, the mythical king of the Prussian tribal territory called *Galindia*. Both were short, one-day investigations<sup>6</sup>.

After World War II and the incorporation of the large part of East Prussia into Poland, Prussian hillforts have become the subject of research by Polish archaeologists. In 1947, J. Antoniewicz (fig. 4) from the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw visited Sacred Hill and stated that as a result of prolonged ploughing the cultural layer was partly destroyed. Due to the high scientific value of this monument he undertook efforts for the legal protection of Sacred Hill and established

<sup>1</sup> G. Białuński, *Osadnictwo regionu Wielkich Jezior mazurskich od XIV do początku XVIII wieku – starostwo leckie (giżyckie) i ryńskie*, Olsztyn 1996, pp. 9, 14.

<sup>2</sup> J. Jasiński, *Zabór Warmii*, in: *Warmia i Mazury. Zarys dziejów*, ed. B. Łukaszewicz, Olsztyn 1985, pp. 335–347.

<sup>3</sup> M. J. Hoffmann, *Inwentaryzacje założeń obronnych na ziemiach pruskich w pierwszej połowie XIX w.*, in: *Opuscula Archaeologica. Opera dedicata in professorem Thaddeum Malinowski*, ed. W. Dzieduszycki, Zielona Góra 2007, pp. 150, 153–159.

<sup>4</sup> E. Hollack, *Erläuterungen zur vorgeschichtlichen Übersichtskarte von Ostpreußen*, Glogau – Berlin 1908, p. 156; H. Crome, *Karte und Verzeichnis der vor- und frühgeschichtlichen Wehranlagen in Ostpreußen, Altpreußen*, Bd. 2, H. 3, 1937, p. 118; idem, *Verzeichnis der Wehranlagen Ostpreußens, Schluß*, Prussia, Bd. 34, 1940, p. 125.

<sup>5</sup> H. Lorek, *Der Swinta Gura, der heilige Berg auf der Feldmark Stasswinnen*, Kr. Lörzen, Prussia, Bd. 9, 1882/1883, pp. 45–47.

<sup>6</sup> H. K. Hess von Wichdorff, *Auf der Burg des Königs Ysegubs von Galindien*, *Nachrichtenblatt für Deutsche Vorzeit*, Bd. I, 1925, pp. 2–3.

here an archaeological reserve (fig 5)<sup>7</sup>. During the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Sacred Hill was not the subject of special interest for Polish archaeologists. It was occasionally visited by the conservator of archaeological monuments from Olsztyn and archaeologists from Warsaw and Olsztyn. In 1978 an excavation on a very small scale was conducted there. The results were not published<sup>8</sup>. In 1998, Sacred Hill became the subject of research within the framework of the Polish Archaeological Record<sup>9</sup>.

The new excavation of Sacred Hill took place in 2005. This time it was conducted by the University of Białystok. It consisted of a small-scale excavation which was accompanied by geomorphological, sedimentological and botanical research<sup>10</sup>. The purpose of this excavation was to establish a more precise chronology and character of the settlement phases of the site together with the geomorphological conditions and their relationship to the contemporary flora. An important result of this research was that Sacred Hill became one of the research case study areas within the project “The Ecology of Crusading”<sup>11</sup>.

The “Ecology of Crusading” project was funded by the ERC (European Research Council, FP7) from 2010–2014, and focused on the ecological impact of crusading, colonisation and religious transformation in Prussia and Livonia<sup>12</sup>. The main aim was to determine whether the reorganisation of territory by the Teutonic Order following the military conquests resulted in a significant change in the organisation and exploitation of the landscape. This involved a multi-proxy approach with clear interdisciplinary objectives, comparing long-term changes in the physical and conceptual landscapes of Livonia and Prussia before and after the crusades. This included a suite of environmental archaeology techniques, particularly archaeobotany (pollen and plant macro fossils), geoarchaeology, zooarchaeology and stable isotope analysis, alongside settlement and landscape archaeology, as well as written sources. The project involved a core team of five scientific archae-

<sup>7</sup> M. Karczewska, M. Karczewski, *Grodzisko Święta Góra w Staświnach w Krainie Wielkich Jezior Mazurskich. Archeologia archiwalna i nowa*, Komunikaty Mazursko-Warmińskie, nr 2(256), 2007, pp. 137–139.

<sup>8</sup> M. Karczewski, *Źródła archeologiczne do badań nad zasiedlaniem Krainy Wielkich Jezior Mazurskich w okresie wpływów rzymskich*, Olsztyn 2001, p. 120; M. Karczewska, M. Karczewski, op. cit., p. 141.

<sup>9</sup> The research were conducted by M. Karczewska and M. Karczewski. The documentation of the research is stored in the Archive of the Voivodship Office of Monuments Protection in Olsztyn.

<sup>10</sup> The excavation was led by M. Karczewska and M. Karczewski. The author of geomorphological and sedimentological research was P. Banaszuk from the Białystok Technical University and the botanical research was conducted by E. Pirożnikow from the University in Białystok.

