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LATE ROMAN PERIOD AND EARLY MIGRATION PERIOD IN THE UPPER SAN RIVER BASIN

Abstract: The analysis of the cultural and settlement situation in the Upper San River basin in the Late Roman Period and the early phase of the Migration Period (timespan between phases C2 and D) is difficult due to the small database. In addition to materials from the partially researched settlement in Lesko and recently excavated (during the investment works on the bypass of Sanok settlement in Sanok 59-60, the materials from these phases are primarily stray finds, such as metal fragments of clothing, such as buckles or coins, discovered outside the archaeological context. It is important to underline that most of the wheel-made pottery finds have a wide chronological frame and it is a rare possibility to narrow pottery dating. Despite the limited amount of data, they provide the basis for the new analysis of the archaeological material and settlement situation in this area dated roughly to the Late Roman Period and Early Migration Period. In this context, wide-scale research, which for the first time allowed observation of the extent and organization of settlements, proved to be particularly important.

Keywords: settlements, coins, stray finds, 4th century, 5th century

Research on the settlement in the Upper San River basin, in the Late Roman Period and the Early Migration Period, reaching beyond the presentation of the results of individual excavation, began with an attempt of holistic analysis and description of the cultural situation in the La Tène, Roman Period and Early Migration Period in the Polish part of the Carpathians (Madyda-Legutko 1996). It should be emphasized that the subject of this article, also due to the small increase in new data and source material, remains difficult to interpret. However, in the result of the field walking surveys carried out in the Upper San River basin in past years (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 2008), and discoveries made during the rescue excavations related to large infrastructural investments in this region, as well as thanks to individual stray finds, it is possible to propose a new description



of the cultural situation in the region during the Late Roman Period and Early Migration Period.

Until recently, most of the known materials related to the Przeworsk culture, from the Upper San River basin, have been dated to the turn of the Early and Younger Roman Period (Madyda-Legutko, Rodzińska-Nowak, Zagórska-Telega 2013; Madyda-Legutko, Rodzińska-Nowak 2017, 429-439). Sites dated to this period of time are known from the area laying at the foothill of the Wroczeń mountain, in the area of the Pakoszówka village (Madyda-Legutko, Smajek 2010, further literature there), as well as from the Sanok Basin (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 2004, 33-35; Madyda-Legutko, Pohorska-Kleja, Rodzińska-Nowak 2008, 9-23) and the surroundings of the Prusiek village (Madyda-Legutko, Rodzińska-Nowak, Zagórska-Telega 2009 - further literature there). However, considerably fewer sites and single stray finds, from this region, are associated with the Late Roman Period and the Early Migration Period (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 2008, 236-246).

From the '80s of the twentieth century until the last year only one settlement discovered in Lesko, could be dated to the Late Roman Period (Barłowska 1984, 51-101). It is located on the San floodplain terrace (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 2008, 243, Fig. 24), which is the only example of the location of the settlement at such a low point of the river valley, which also indicates the use of locations of various geographical characteristics by the population inhabiting the region in the Roman Period. Before the archaeological works were carried out on the site in Lesko, its area was levelled many times, as a result of which only the lower parts of the features, interpreted as the remains of houses, were preserved, and a small amount of archaeological material was recovered. Moreover, numerous postholes, storage pits and single hearths were discovered. The author of the research, analyzing the layout of the settlement, suggested the presence of farmsteads (Barłowska 1984, 54) which would consist of post structures. It is questionable if such a space organisation can be proved in the case of Lesko, however this type of settlements where space would be organised around farmsteads building is known from other Roman Period sites from Lesser Poland. The possible examples of this type of settlements where farmsteads were discovered are sites excavated during the research related to large investment projects, which allowed for uncovering wider areas and capturing more complex spatial relations within the sites. It is important however to underline the fact that most of those sites delivered multi-chronological material and consisted of overlapping settlement structures, making the identification of individual farmsteads difficult, often impossible. Such settlements were i.ex. excavated in Palikówka (Poradyło 2014, 72-306), Brzezcie-Łysokanie (Roczkalski, Włodarczak 2011, 359-369; Naglik, Roczkalski, Kosik-Roczkalska 2014, 79-156), as well as in Stanisławice (Naglik, Rodak 2018, 175-183).

