

Bohemia in the Merovingian age – end of the 5th – 6th century AD

Rastislav Korený
Mining Museum Příbram

Abstract

The following objectives have been pursued in the dissertation:

1. A new commented inventory of sites from the end of the 5th and 6th century (excluding coin finds) which should become a reliable basis for an analysis of the collected material. The last inventory of such kind was created by Bedřich Svoboda approximately sixty years ago, i.e. in the 1940-1950s, and it was not published until 1965. The need for a new revised inventory became apparent over the recent years. During the physical re-evaluation of earlier finds and related primary visual and textual documentation, which was carried out in the years 1996-2013 (30 museum and non-museum collections, 4 separate archival collections and other information sources were revised), there was a striking discrepancy between the published data contained in the catalogue of the above mentioned monograph and reality. The excavations carried out after 1965 also, naturally, resulted in the expansion of the amount of available source material.
2. Because the material currently available from settlements was published by Ivana Pleinerová in 2007, the analysis of the collected data concentrated, in addition to the identification of chronologically more sensitive elements and intact wholes, on cemeteries and especially on the identification of social links and possible evidence for existence of local elites. Different parameters were taken into account in the analysis (volume and depth of graves, location of a grave within the cemetery, grave structures and grave goods in the grave, etc.). The recovered data was confronted with similar cases, especially from Western and Central Europe.
3. Characteristics of the final horizon of Germanic settlement.