<sup>11</sup> A. Pluskowski, A. Brown, R. Banerjee, L.-M. Shillito, D. Makowiecki, K. Seetah, M. Jarzebowski, K. Kļaviņš, J. Kreem, *The Ecology of Crusading: The Environmental Impact of Conquest, Colonisation and Religious Conversion in the Medieval Eastern Baltic*, in: *Materiały do archeologii Warmii i Mazur*, T. 1, eds. S. Wadył, M. Karczewski, M. Hoffmann, Warszawa – Białystok 2015, pp. 167–174.

<sup>12</sup> *Environment, Colonisation, and the Crusader States in Medieval Prussia and Livonia: Terra Sacra 1*, ed. A. Pluskowski, Turnhout 2019; *The Ecology of Crusading, Colonisation, and Religious Conversion in the Medieval Eastern Baltic: Terra Sacra 2*, ed. A. Pluskowski, Turnhout 2019.

ology specialists (Pluskowski, Brown, Makowiecki, Seetah, Banerjea) three historians (Jarzebowski, Kreem, Kļaviņš) and a geophysicist (Thornley), and was the result of a collaboration between the University of Reading (UK), the University of Tartu (Estonia), Tallinn University (Estonia), the University of Toruń (Poland), the University of Białystok (Poland), the University of Gdańsk (Poland), the castle museums in Cēsis (Latvia) and Malbork (Poland), the Archaeology and History Museum in Elbląg (Poland) and the National History Museum in Rīga (Latvia).

## Results

The results of the excavations of Sacred Hill lead by Scherbing, H. Lorek and H. K. Hess von Wichdorff were published as brief and rather vague reports, so they cannot be presented in detail. The area of the site excavated in 1881 by Scherbing is unknown in detail. He started digging the north – external part of the embankment, but he did not finish this excavation before the winter. The following year H. Lorek continued the excavation of the embankment. On the north slope he uncovered the stone covering. In the trench located at the opposite side of the embankment and the adjoining area of the so-called inner courtyard a layer of “black earth with charcoal”, animal bones, prehistoric and medieval, decorated and plain potsherds as well as single stones were uncovered. The cross-section of the embankment showed that it was built from the cultural layer containing potsherds, animal bones and pieces of wood, which was moved most probably from the inner courtyard. The thickness of the layer was ca. 2 m. The external surface of the embankment was covered with the 1-meter thick layer of stones. A similar layer of stones, but rather thinner and discontinuous, covered its top<sup>13</sup>. In 1895 the results of this excavation were again described by C. Beckherra<sup>14</sup>. But his publication did not provide any new information.

The publication of the results of excavations conducted in 1922 and 1923 gives no grounds for precisely defining the explored area, the stratigraphy and the list of uncovered artefacts and ecofacts. In 1922 it was determined that the 1m thick, black cultural layer with charcoal was spread across the hillfort. The following year the excavation included part of the embankment, as well as one of the slopes of the hill and unspecified fragments of the courtyard. H. K. Hess von Wichdorff has noted that on the top of the embankment the remains of a wooden palisade were found. The slopes of Sacred Hill were thought to be covered by the layer of stones. In trenches located in the courtyard, fragments of wooden beams and pug-

<sup>13</sup> H. Lorek, op. cit., pp. 46–47.

<sup>14</sup> C. Beckherra, *Über die Benennungen der ostpreussischen „Burgwälle“ und die Pillberge in Samlande*, *Altpreussische Monatsschrift*, Bd. XXXII, 1895, p. 367.

ging were uncovered, interpreted as the remains of houses. The cultural layer contained numerous potsherds, fragments of bones from wild and domesticated animals, fish bones, fish scales, a net weight made of clay, a bone needle and an iron sickle<sup>15</sup>.

Both German archaeologists: H. Lorek and H. K. Hess von Wichdorff in their reports, besides information on the results of the excavation, also provided information on the role of Sacred Hill in contemporary pagan folk rites and legend. The folk rites were associated with the use of fire and ritual feasts and were connected with the equinox. The legend concerned the story of three virgins guarding the treasure of Sacred Hill<sup>16</sup>. H. K. Hess von Wichdorff also noted that during World War I, Sacred Hill was used by German troops as "*Stützpunkt I der Feldstellung Lötzen*"<sup>17</sup>.

Archaeological research conducted occasionally on Sacred Hill and in its vicinity during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has delivered information on the general chronology of the settlement phases of the site, and the settlement pattern around Lake Wojnowo. It was confirmed that Sacred Hill was settled in the Early Iron Age, in the Late Roman Period and in the Migration Period and finally in the Early Middle Ages. The archaeological settlement network around Lake Wojnowo, in the last period, most probably reflected the existence of two or three settlement micro-regions (fig. 6)<sup>18</sup>.