In relation to the results of the research in Lesko, one should pay attention to the proportion of wheel-made and hand-made pottery. The latter was more frequent, what is not a typical situation on the Przeworsk culture settlements from the Lesser Poland dated to the younger phases of the Roman Period. A similar situation to the one registered in Lesko was observed on some settlements known from the Western Carpathians, such as Moszczenica Wyżna and Rytro (Madyda-Legutko 1996, 72). Among the wheel-made fragments, the most numerous were pieces of the Krausengefässe type storage vessels. There were only two finds on the settlement in Lesko which allow narrowing the chronology of the site. Those were two fragments of two different glass vessels (Fig. 1: 1,2). The first fragment, coming from the hearth, should be connected with Choszczno type cup according to Rau and Eggers type 199-200 (Barłowska 1984, 70, tab III). Such vessels are dated to phases C1b and C2 (Rau 1972, 117-118, Figures 15, 17-21). The second fragment was discovered in the pit with a large number of fragments of hand-made vessels and fragments of Krausengefässe storage vessels (Barłowska 1984, 60, Fig. 6). It should be related with type 226 or 228 according to Eggers, classified by G. Rau as Zakrzów II or Varpelev type¹ (Rau 1972, 127-128, 170, Figures 15, 17-20, Rau 2008, 222, Fig.1). Such vessels are dated to the first

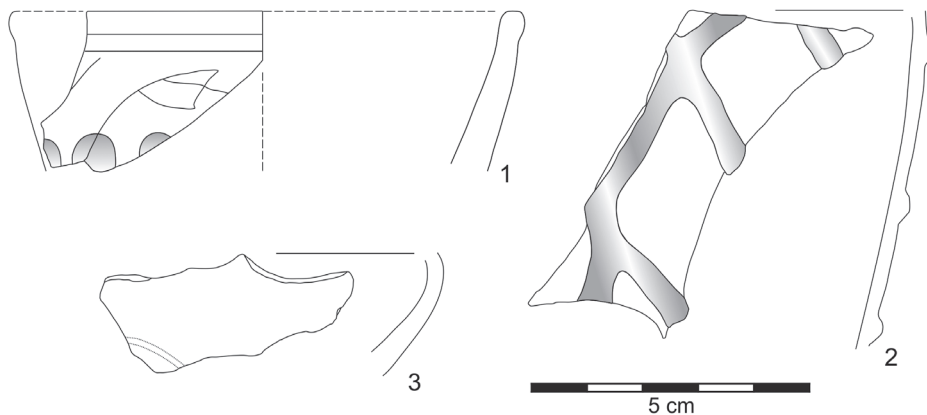


Fig. 1. Pottery fragments: 1, 2 – Lesko (after: Barłowska 1984, 60, 63, Ryc. 6, Tabl. III: 9),
3 – Liszna (after: Madyda-Legutko 1998, 39, Ryc. 2: 9)

¹ Until now, the publications contained information linking the aforementioned fragment of a glass vessel (Barłowska 1984; Madyda-Legutko 2004 a,b) with the type Zakrzów II, however, it seems that it can not be ruled out that the fragment should be associated with the type Verpelev. Both of these types are similar to each other, and a small fragment discovered on the settlement in Lesko makes it impossible to determine precisely.

half of the 4th century (Madyda-Legutko 1996, 95). These finds allow dating the inhabitation of the settlement in Lesko during the phases C2 and C3, although it is not possible, due to the small number of dating evidence, to exclude the possibility that it was also used in a slightly wider chronological frame.

Another fragment of the unidentified glass vessel (Fig. 1: 3) was discovered in Liszna near Sanok (Zielińska-Durda 1981, 157-159). The research was carried out here, on a settlement located on a small hill about 800 m away from the San River, which revealed single postholes and a small collection of pottery, above all storage vessels. Findings of glass vessels fragments can demonstrate that the San River basin was involved, in some degree, in trade between the production and distribution centres of such vessels located upon the Black Sea, and the Baltic area where glass vessels are often discovered in burials from this period (Madyda-Legutko 1998, 31). Such vessels from the Black Sea area could be transported through the Dniester River and San River basin², from where they later reached further North. It should be noted that apart from the described fragments of glass vessels, there were no other dating finds that would also clearly indicate the use of settlement in Liszna in the Early Migration Period.

As it was already mentioned, the site in Lesko was until now the only excavated settlement that can be quite probably dated to phase C2 of the Roman Period. Recent excavations carried out due to the building of the Sanok bypass changes this picture. The site in Sanok 59/60 yielded rich archaeological material which can be dated to this period of time as well as to the phase C3 of the Roman Period as well as to the phase D1 (Okońska, Bulas 2019). The settlement is located differently than the one from Lesko. It is situated on a slope with a south-eastern exposure, divided by a small hollow. The site is also located approximately 800 m. in a straight line from the site no. 54 in Sanok, where the only known pottery kiln from the region has been discovered (Madyda-Legutko, Pohorska-Kleja, Rodzińska-Nowak 2004, Madyda-Legutko, Pohorska-Kleja, Rodzińska-Nowak 2008; Madyda-Legutko 2011). The examined area of the settlement is approx. 3.25 hectares. It should be noted that this is not the whole of the settlement, whose boundaries have not been determined during the excavation works. Similarly to the settlement in Lesko, within the site, Sanok 59/60 building structures were observed defined as farmsteads. It should be added that until now it was believed that settlements in the mountainous region, especially in the younger chronological horizons are characterised by their smaller size. Settlements

