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Ústav pro pravěk a ranou dobu dějinnou

Historické vědy – pravěká a raně středověká archeologie

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**Kulturněhistorický obraz severozápadních Čech
a saského Polabí v raném středověku:
na příkladě hrnčířství a fortifikačního stavitelství**

**Cultural-historic development in the north-western Bohemia
and Saxon-Elbe valley in Early Middle Ages: case studies from
ceramics production and fortification architecture**

Disertační práce

vedoucí práce – Prof. PhDr. Jiří Sláma, CSc.

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Abstract

The thesis deals with the comparison of early medieval archaeological material from both sides of the Ore Mountains, in north-western Bohemia and Saxony (Saxon Elbe valley) respectively. Main period of interest is from 9th to 10th century. In the part that deals with the early medieval ceramics, the emphasis is put firstly on the evaluation of current state of the art and then on interpretation of new mineralogical-petrographic and geochemical analyses of the ceramics known as the Zabrušany type. For the detailed study there were selected 45 fragments of this ceramic type from 5 Saxon and 3 Bohemian sites. Unfortunately, it is not possible to recover the origin of the vessels, which are quite uniform in their appearance, basing solely on a comparison of their morphological and typological attributes. With the application of natural-scientific analytical methods on selected pottery fragments, however, differences in the mineralogical-petrographic as well as geochemical composition can be detected with a clear reference to the geological environment of their places of origin. Only few pieces among the Saxon finds with north-western Bohemian characteristic features may thus indicate their foreign origin. Therefore we could be more specific in questioning the distribution mechanisms of early medieval pottery. It was possible to rule out the hypothesis of the "transfer of products" according to which the pottery was distributed from north-western Bohemia. In fact it could be concluded that local ceramic production existed on both sides of the Erzgebirge Mountains. In general this topic is important from the methodological point of view, because, as it was demonstrated, by mineralogical analyses the possibilities of studying the early medieval pottery can be changed substantially. The second part of thesis is essentially a review of archaeological research of the early medieval hillforts, with an emphasis on the Saxon Elbe.

Keywords:

Early Middle Ages, north-western Bohemia, Free State of Saxony – Saxon Elbe valley, Zabrušany type, ceramic distribution, ceramics analyses, hillforts, chronology.