In 2005, a trench with the dimensions 5 x 5 m was located on the eastern edge of the courtyard, in its slight depression (fig. 2). Such a location guaranteed a good state of preservation in situ of the cultural layer and provided the opportunity to uncover the remains of the reinforcement of the eastern edge of the hillfort. The stratigraphy of the cultural layers included: the Early Medieval layer, features and a cultural layer from the Late Migration Period and, at the lowest stratigraphic position, features and a cultural layer from the Early Iron Age. All of those stratifications were partly destroyed by a trench from World War I (fig. 7). No traces of reinforcement from the Early Middle Ages were found<sup>19</sup>. Geological – geomorphological coring was carried out to verify the hypothesis of the existence of traces of the moat north of the embankment and to check the thickness of the cultural layer within the courtyard. The palaeoenvironmental aim of the coring was to determine the origin of the elevation occupied by the site and to reconstruct the evolution of the micro-relief in the area of the estuary of the river Staświnka (fig. 2). Two cores

<sup>15</sup> H.K. Hess von Wichdorff 1925, pp. 3–4. Some finds from the Sacred Hill, delivered after the excavation to the *Vaterländische Gedenkhalle der Feste Boyen und der Stadt Lötzen* (the museum in Lötzen today's Giżycko) are now stored in the Department of Archeology Museum of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (cf. M. Karczewski, op. cit., pp. 136–137).

<sup>16</sup> H. Lorek, op. cit., p. 47; H. K. Hess von Wichdorff, op. cit., p. 4.

<sup>17</sup> Ibidem, p. 3.

<sup>18</sup> M. Karczewski, M. Karczewski, op. cit., pp. 142–143.

<sup>19</sup> Ibidem, p. 144, photo. 3.

north of the embankment revealed no indication of the moat. Two further cores made on the northern part of the courtyard confirmed the earlier observations referring to the thickness of the cultural layer. Three more cores were taken in the southern part of the courtyard and in the elevation separating it from the northern part of the site. On the basis of this, it can be stated, that the southern part of the courtyard has no traces of a cultural layer, while the elevation is probably the remains of the inner embankment of unknown chronology. Through geological – geomorphological research in the area south of the site it was established that the original estuary of the river Staświnka was located much closer to Sacred Hill<sup>20</sup>.

The most extensive research at the site was carried out in 2011–2013, within the framework of the project “The Ecology of Crusading”. Excavations were combined with a wide range of palaeoenvironmental and geoarchaeological analyses<sup>21</sup>. Four trenches were situated in the middle and northern part of courtyard. The fifth cut across the north embankment (fig. 2). Exploration of the four trenches in the courtyard demonstrated that the cultural layer was nearly completely destroyed by post-depositional processes and superficial erosion caused by tillage. Small fragments of the cultural layer dated to the Early Middle Ages were uncovered only in trenches No 2 and 5. In the area of the northern and middle part of the courtyard 40 features were uncovered (fig. 8: a,b,c). Most of them were the remains of storage or refuse pits, dated to the Early Iron Age (features No: 23, 35), Late Migration Period (features No: 13, 19, 22, 25, 30, 39, 41, 42, 43), early phase of the Early Middle Ages (features No: 14, 15, 16, 20, 26, 28, 40) and late phase of the Early Middle Ages (features No: 17, 21, 52). Two pits: feature No 24 dated to the Late Migration Period and feature No 18, dated to the late phase of the Early Middle Ages, had secondary uses as latrines. Less numerous were post-holes: features No: 31, 47 from the Late Migration Period, features No: 44, 45, 48, 49 from the early phase of the Early Middle Ages and feature No: 32 from the late of the Early Middle Ages. Features No 12, 29 and 51 were the remains of trenches and furrows caused by artillery shells from World War I. Other features No: 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 50 (pits and post-holes), uncovered within the area of the courtyard were difficult to date because of the completely lack of chronological determinants.

Of fundamental meaning for the interpretation of the chronology and function of the north embankment were the results from trench No 5 (fig. 2). The pre-

<sup>20</sup> Ibidem, p. 152.

<sup>21</sup> M. Karczewski, M. Karczewska, A. Pluskowski, *Grodzisko Święta Góra w Staświnach w Krainie Wielkich Jezior Mazurskich. Dzieje zasiedlania przed i po podboju krzyżackim*, in: *Materiały do archeologii Warmii i Mazur*, T. I, eds. S. Wadył, M. Karczewski, M. Hoffmann, Warszawa – Białystok 2015, pp. 175–193; A. Brown, M. Karczewski, A. Pluskowski, *Vegetation and land-use change in the Great Mazurian Lake District during the medieval period: the impact of conquest and colonisation on a frontier ‘wilderness’ landscape*, in: *ibidem*, pp. 205–220; R.Y. Banerjea, M. Karczewski, M. Karczewska, A. Pluskowski, *The Role of geoarchaeology in understanding the formation and function of Święta Góra (Staświny), Masuria, Poland: interim results from feature 40*, in: *ibidem*, pp. 221–231.