² Fragments of glass, most likely of glass vessels, are also discovered in the burials of the Przeworsk culture in the region. However, they are most often melted due to the funeral custom, which makes their identification impossible. The fact of importing glass objects, to the region, also in earlier periods then described in the text, could also be confirmed by discoveries of fragments of melted glass in graves from Pakoszówka site 33 dating to the phase C1 of the Roman Period (Bulas, Kotowicz, Okońska, in this volume).

from the analogous geographical region, located in the Poprad River basin are estimated at about 40 ares (Madyda-Legutko 1996, 71), while the settlement in the Lesko mentioned above covered about 1 hectare (Barłowska 1984, 53). However, it should be emphasized that it is difficult to objectively estimate sizes of settlements with a dispersed building character, often basing only on the surface material. However, due to the effects of large scale excavations conducted during infrastructure investments, it should be recognized that in the San River basin there were also settlements dating back to the Late Roman Period and Early Migration Period, where the settlements occupied areas reaching at least a few hectares. It does not change the fact that these settlements are smaller than sites known from areas outside the Carpathian zone, whose surface can often exceed several hectares (Kordecki, Okoński 1999, 183; Naglik, Rodak 2018, 71). On the described settlement in Sanok, there were both residential, production features and also features of unknown function, including the rectangular hearths known from the other sites of Przeworsk culture, known also from the regions located south of Carpathians (Gindele 2015, 96). Among the production features, there were at least two pottery kilns. Unfortunately, the ceramic material found in their fills is not chronologically distinctive (Okońska, Bulas 2019).

Among the pottery pieces discovered in other features on the site, there are fragments that demonstrate the inhabitation of the settlement between the phase C1b and D1³. With the period of time between phase C1b and C3, is connected to the fragment of the vessel decorated with the diamond-shaped stamp (Fig. 2: 1) This is the first fragment of pottery from the San River basin, belonging to the tradition of the so-called “stamped pottery” from the area of the Upper Tisa basin. Until now, pottery fragments decorated with stamps, in the Carpathians have been discovered on the settlement in Rytro (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1982, 42, ryc. 1:1; Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1993) in Poprad basin, Nehrybka near Przemyśl (Poradyło 1999, 222, ryc. 5.13), and in Brzezowa (Nowy Żmigród Commune; Ginalski, Muzyczuk 1989, 223, ryc. 9.2). It should be emphasized, however, that the stamp on the described vessel differs in form from the above-mentioned examples, as well as from other stamped vessels known from the area of Przeworsk culture. In contrast, the described fragment can be considered as part of a vessel imported from production centres located in the Tisa basin, inhabited by the barbarians who took control over this land in the end of 2nd century (Gindele 2010, 128-135). Both the form of the stamp and the vessel itself finds analogies in the above-mentioned area, where most likely at the end of C1

³ There are no indicators strongly suggesting the use of the site in the phase C1, however it is important to underline that the sample of chronologically distinctive material is small and a possibility of earlier dating of the site can not be excluded. The earliest possible phase of inhabitation of the site is the phase C1 as there are no hand made ceramic materials of the tradition of the Early Roman Period.

phase of the Roman Period pottery production centres were established, where pottery decorated with a stamped ornament imitating patterns from the territory of the Roman Dacia, and the so-called "Porolissum pottery" appeared (Filip 2008, 72-73; 77-78; Rusu-Bolindeț 2011, 107-109). The production site where the same type of decoration appeared – in the form of a horizontal diamond – as in Sanok 59/60, is the site located on the Hungarian-Ukrainian border between the villages of Beregsurány (Hungary) and Luzhanka-Astei (Ukraine) (Kotigoroško 1995, 294 Abb.75; 2008, 271, Fig. 65/100, Gindele, Istvanovits 2011, 165).

