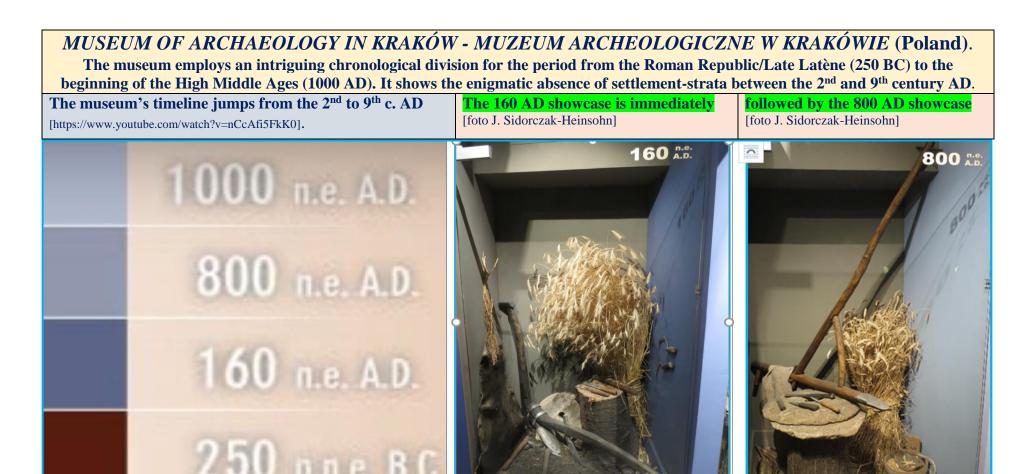
Gunnar Heinsohn (1 September 2017)

SLAVIC CHRONOLOGICAL ENIGMAS SOLVED: POLAND'S KRAKÓW IN THE FIRST MILLENNIUM AD

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I STRATIGRAPHIC HONESTY IN KRAKÓW'S MUZEUM ARCHEOLOGICZNE

The Archaeological Museum of Kraków (Poland) is to be commended for its chronological honesty. Though its curators do not deviate from chronological dogma, they refuse to report settlement strata that cannot be found in the city's ground. Therefore,



their exhibits for the 1st millennium AD jump from the 2nd right into the 9th century AD, with nothing to show for the 700 years in between. Yet, the prudent approach of Kraków's historians is not only required by the scarcity of consecutive — i.e. evolutionary —-superimposed settlement strata for the 1-930 AD time-span. It also allows for the solution of major enigmas in Poland's history. We may start with the *Krakus Mound* (Polish: *Kopiec Krakusa*), the oldest man-made structure in Kraków.

The *Krakus Mound* (Kopiec Krakusa) seen from Castle Hill in downtown Kraków (base diameter of 60 m; height of 16 m; 19,100 m³). [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/90/KopiecKraka-WidokZWawelu-POL%2C_Krak%C3%B3w.JPG.]

Aerial view of excavation of the *Krakus Mound* (1934 ff.) [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6b/01933_ Arch%C3%A4ologische_Ausgrabungen_auf_der_Krakus-Anh%C3%B6he.jpg]





For many decades, historians have argued about the date of the mound's erection. A Celtic origin in the 1st c. BC has competed with an Early Medieval beginning some 700 years later. There is no doubt about Early Medieval artifacts from the mound belonging to the 8th century, i.e. the date that was settled upon by dendrochronology. Yet, *Mound Krakus* (apart from Lusatian

and pre-Roman items) also revealed artifacts of the Przeworsk Culture (Buko 2011, 163), which peaked from the 1st c. BC to the 2nd c. AD. The situation is repeated at Aleksandrowice, some 70 km southwest of Kraków, where many Przeworsk artifacts were excavated (Makiewicz 2002, 106-113, 120). Thus, the Kraków area was well settled and active in the time of Imperial Rome.