sent height of the embankment is from the outside: 367 cm and from the inside: 176 cm. Trench No 5 crossed it across the North-South axis, which provided information on its structure and the stratification of the cultural layers on either side. The location of trench No 5 partly covered the western part of the slight depression interpreted as a relic of the earlier trench originating from the excavation lead by H. Lorek or H.K. Hess von Wichdorff. The total thickness of the construction layers in the central part of the embankment was about 230 cm (fig. 9). The southern part was built with the use of cultural layers redeposited from the inner part of the site. This layer contained numerous potsherds, animal and fish bones and charcoal fragments as well as single artefacts made of clay, iron, glass and horn, brought here together with the cultural layer from the courtyard. Among the potsherds single fragments of grey-ware vessels were found. These fragments were uncovered at depth ca 60–70 cm below the ground.

For the construction of the remaining part of the embankment clay and sand was used, extracted most probably from the area located directly to the north. This resulted in a large reduction in this area, interpreted primitively as the traces of the moat. The layer of clay and sand contained single potsherds and animal bones. In the bottom part of this layer a single fragment of an object, unidentified in terms of functions, was found. It was a piece of ceramic with dark green glaze, most probably a fragment of a modern artefact (fig 10). The external part of the embankment, in the part at the base of it, was covered with a compact stone covering (fig. 11). Small clusters of stones – remnants of the stone covering of the external and internal part of the embankment – were also uncovered on its slopes. The excavation did not reveal traces of the wooden construction of the embankment or any remains of the moat (fig. 9).

Grey-ware potsherds and the fragment of glazed ceramic determined the *terminus ante quem non* of the embankment construction. It took place no earlier than in the late Middle Ages, most probably in the modern period. Moreover, all the layers explored in the embankment were non-compact and unstable, which additionally confirmed its modern chronology.

Relics of the earlier archaeological trench were found in the part of trench No 5 located at the top and the southern slope of the embankment. The fill was analogous to the cultural layer used for constructing the embankment, but here it was less compacted. This feature caused the landslide of the walls of the central part of the trench during excavation. In the southern part of the trench, at a depth of ca 50 cm below the ground, a 1 pfennig coin from the year 1887 was found. The coin would have been minted five years after the excavation lead by H. Lorek. Most probably it was lost in 1923, during H.K. Hess von Wichdorffs' excavation.

### Interpretation and conclusions

The geological – geomorphological cores taken in 2005 and the excavation in 2013 did not delivered any traces of the Early Middle Ages fortification of Sacred Hill. Therefore, the only information concerning this derives from the published excavation report by H.K. Hess von Wichdorff (1925). But the remains of his archaeological trench were identified during the excavation in 2013 and no traces of any wooden construction were uncovered there. Therefore, and because the report of the excavations in 1922–1923 does not contain any illustration or detailed description of these constructions, the information provided by H.K. Hess von Wichdorff cannot be treated as fully reliable.

On the basis of archival information it can be stated that in 1861 the outer surface of the embankment of Sacred Hill was partly damaged by extracting stones from it. Those stones were used for the construction of the road from Lötzen (Giżycko) to Arys (Orzysz) and as building material by villagers from Staświny<sup>22</sup>. This information and the results of the excavation carried out in 2013 show that the whole outer surface of the north embankment of Sacred Hill was originally covered by a compact stone coat. The *Terminus ante quem* of the construction of the embankment is determined by the chronology of grey-ware potsherds and a single piece of modern (16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> century) ceramic with green glaze, uncovered in the construction layers of the embankment (fig. 10). On that basis it can be stated that the embankment did not exist in the Early Middle Ages. The rural character of the settlement of Sacred Hill in the late phase of the Early Middle Ages is additionally confirmed by the chronology of feature No 52, dated for that period, uncovered at the north, external side of the embankment (fig. 12). Another feature (No 46) uncovered there was the remains of a hole caused by Russian artillery shells from World War I.

The precise dating of the north embankment of Sacred Hill, on the basis of current results of archaeological research is not possible. The chronology of the youngest ceramic fragment uncovered in its construction layers shows that the embankment was built not earlier than in the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century. The basis for further interpretation of the chronology and function of the embankment are historical sources, first of all the map “Districtus Lecensis” by Joseph Naronowicz-Naroński, dated to 1661–1671<sup>23</sup>. This map was created shortly after the second Polish-Swed-

<sup>22</sup> H. Lorek, op. cit., p. 46; The typescript: J. Antoniewicz, Rezerwat: grodzisko w Staświnach, gm. Paprotki, folder 139 „znaleziska drobne pow. giżycki”, Archives of J. Antoniewicz in Department of Archeology Museum of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn.