The inhabitation of the site also in the phase C3 can be indicated by two fragments of vessels with multiple-faceted walls, also referred to as polygonal vessels (Fig. 2: 2,3). Manufacture of this pottery type began to occur in the 4th century, both in the Przeworsk culture (Dobrzańska 2008, 187-189) and in the Upper Tisa basin (Gindele 2010, 47, 139; Lamiová-Schmiedlová et al 2017, 28). The appearance of this style is most likely the effect of copying of Roman patterns, where it was precisely in the 4th century when similarly shaped vessels were produced. Both glass (Dévai 2016, 264, 265, fig. 4, 5) and metal jugs (Mráv, Dági 2014, 1-9) were formed in this way. The difference between the so-called polygonal vessels, and vessels that can be described as vessels with repeatedly sliced walls should be underlined. The first one includes a fragment of the jug discovered in Zofipole, Kraków County (Dobrzańska 2000, 47, 57, Ryc. 14; 2008, 187-189, 194, Ryc. 12:c, 19:17), and examples of jugs from the Upper Tisa basin. The closest analogies to the fragment found in Sanok 59/60 site are the fragments of similar vessels discovered in Ostrovany (Prešov County; Lamiová-Schmiedlová et al. 2017, 28, 90, 91, 117, Tab. XVI: 15, XVII: 8, 13, XLIII: 10). They find close analogies in the north-west of Romania, in Lazuri Râtul lui Bela in particular (Gindele 2010, 47, 139, Abb. 19: 1). The examples mentioned have untreated polygons, sometimes decorated with a burnished grate. Small fragments discovered in Sanok 59/60 refer rather to the method of forming vessels known from the production centre located in Blažice (Luštiková, Rákoš 2018, 137, Tab. XV) and settlement in Šebastovce-Barca (Luštiková 2013, 105, Tab VIII / 4), located in the Hornad basin (Košícký County). The method of forming vessels in Blažice finds analogies among the metal vessels known from the area of the Roman Empire, dated also to the 4th century (Mráv, Dági 2014). It should be emphasized that at Blažice, jugs with repeatedly cut walls were additionally decorated with a stamped ornament, which allows us to think that they should be dated a little earlier than examples from Lazuri Râtul lui Bela, Ostrovany or Zofipole. Especially the pottery set discovered on the first of the above-mentioned sites may indicate that the decoration of the surfaces with hollowed, elongated polygons appeared already after the disappearance of the production of stamped pottery. These remarks allow us to believe that the settlement in Sanok was also used during the 4th century.

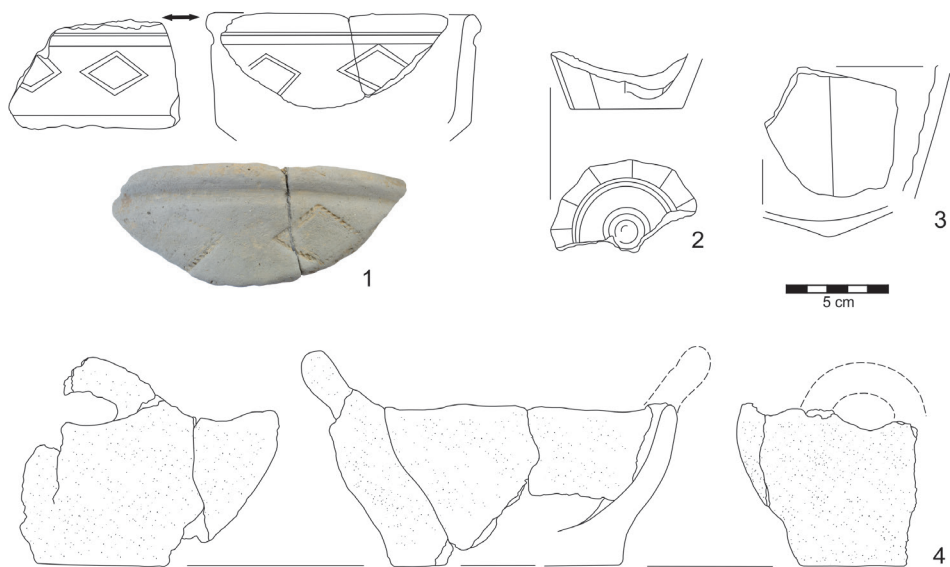


Fig 2. Distinctive pottery fragments from the Late Roman Period and Early Migration Period from Sanok site 59/60

Another factor which allows the dating of the site may be the proportion of the wheel-made and hand-made pottery. Similarly to the other sites, dated to the Late Roman Period and Early Migration Period from the Carpathians (Madyda-Legutko 1996, 72), also in Sanok 59/60 the number of fragments of both types of pottery was proportional.

Among the fragments of the latter, one should mention a fragment of the bucket-shaped vessel (Fig. 2: 4), which finds analogies mainly in the area of Dobodzień type burial grounds (Rodzińska-Nowak 2005, 267-268). A fragment of such a vessel was also discovered on the above-mentioned settlement in Rytro (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1993, 46, further literature there; 138, Tabl. XXXVI: e). The most faithful analogy to the vessel presented here was found on the settlement dated to phase D1 in Zlechov (okr. Uherské Hradiště; Hrubý 1967, 654-655, Fig. 217 (VII): 1; Zeman 2005, 461, 462, Fig. 7:4). It should be emphasized that such vessels have probably spread due to the cultural influence exerted by the new wave of the nomadic population associated with the Huns, which occupied the Hungarian Plain and created cultural pressure also to the areas North of the Carpathians. The influence of those people is confirmed by the increasing number of new finds as well as the already published ones (Kaczanowski, Rodzińska-Nowak 2013; Rodzińska-Nowak 2016, 320-337). The find which allows for the

precise dating of the settlement in Sanok 59/60 to the phase D1 of Migration Period is the small fragment of Hunnic cauldron (Fig 3: 4)⁴, which unfortunately was found in the upper layers of the site, without the context of any feature. It is a fragment of only the second Hunnic cauldron in Polish territory (Kaczanowski, Rodzińska-Nowak 2013, 440-442, fig. 7:12; Masek 2017, 91, 120).