Extension of the Przeworsk-Culture (light green) — 700 years later overlapping with the territory of so-called Slavic/Polish Vistulans (Polish: *Wiślanie*) whose origins are enigmatic — during the time of early Imperial Roman Antiquity (1st c. BCE-2nd c. AD) [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Przeworsk-Kultur]

Dates for the Przeworsk Culture in more recent textbooks may be stretched up to the 5th or even 6th c. AD. However, there are no 5th c. Przeworsk settlement strata superimposed on 2nd century Przeworsk settlement strata. The additional three centuries are derived from dates found in coin catalogues. Thus, there is no Przeworsk building evolution over six centuries anywhere. Therefore, Ukraine's **Kiev Culture** — with striking 1st-3rd c. Przeworsk features, too — that is dated from the 3rd/4th to the 5th/6th century has no strata for the 1st-3rd century but a plain blank (cf. Heinsohn 2015). Thus, for Przeworsk it is either 1st-3rd substance plus a 300 year blank or a 300 year blank plus 4th-6th c. substance but never the two periods on top of each other. Moreover, there are no 8th-10th c. Slavic tribal centers (matching the dendrochronological date of the *Krakus Mound*) superimposed on Przeworsk settlement strata dated to the 2nd or the 5th century. Therefore, it cannot come as a surprise that Przeworzk material and Early Medieval material, i.e. 2nd and 9th c. material, was mixed together in the *Krakus Mound* (Buko 2011, 163).

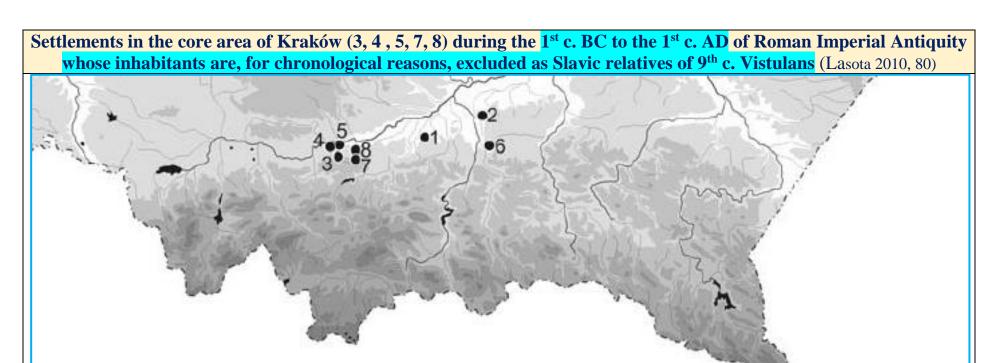
This enormous time span is confirmed by two other mounds in Lesser Poland, located close to Sandomierz, where the mix of 700 year apart artifacts can be dated to Imperial Rome (1st c. AD) and the Early Middle Ages (Buko 2011, 166). There can be no doubt about blossoming cultures in Lesser Poland during the 1st-3rd century of Imperial Antiquity. It is also confirmed by numismatics:

"The first set of [Roman coins at] Jerzmanowice was discovered in autumn 2005. There were more than 110 denarii, only 8 of them were recorded (from Vespasianus [69-79 AD] to Septimius Severus [193-211 AD]). In spring 2006, the second hoard in Jerzmanowice was dug up (less than 100 meters from the place, where the first set had been found). Until summer 2006, Roman denarii in the number of 78 (from Hadrian [117-138 AD] to Septimius Severus [193-211 AD]) were discovered there" (Dymovski 2007, English abstract).

Though *Mound Krakus* of the 8th century ff. is labeled as the "oldest man-made structure in Kraków" the same area has villages blossoming 700 years earlier in the 1st and 2nd centuries that are confirmed by the coin finds of Jerzmanowice, 21 km northwest of Kraków. How, then, is it possible that Kraków's Castle Hill, the very heart of the city, has to wait for some 700 years to start its role as the future capital of Poland? After all, small finds from the hill also stretch from Imperial Rome, a coin of Emperor Titus (69-81 AD; i.e Przeworsk period) to the Early Middle Ages with a Carolingian belt buckle from the 8th/9th c. Slavic Vistulans (*Wiślanie*) period (Wawel.Kraków).