<sup>23</sup> P. Grabowski, *Obraz terytorium Prus Wschodnich w kartografii XV–XIX wieku*, in: *Z dziejów kartografii*, vol. VII, *Ziemie dawnych Prus Wschodnich w kartografii*, eds. P. Grabowski, J. Ostrowski, Olsztyn 1997, pp. 22–24; J. Szeliga, *Mapy Prus Książęcych Józefa Naronowicza-Narońskiego z lat 1660–1678*, in: *ibidem*, p. 59; *idem*, *Rękopiśmienne mapy Józefa Naronowicza-Narońskiego z drugiej połowy XVII wieku*, Warszawa 1997, pp. 14, 16–18,

ish war (1656–1660), while, in 1656–1657, military activities also covered the area of the Duchy of Prussia<sup>24</sup>. Amongst the topographic information registered by J. Naronowicz-Naroński there are pictograms in the form of a knoll with a cross on its top, which in the opinion of the Polish archaeologist Jerzy Antoniewicz, marked places of potential military significance (fig. 13)<sup>25</sup>. J. Antoniewicz was probably right in his interpretation. It is also conceivable that J. Naronowicz-Naroński has marked on his map field fortifications built or used during the Polish-Swedish war. This is even more likely because, thanks to historical sources, it is known that at that time troops of the Elector of Prussia built two earthworks to protect the roads leading from the southern part of the Duchy of Prussia to Węgorzewo (Angerburg), the town located to the north. One earthwork was located near Lake Śniardwy and the second one – near the town of Giżycko (Lötzen). These two fortifications were defended by a garrison of 6000 of soldiers<sup>26</sup>. It is very likely that the earthwork near the town of Giżycko was located on Sacred Hill near Staświny village. Such a location provided control over both the land road passing through the village and the water trail connecting lakes Śniardwy, Buwełno, Wojnowo and Niegocin (fig. 13). Unfortunately, this hypothesis is based on very poor archaeological and historical sources. Except for the very general historical information and inexact chronology of the north embankment of the Sacred Hill there is no other evidence to support it. The almost complete destruction of the cultural layer in the north and middle part of the courtyard does not allow us to determine whether any shallow features connected with the military camp existed there. In fact, except for the embankment, none of features uncovered until now in the area of the Sacred Hill can be dated to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Moreover, the question of whether the southern part of Sacred Hill contains traces of the hillfort from the Middle Ages remains to be answered. Without further excavations, which will cover the aforementioned area, the castle of the mythic *Galindian* king *Ysegubs* will remain a historical legend.

57–58, map 4). The original of the map *Districtus Lecensis / in / Ducatu Prusiae/ Eiusq. Tractu / Sudauensi* is stored in Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz in Berlin-Dahlem, signature: F 10323.

<sup>24</sup> S. Augustiewicz, *Działania militarne w Prusach Książęcych w latach 1656–1657*, Olsztyn 1999.

<sup>25</sup> J. Antoniewicz, Józef Naroński, polski inwentaryzator grodzisk w XVII wieku w Prusach, „Wiadomości Archeologiczne”, vol. XVII/1, 1950/1951, p. 6; J. Szeliga, *Mapy Prus Książęcych Józefa Naronowicza-Narońskiego z lat 1660–1678*, p. 59.

<sup>26</sup> S. Augustiewicz, op. cit., 39.

**Maciej Karczewski, Małgorzata Karczewska, Aleksander Pluskowski, *Święta Góra na Pojezierzu Mazurskim. Grodzisko wczesnośredniowieczne czy obóz wojskowy z połowy XVII wieku?***

**Streszczenie**

Stanowisko określane jako Święta Góra znajduje się na Pojezierzu Mazurskim. Zajmuje ono młodoglacjalne wyniesienie, ograniczone od wschodu i południa doliną rzeki Staświnki, a od zachodu rynną jeziora Wojnowo. Od północy wyniesienie to zamyka sztuczny wał odcinkowy.

Do II wojny światowej wykopaliska prowadzili tu: H. Lorek (1881 r.), H.K. Hess von Wichdorff (1922–1923 r.). Kolejne prace wykopaliskowe miały miejsce w 2005 r. i w latach 2011–2013 r. Ostatnie z wykopalisk były częścią projektu „The Ecology of Crusading” finansowanego przez European Research Council. Wyniki badań dostarczyły informacji o zasiedlaniu Świętej Góry we wczesnej epoce żelaza, rozwiniętej fazy okresu wędrowek ludów, oraz we wczesnym i późnym średniowieczu.

Badaniom w latach 2005 i 2011–2013 towarzyszyły analizy paleośrodowiskowe i geoarcheologiczne. Ich wyniki umożliwiły szczegółową rekonstrukcję wczesnośredniowiecznego krajobrazu w sąsiedztwie Świętej Góry, oraz relacji człowiek – środowisko w czasach przed i po podboju Galindii przez Krzyżaków.

Kluczowe znaczenie w ustaleniu wstępnej chronologii i funkcji północnego wału miały badania przeprowadzone w 2013 r. W przecinającym go poprzecznie wykopie archeologicznym ujawniona została struktura jego konstrukcji. Wskazywała ona jednoznacznie na nowożytną chronologię wału, potwierdzoną również przez odkryte w nim fragmenty późnośredniowiecznych naczyń siwionych oraz jeden fragment nowożytniej ceramiki z zieloną polewą szklaną.