Apart from the described sites, the remaining settlements associated with the Late Roman Period and the Early Migration Period are known only from field-walking surveys. Sites located on higher altitudes, in the more mountainous terrain are associated with this chronological period. They were discovered in an area extending at the border of several geographical regions – the Bukowskie Foothills, Sanocko-Turczańskie Mountains and the Western Bieszczady Mountains. Most numerous material gathered during the surveys were fragments of Krausengefässe storage vessels (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 2008, 236)⁵. It should be noted, that in the Western Carpathians there are settlements dated to the end of the 4th and 5th centuries, which are characterized by a location at high altitude (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 2008, 228-233). Similarly located settlements

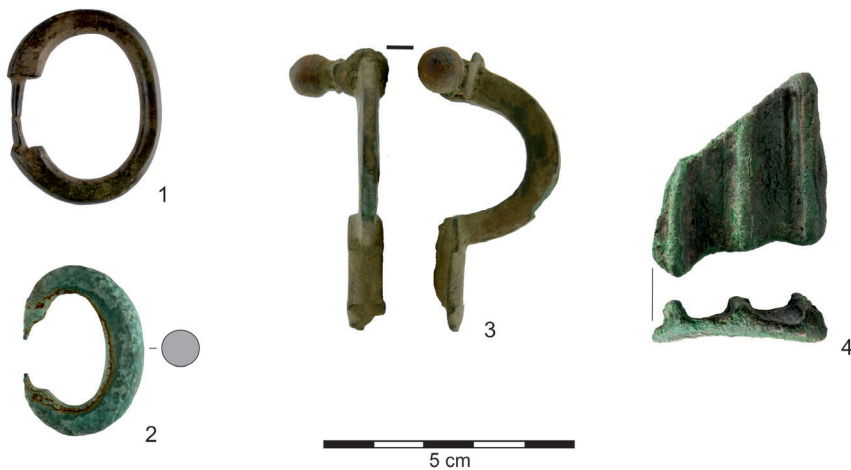


Fig. 3. Metal finds. 1 – Balnica; 2 – Sanoczek (after: Bodzek, Pohorska-Kleja 2011, 156, Tabl. 1: 2); 3 – Pakoszówka, stan. 33; 4 – Sanok, stan. 59-60

⁴ This newly discovered find will be a subject of the separate article, which will be published after conduction of a series of the archaeometallurgical analysis. The primarily information about this discovery is included in the unpublished report of the excavation on the site 59/60 in Sanok (Bulas *et al.* 2019).

⁵ It is important to underline that studies of the wheelmade pottery suggests that the Krausengefässe storage vessels can be dated also earlier, to the phase C2 and possibly C1 (Rodzińska-Nowak 2006, 135).

are known from the North Carpathian group (Pieta 1991, 377-388). This fact, as well as research within the Polish part of the Carpathians, suggest that settlement in the area of higher mountain parts appeared or intensified only in the period of time corresponding to phases C3 and D. It cannot be ruled out that the factor that caused the occupation of these areas was the pressure exerted by the political situation and threats originating as a result of Huns expansion into the Hungarian Plain (Istvánovits, Kulcsár 2017, 379-397).

From the area described in the article, a group of second-century denarii is known (Bulas, Kotowicz 2018, in press), discovered commonly also in the other areas of the Przeworsk culture in the context of Late Roman Period and the Early Migration Period⁶. For the first time during the research on the Sanok bypass, examples of such coins were also discovered during methodological archaeological research (Bulas, Kotowicz 2018, in press; Okońska, Bulas 2019, 73, 74). From the known assemblage of coins from the region, 11 coins were minted between the third and fifth centuries AD (Table 1) (Fig. 4) (Bodzek 2009, 155-204; Bulas,

Table 1. List of the Roman coins minted between the 3rd and 5th century

Emperor	Location	Denomination	Material	Date
Severus Alexander	Sanok	Denarius	AG	222-235
Gordianus III	Sanok	Sestertius	AE	244
Gordianus III	Strachocina	?	?	238-244
Gordianus III	Średnia Wieś	Denarius	AG	238-244
Traianus Decius	Sanok	?	?	249-251
Traianus Decius	Żernica	?	?	249-251
Maximianus Herculeus	Mrzyglód	Antoninianus	AG	285-294
Maximianus Herculeus	Sanok	?	?	286-308
Licinius I	Mrzyglód	Follis	AE	308-324
Licinius II	Sanok	?	?	308-324
Licinius II	Mrzyglód	Follis	AE	317-324
Theodosius I	Mrzyglód	Centenionalis	AE	379-395
Valentinianus I	Sanok	?	?	364-375
Theodosius II	Prełuki	Solidus	AU	402-450
Valentinianus III	Prusiek	Solidus	AU	430-455

⁶ There is ongoing discussion about validity of some of those coins belonging to the Benesz collection. For the insight on the subject I would like to thank to dr. hab. J. Bodzek and MA Sz. Jellonek.