Nothing is known about the archaeology of the pre-9th century Slavic Vistulans of Kraków (not a proper name but a geographical designation derived from the Vistula River) because the Przeworsk-remains on their very territory are dated some 700 years too early to be considered as their turf. Scholars, therefore, believe that the so-called Vistulans frequently migrated. Yet, their assumed albeit permanently changing locations have remained elusive to this very day. Therefore, dissidents, e.g. Przemysław Urbańczyk (2008), feel encouraged rather to deny the Vistulans' very existence than abandon their worship of chronological dogma that artificially separates them from possible predecessors by many centuries. The following scheme may explain why it is considered impossible to find to the immediate predecessors of Early Medieval Slavic Poles within textbook chronology.

| Assumed imp | Assumed impossibility of finding the origins of Early Medieval Slavs (Vistulans-Poles of the 8 th -10 th century) | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| 930s ff. | Unquestionable Poles of the High Middle Ages | | | |
| Around 930 | Rapid, sometimes catastrophic, collapse of many of the pre-existing tribal centers" (Buko 2011). | | | |
| 8 th -10 th c. | Slavic-Polish Tribal Centers including Kraków (two stages of fortifications beneath Sandimierz Tower). Finds are mixed with 700 year earlier Przeworsk items and Roman coins | | | |
| 3 rd -7 th c. | A HUGE <u>CHRONOLOGICAL</u> HIATUS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENIGMA OF POLISH ORIGINS | | | |
| 1 st -3 rd c. | Sites of Przeworsk Culture are not super-imposed by Slavic Polish Tribal Centers. Cultural artifacts from here (including Roman coins) are also found in 8 th -10 th c. Tribal Centers. Chronologically, they are put in a sequence. Stratigraphically, though, they are parallel. | | | |
| 1 st c. BCE | Late Latène Period whose artifacts are evolutionary continued not only in Przeworsk but also in Early Medieval Tribal Center sites. Stratigraphically, Late Latène immediately precedes Polish Tribal Centers as well as Przeworsk strata, Therefore, Late Latène people must be the Slavic predecessors of 1st c. Przeworskers as well as of 8th c. Poles, making the former Poles, too. | | | |

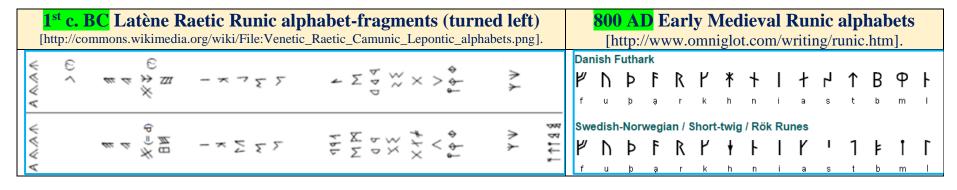


The situation of a 700-year-gap between Slavs of the 8th century and possible predecessors at their sites is repeated on Poland's Baltic coast where, e.g., at the 8th/9th Slavic hill fort of Sopot 700 year earlier Roman coins from the 1st/2nd century (Trajan [98-117 AD] and Antoninus Pius [138-161]) have been found (Sopot 2001). In 8th-10th c. Viking Truso (Jagodziński 2010) coins of Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius (161-180) have been excavated (Bogucki 2012, 41 f.). Both sites have no strata for the time between 1 and 700 AD. Therefore, the coins cannot be heirlooms handed from parents to children over many centuries.

In and around Sopot, altogether 41 sites have been surveyed that jump from the end of Late Latène/Iron Age (1st c. BC) right into Slavic sites of the Early Middle Ages with nothing to show for the 700 years in between (Sopot 2001). Yet, there is hardly any evolution of art over this enormous time span. This is well known because of "analogies observable in the Roman period [1st-3rd c.] and medieval pottery [8th-10th c.]" (Wołoszyn 2012 after Makiewicz 2005). Yet, it is illustrated as well by jewelry

made of glass. The same can be shown for Runic alphabets. Like Hebrew, Greek, and Latin that all suffer an enigmatic evolutionary standstill between the 2nd and 9th c. AD, the northern way of writing also appears to have entered an extremely long period of stagnation.





Whereas written sources referring to Slavs on the Baltic coast are divided over three different periods, Imperial Antiquity (1st-3rd c.), Late Antiquity (4th-6th/7th c.), and the Early Middle Ages (7th/8th-10th c.), archaeology can only confirm the Slavic Tribal Centers of the Early Middle Ages. Thus, the 1st-3rd c. **VENEDI**-Slavs (Pliny the Elder; Tacitus, and Ptolemy) as well as the 4th-6th c- **VENETHI**-Slavs (Jordanes) are none other than the 8th-10th c. **WEONOD**-Slavs (from Alfred the Great's *Voyage of Wulfstan*). What was anti-stratigraphically put into a chronological sequence returns back to its archeological contemporaneity.