Zatem północny wał nie był reliktem wczesnośredniowiecznego pruskiego grodziska. Powstał zapewne w czasach Księstwa Pruskiego, prawdopodobnie około połowy XVII w., jako element fortyfikacji obozu wojskowego.

Translated by Maciej Karczewski

**Maciej Karczewski, Małgorzata Karczewska, Aleksander Pluskowski, *“Swinta Gora” / “Heiliger Berg” in der Masurischen Seenplatte. Eine frühmittelalterliche Burgwall oder ein Militärlager aus der Mitte des 17. Jahrhunderts?***

**Zusammenfassung**

Die als Święta Góra (Heiliger Berg) bezeichnete Stelle befindet sich in der Masurischen Seenplatte. Sie befindet sich auf einer jungen Gletschererhöhung, die vom Staświnki-Flusstal nach Osten und Süden und vom Westen durch die Rinne des Wojnowo-Sees verengt wird. Von Norden her ist diese Erhebung durch einen künstlichen Schacht verschlossen.

Bis zum Zweiten Weltkrieg wurden hier Ausgrabungen von H. Lorek (1881), H.K. Hess von Wichdorff (1922–1923) durchgeführt. Nachfolgende Ausgrabungen fanden in den Jahren 2005 und 2011 bis 2013 statt, die letzten Ausgrabungen waren Teil des vom Europäischen Forschungsrat finanzierten Projekts „The Ecology of Crusading“. Die Forschungsergebnisse lieferten Informationen über die Besiedlung des Heiligen Berges in der frühen Eisenzeit, die entwickelte Phase der Völkerwanderungszeit sowie im frühen und späten Mittelalter.

Die Forschung in den Jahren 2005 und 2011–2013 wurde von paläontologischen und geoarcheologischen Analysen begleitet: Ihre Ergebnisse ermöglichten eine detaillierte Rekonstruktion der frühmittelalterlichen Landschaft in der Nähe des Heiligen Berges und der Beziehung zwischen Mensch und Umwelt in der Zeit vor und nach der Eroberung Galinden durch die Kreuzritter.

Die im Jahr 2013 durchgeführte Forschung war von entscheidender Bedeutung für die Festlegung der vorläufigen Chronologie und Funktion des nördlichen Damms. Die Struktur seiner Konstruktion wurde in der archäologischen Ausgrabung gezeigt. Es deutete deutlich die moderne Chronologie des Damms an, die auch durch Bruchstücke spät entdeckter, grauer Schüsseln aus dem Mittelalter sowie ein Bruchstück moderner Keramik mit grüner Glasur bestätigt wurde.

Somit war der nördliche Damm kein Relikt einer frühmittelalterlichen preußischen Siedlung. Sie entstand wahrscheinlich in der Zeit des preußischen Herzogtums, wahrscheinlich um die Mitte des 17. Jahrhunderts, als Element der militärischen Lagerfestung.

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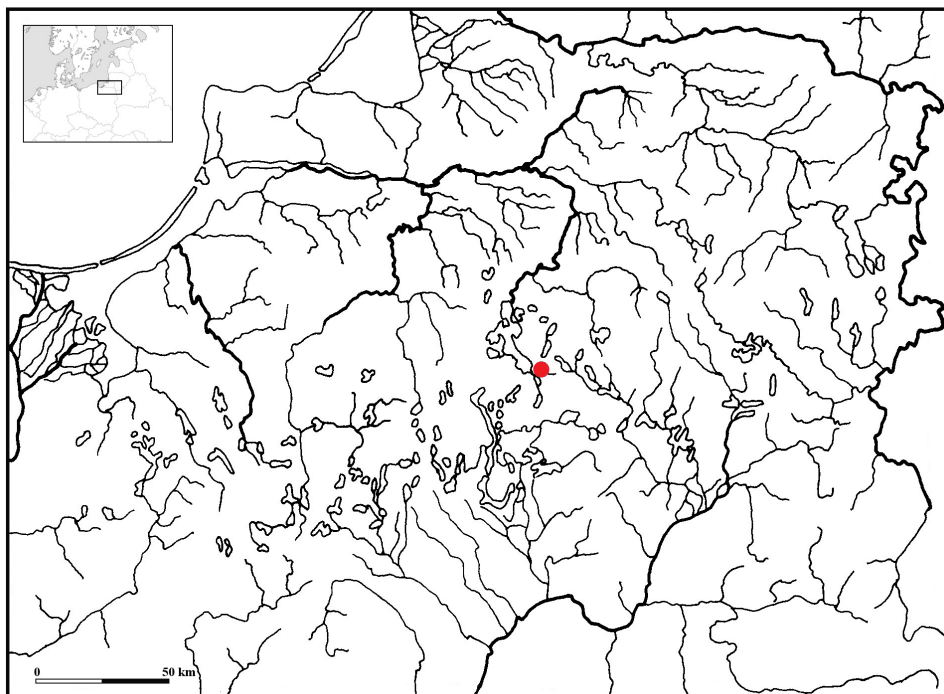


