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## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE POLISH MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS

The programme of millennial celebrations had been the subject of discussion in many scientific centres, leading organs of political parties and social organizations long before the particular resolution to inaugurate the Millennium commemorations was issued by the Polish Sejm, in 1958.

The Millennium celebrations have afforded three achievements of great significance in the realm of political upbringing of the population: (1) Polish people have become aware of the exceptionally important role of the state as such in the process of organization of the national community, in the maintenance of its integrity and in procuring conditions for a continuous economical and cultural development; (2) as a result of the discussion on problems associated with the Millennium, by now lasting for eight years, there has evolved a new understanding of the political fact that People's Poland is the sole legitimate heir to the millennial traditions of the Polish nation; this reality has gained a broader documentary evidence based on the improved methods of research; (3) celebrations of the Millennium have resulted in a permanent apprehension — by a majority of the Polish community — of the particular role played in Polish history by the idea of national unity constituting the main source of power and the warrant of a successful achievement of the ambitious task implied by the aim to establish a socialist community.

WITOLD HENSEL

## TWENTY YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE WESTERN TERRITORIES OF POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC (1945—1965)

Polish archaeologists started to investigate the Western Territories soon after the war, yet broad-scale excavations were only commenced in 1949; they were initiated by the then established Board for Studies on the Dawns of the Polish State. Since 1954 research of this type has been sponsored and organized by the Institute of Material Culture History, Polish Academy of Sciences; and supported by offices of works, museums and university chairs. During the twenty-year period after second world war there were carried out in the Western Territories investigations of above 140 sites. Part of these activities was performed in cooperation with the German Academy of Sciences, Berlin.

Particular concern was given to the studies of early-mediaeval localities, many of the sites however carried evidence of more ancient chiefly palaeolithic eras. Research in this realm was mainly carried out in Silesia (Racibórz, Studzienna, Maków, Ocice etc.). Positions from the younger stone age were likewise broadly investigated. Important results were achieved in the field of knowledge on testimonials of Lusatian culture, in Silesia and Pomerania. Records of excavations have been published under several different headings, wherein economic, social and religious problems were analysed much more deeply than before.

In the Olsztyn voivodship there were carried out investigations intended to