The COLUMN (left) represents the fictitious chronological sequence of Slavs on Poland's Baltic coast in which only the WEONOD of the 8th-10th c. have evidence in Slavic Hill forts like Sopot etc..

The upper GREEN LINE represents the archaeological evidence of Slavs on Poland's Baltic coast that can only be verified in the 8th-10th c. period of the Early Middle Ages. .

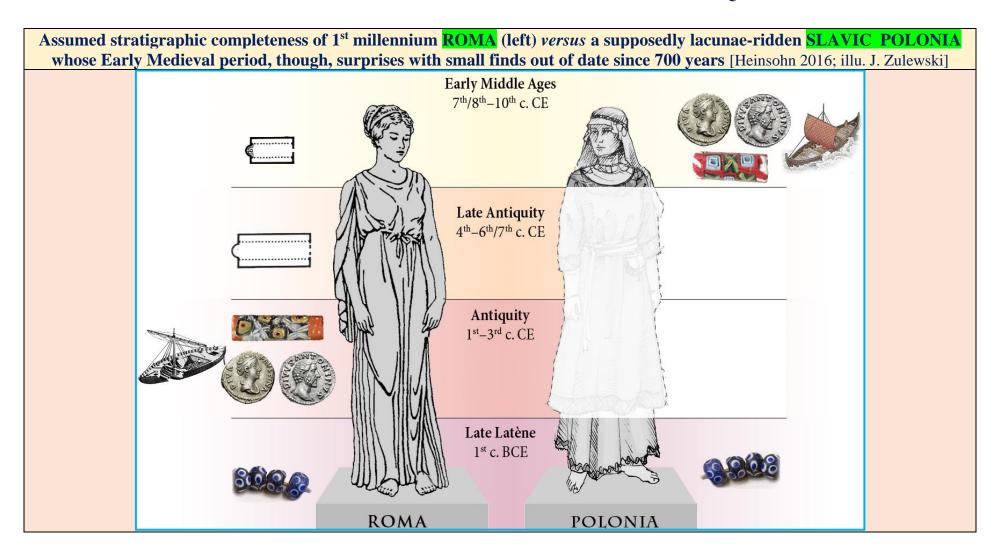
8th-10th c. WEONOD ==8th-10th c. VENETHI ==8th-10th c. VENEDI (1st/2nd c. Roman coins)

4th-6th c- VENETHI

Since it is not always easy to keep the 700-year-lacunae in mind — after all, they are differently placed in different sites — the following overview may help to keep track. The strong belief in these lacunae explains why predecessors of Early Medieval Slavs are considered elusive.

| Placement of the 700 year-gap without new building strata in typical sites of Poland's 1st | | | | | Ukraine |
|---|--|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--|
| millennium AD. The assumed gaps makes the discovery of pre-8 th c. Slavs impossible. | | | | | |
| Przeworsk sites Non-Slavic Wielbark Slavic Tribal sites Viking sites Sit | | | | Sites like | Culture of |
| (Kraków etc.) | sites (Gdansk etc.) | (Kalisz, Sopot etc.) | (Truso) | Bachórz | Kiev |
| | | | | | |
| 3 rd -10 th century AD | 3 rd -10 th century AD | 1-700 AD | <mark>1-700</mark> AD | 100 BC to 600 AD | 1 st -3 rd c. plus |
| | | | | (La Tène to 600) | 6 th -10 th c. AD |

II ROMA AND SLAVIC POLONIA AS STRATIGRAPHIC EQUALS



The profound belief in the inexplicability of the lacunae in Slavic sites is accompanied by an even deeper conviction that the civilizational centers of the 1st millennium, like Rome, Constantinople or Jerusalem, stratigraphically have what Poland appears to be lacking. Rome, especially, is seen as the benchmark that can never be met by Poland. Yet, these cities, too, build residential quarters, latrines, aqueducts etc. in just one of the three periods our textbooks assign to the timespan between 1 AD and the 930s AD. Rome's churches, now dated to Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages, exhibit the designs of 1st-3rd c. basilicas with which they also share the same stratigraphic level (in detail see Heinsohn 2016).