Fig. 1: The location of Sacred Hill (Staświny village site 1)

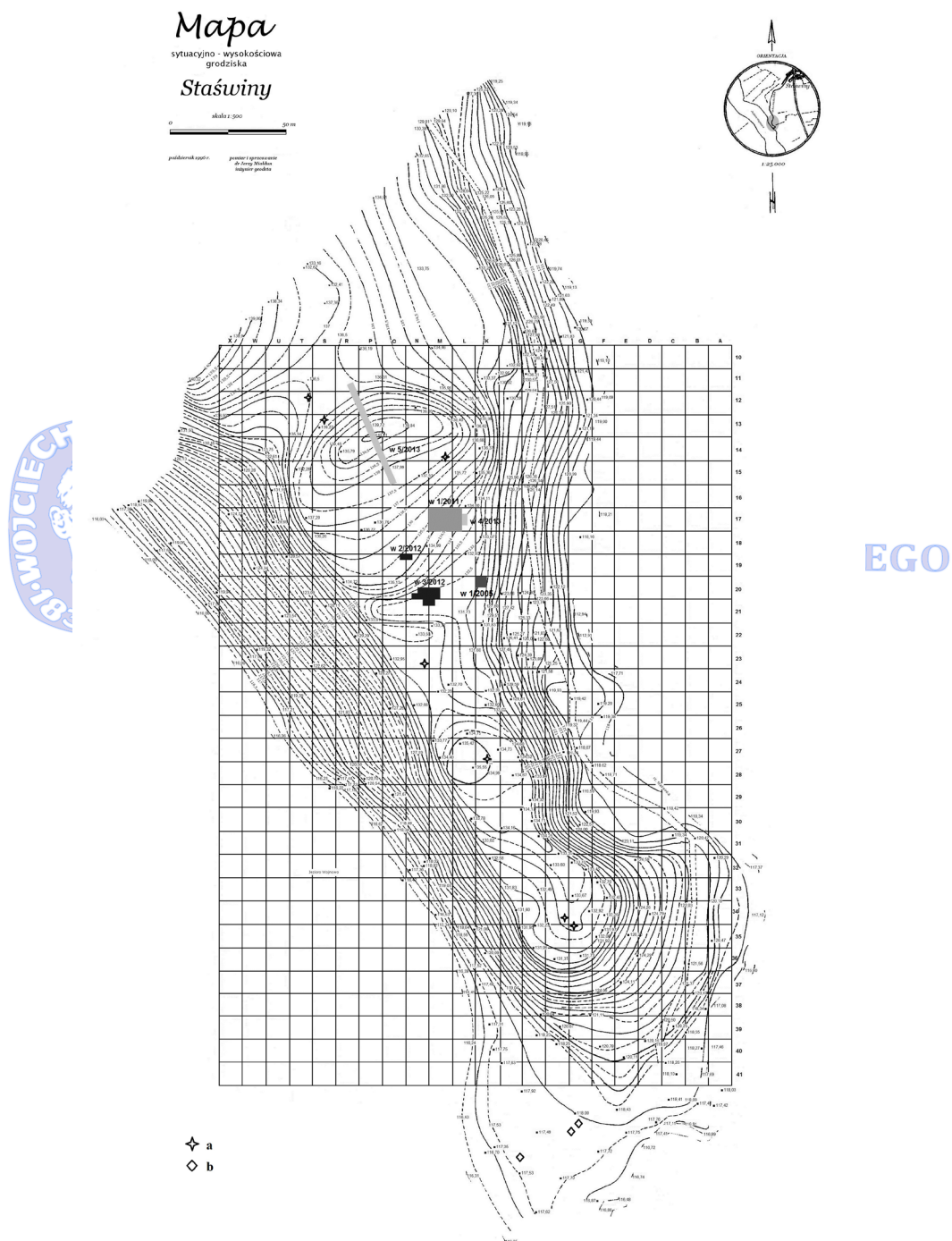


Fig. 2: Map of Sacred Hill (by J. Miałdun) with the location of archaeological trenches opened in 2005, 2011–2013, places of geological – geomorphological coring (a) and places of geological outcrops (b).



Fig. 3: Hans Kurt Hess von Wichdorff (original photo in the collection of the Department of Archaeology Museum of Warmia and Masuria in Olsztyn).



Fig. 4: Jerzy Antoniewicz (original photo in collection of the Department of Archaeology Museum of Warmia and Masuria in Olsztyn).



Fig. 5: Sacred Hill in 1949 (photo by J. Antoniewicz, original in the collection of the Department of Archaeology Museum of Warmia and Masuria in Olsztyn).