Kotowicz 2018, in press). In this place it should be emphasized that in contrast to silver coins from the second century, bronze or copper specimens from the 3rd and 4th centuries do not usually appear in the context of much younger objects, so it can be assumed that the mentioned items were deposited in a relatively short time after they were minted and thus can confirm settlement activity in this area in the 3rd and 4th centuries.

In the described area, but also more widely in south-eastern Poland and western and southern Ukraine, the coins of Gordian III and Trajan Decius are quite often discovered (Myzgin 2017, 147-158). The reasons for the inflow of coins minted around the middle of the 3rd century are hard to explain. However, one should pay attention to several facts. The factor that could have contributed to the intensification of the inflow of the Gordian III and Trajan Decius coins could be an increased inflow of money to the province of Dacia in order to keep the army stationed on the endangered section of the Empire's border (Găzdac 2008, 272). It should also be added that Dacia was invaded by the Carps tribe during the reign of Trajan Decius, which is reflected in the finds of coin treasures in the northern Dacia, ending with the emissions of Gordian III and Decius (Găzdac 2008, 270). A similar situation is observed in Moesia, where in 251, under the Atritus, as a result of the invasion of the Gothic tribes under the command of Kniva, Emperor Trajan Decius himself fell, and a significant number of the Roman coin was taken by the barbarian tribes (Bursche 2013). It cannot be ruled out that the appearance of more numerous coins from the 3rd century in the San River basin is an effect of the above-mentioned events.

Settlement in the 4th and probably the beginning of the 5th century is demonstrated by single metal finds. None of them has been discovered during archaeological excavations, besides already mentioned fragment of a Hunnic cauldron, which at least can be connected with the collection of other finds from site 59/60 in Sanok. One of the most interesting monuments related to the described period of time is the sword discovered in the Solina lake, near Polańczyk (Kotowicz, Fedyk 2008). This specimen should be associated with the type Ejsbøl-Sarry. This is the only weapon find that can be dated between the C2 and D phases (Biborski, Ilkjaer 2006, 270-271) from the whole Upper San River region. However, it should be added that the largest number of this type of swords is associated with the Early Migration Period, and although it cannot be ruled out that this sword is associated with phase C2, it seems more likely that it should be dated to phase D1. The closest analogies come from the cemetery located on the Tisa River in Tiszadob-Sziget (Hungary) dated to the 4th and 5th centuries AD (Istvánovits 1993) and Ostrów near Tarnów (Poland), where the sword was recovered from the bottom of the Dunajec riverbed (Biborski, Kaczanowski 2004, 27, Kotowicz, Fedyk 2008, 116).

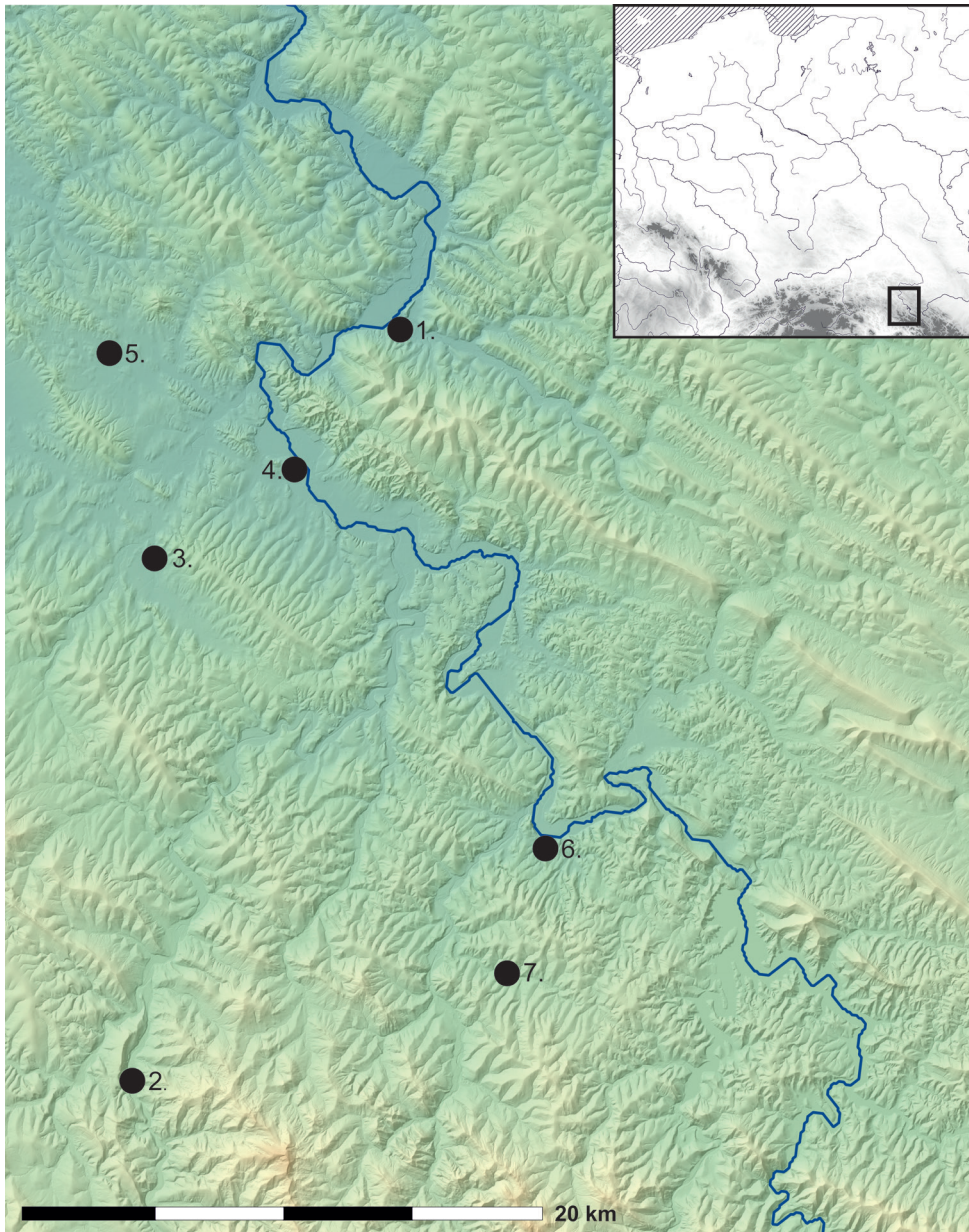


Fig. 4. Map of locations of the Roman coins finds minted between the 3rd and 5th century in the Upper San basin: 1 – Mrzyglód; 2 – Prełuki; 3 – Prusiek; 4 – Sanok; 5 – Strachocina; 6 – Średnia Wieś; 7 – Żernica

Another category of finds from the Upper San River basin, which confirms inhabitation of this area in the Late Roman Period and the Early Migration Period are single metal finds connected with the outfit. Two bronze buckles with oval thickened frames are known from this area, both of which can be dated to the C3-D phase. The first one was discovered in Balnica⁷ (Fig 3: 1; Komańcza Commune), the second one in Sanoczek (Fig 3: 2; Sanok Commune; Bodzek, Pohorska-Kleja 2011, 156, Tab. 1/2). The first of these should be associated with the type H. It is not the common example of the type as the specimen's frame is not thickened in the whole length. The other one refers to the type H25-28 according to Madyda-Legutko (1986, 67-68). Buckles of this type are commonly found in the Central European Barbaricum, however, there are not known analogies from the area of south-eastern Poland.

The only brooch dated to the C3-D phase is a find discovered at the burial ground excavated since 2015 in Pakoszówka site 33 (Bulas, Kotowicz, Okońska, in this volume). It was found in the surface layer during the prospection with a metal detector, at a distance of about 15 m from the northernmost burial. It should be noted that the youngest to date, well-dated grave on this site can be associated with the phase C1b. It is a brooch with a plate on the head, having few analogies within the burial grounds located in northern Poland, with the closest analogy coming from the graveyard in Kozłówko (Woźniak 2011, 173, 175, 185, ryc.4:1a,1b). Numerous, similar brooches, also dated to the phases C3-D1, occur in the area occupied by the Gothic cultures in today's Ukraine, the Eastern Carpathians and the Carpathian Basin (Petrauskas, Sinica 2010). Analogical brooches, however with strong inner differentiation, are known from the area of Elbe and Rhine basins where they are dated to the second half of the 4th century and the beginning of the 5th century (Schulze-Dörrlamm 2000).

Particularly noteworthy is the find of a solidus of Valentinian III⁸ (Milan - 430-455) from Prusiek (Bodzek, Pohorska-Kleja 2011). This find has few analogies in south-eastern Poland. Two similarly dated, bronze coins were found in Biecz (Gorlice Commune). The first one - minted during the reign of Honorius, the second - during Valentinian's III (Bodzek 2009, 179). The late date of issue of the above-mentioned coins should be emphasized. Together with the coin of Marcian from Sławęcín, located in the Jasielsko-Sanockie lowland, minted in the years 450-457, these are the youngest examples of coins that can be connected with the Germanic settlements in this area. A solidus from Prusiek, like other coins

⁷ Without the proper context and analogy for the find, the dating of this buckle should be considered as uncertain.