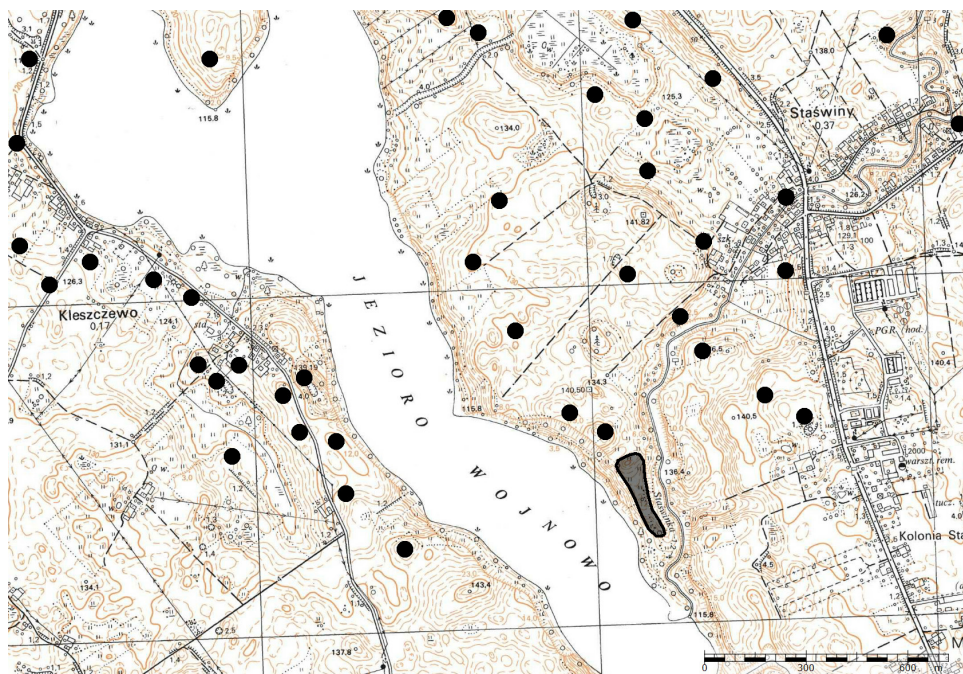


Fig. 6: Superficial traces of the Early Medieval settlement around Lake Wojnowo.



Fig. 7: Remains of a German military trench from World War I on the eastern edge of Sacred Hill.

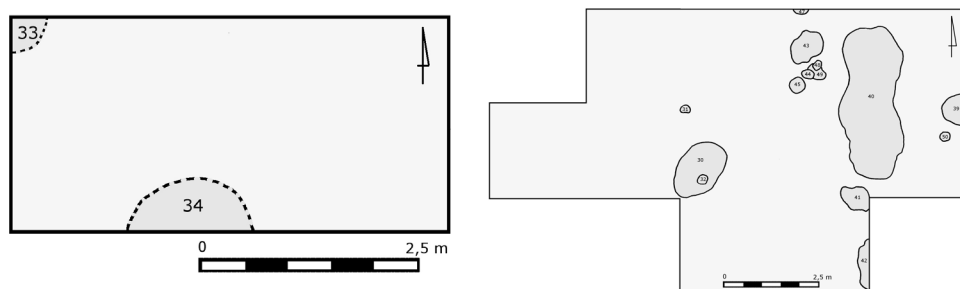


Fig. 8: Staświny village site 1. The chronology of features explored in 2011–2013: a/ trenches No 1/2011 and 4/2013, features No: 23, 35 – Early Iron Age, features No: 13, 19, 22, 24, 25 – the late phase of the Migration Period, features No: 14, 15, 16, 20, 26, 28 – the early phase of the Early Middle Ages, features No: 17, 18, 21 – late phase of the Early Middle Ages, features No: 12, 29, 51 – World War I, features No: 27, 37, 38 – chronology unknown; b/ trench No 2/2012, features No: 33, 34 – chronology unknown; c/ trench No 3/2012, features No: 30, 31, 39, 43, 47 – late phase of the Migration Period, features No: 40, 44, 45, 48, 49 – early phase of the Early Middle Ages, feature No: 32 – late phase of the Early Middle Ages.



Fig 9: The cross-section of the north embankment of Sacred Hill (the West profile of trench No 5/2013)



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Fig. 10: Staświny village site 1. Ceramic fragments with dark green glaze, uncovered in the bottom part of the layer of clay and sand from the construction of the external part of the North embankment of Sacred Hill.



Fig. 11: The compact stone covering in the base of the external slope of the North embankment of Sacred Hill.



Fig. 12: The stratigraphy of the North part of trench No 5/2013: 1/ brown-grey strong loamy sand (the construction layer of the embankment), 2/ dark red-brown strong loamy sand (natural layer), 3/ black sand (the fill of features).



Fig. 13: Part of the map „Districtus Lecensis’ by J. Naronowicz-Naroński showing Sacred Hill and the vicinity of Staświny village (original in the collection of the Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz Berlin-Dahlem, GStA PK XX HA F 10.323)