⁸ Recently another golden solidus (of Theodosius II), was discovered in Prełuki, Sanok County. This coin will be covered in separate studies in this volume (Bodzek *et. al.* 2019; Biborski, Biborski 2019). In this place I would like to thank to Dr P.N. Kotowicz from Historical Museum in Sanok for sharing with me information about this find.

minted in name of Valentinian III and Theodosius II, is interpreted as the effect of the spread of coins being the part of the tributes paid to the Huns in order to preserve peace (Bodzek 2009, 175-176). Such a remark seems even more probable in the context of the discovery of the fragment of Hunnic cauldron on the site in Sanok. It seems however that the finding from Sławęcín should be interpreted differently as Marcian decided to stop paying tribute to the Huns, which were directed to their opponents at the time – Germanic tribes (Bodzek 2009, 176; Prohászka 2009, 84) who defeated Attila's sons in the Battle of Nedao just a year after the death of most famous Hunnic leader. This fact may indicate that the settlement associated with the Germanic tribes in the San River basin lasted at least sometime after the fall of the Attila's state.

It should be emphasized, however, that apart from the upper mentioned coin of Marcian so far there are no finds indicating the inhabitation of the Upper San River basin in the middle of the 5th century AD and there are no sources pointing to the continuation of settlement in the second half of the fifth century (Madyda-Legutko 1996, 109; Parczewski 2011, 97-98; Parczewski *et al.* 2012, 28-32). It seems that due to the turbulent events of the first half of the 5th century, it came to disintegration and to a large extent collapse of settlement structures in the San River basin, as was the case with many other areas of the Central European Barbaricum. This fact is also indicated by the results of palynological research which confirm the regeneration of the forest during this period and the decrease of indicators characteristic for human activity (Ralska-Jasiewiczowa 1972; 1980).

The new settlement cycle begins in the basin of the Upper San River when the population associated with the early Slavic culture appears. The emergence of the settlements with the materials attributed to the Prague culture in the Upper San River basin were found only on the settlement in Hłomcza and is dated by prof. M. Parczewski to the turn of the 5th and 6th centuries (Parczewski *et al.* 2012, 28). However, it should be noted that in the near distance traces of settlements where such dated materials were found are known from the settlement in Bachórz (Dynów Commune). We do not have data that would allow us to elaborate on the contact between the Germanic and Slavic populations in this area. In the light of the sources described earlier, it seems, however, that the Slavic population at that time already inhabited largely empty areas, or settled by a few human groups, after which archaeological traces had not been discovered so far.

The database of archaeological material dated to the Late Roman Period and Early Migration Period grew in the last years. It is a result of an increasing number of stray finds as well as results of excavations conducted during large investment projects, although there are still questions concerning the subject of the article that require further field works. One of the most important is the

question about the chronology of the settlement in the higher locations. While there are some indicators (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 2008, 245) pointing to the possibility of dating of those settlements to the 4th and possibly 5th century, mostly based on the results of excavations conducted in other regions of the Carpathians. There is still no sufficient evidence to draw final conclusions concerning the subject in the region under study.

Another subject that needs to be further researched is the question about cultural attribution of archaeological materials in the region as well as a question about settlement continuity between phase C1a and later stages of the Roman period. Up to date, excavated burial grounds in Prusiek and Pakoszówka stopped being used for burying deceased at the end of 2nd or at the beginning of the 3rd century and there are no younger funeral finds in the region, that could be connected with the Przeworsk culture. It has to be pointed out that the similar situation is observed in the Upper Tisa basin where most of the burial grounds with the Przeworsk culture material delivered finds from which most of the youngest recorded material should be dated to the end of phase C1 and possibly beginning of the phase C2 (Hullám 2012, 13-14).

A different picture is presented in the results of the analysis of the pottery material from the settlements where the same type of ceramic is found both on the sites dated earlier – to the phase B2 and C1 (Pakoszówka site 1, Sanok site 54) and the sites described in this article, with the finds dated to the Late Roman Period and Early Migration Period (Lesko, Sanok 59/60). This fact advocates the continuity of the settlement from the Early Roman Period until the Migration Period in Upper San River basin but it is important to underline that there is no direct evidence for this statement.

The single metal finds from the region dated to the period of time analysed hitherto in the article demonstrate strong connections with the neighbouring regions. It seems that the strongest cultural influence came from the south and south-east as is demonstrated by the finds of glass vessels as well as the recent find of Hunnic cauldron. The influence of this nomadic peoples must have played an important role as most of the few metal finds from the region dated to the phase D1 (two solidi, upper mentioned cauldron) should be interpreted either as the proof for their presence in the region or as their political and cultural influence on Upper San basin region.

The direct reason for the disintegration of settlement pattern and the disappearance of the settlement connected with the Germanic people in the region cannot be simply explained based on the current state of research. However, taking into consideration finds connected with the tribes from the south of Carpathian range it was probably related with the inner barbaric conflicts of the middle of the 5th century that also resulted in the collapse of established political entities and the formation of the new ones.

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