| Periods (grey ???) without building of new residential quarters, latrines, water pipes, streets, ports etc. |
|---|
| in major ancient metropoles as well as in sites within Poland (same color=same period) |

| PERIODS | ROME | CONSTAN- | JERUSALEM | POLAND: | POLAND: |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| | | TINOPLE | (Kishle) | WIELBARK Sites | SLAVIC TRIBAL Centers |
| | | | , , | | |
| High Middle | Residential quar- | Residential quar- | Residential quar- | Residential quarters, | Residential quarters, |
| Ages | ters, latrines etc. | ters, latrines etc. | ters, latrines etc. | latrines etc. | latrines etc. |
| Early Middle | | | | | Residential quarters, |
| Ages | ??? | ??? | ??? | ??? | latrines etc.; 1 st /2 nd c. |
| | | | | | Roman coins + pottery |
| | | | | | similar to 1 st -3 rd c. |
| Late | | Residential quar- | | | |
| Antiquity | ??? | ters, latrines etc. | ??? | ??? | ??? |
| | | | | | |
| Imperial | Residential quar- | | Residential quar- | Residential quarters, | |
| Antiquity | ters, latrines etc. | ??? | ters, latrines etc. | latrines etc.; 1 st /2 nd c. | ??? |
| | | | | Roman coins + potte- | |
| | | | | ry similar to 8 th -10 th c. | |
| Late Latène | Residential quar- | Residential quar- | Residential quar- | Residential quarters, | Residential quarters, |
| | ters, latrines etc. | ters, latrines etc. | ters, latrines etc. | latrines etc. | latrines etc. |
| | | | | | |

If it comes to the sequence of strata, Slavic Polish sites match the largest centers of the 1st millennium AD. The belief that Polish sites, against Rome and other metropoles, fall short by two full periods (Imperial Antiquity and Early Middle Ages or Imperial and Late Antiquity) is derived from textbook chronology but proven wrong by stratigraphy. However, if it comes to the design and massiveness of buildings or the refinement of artifacts, these sites are not comparable to the splendor of the centers of Antiquity.

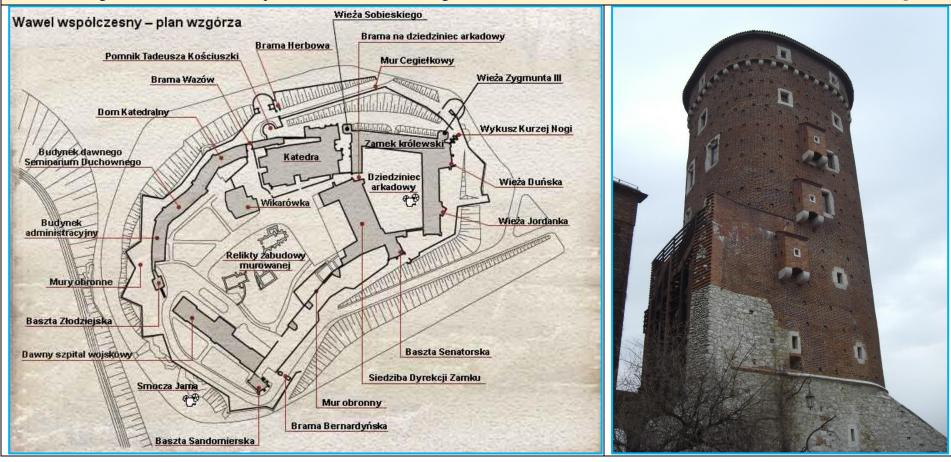
Once, we have a stratigraphically levelled playing field we can come back to similar artifacts and coins dated some 700 years apart in Polish sites. How can they be brought into the same period? By simply allowing scholars to take the archaeological evidence as it stands. Stratigraphically, objects of the Slavic tribal period (8th-10th c.) and of the Przeworsk/Roman period (1st-3rd c.) exist side by side in the period succeeded immediately by the High Middle Ages of the 10th/11th century. It is merely due to chronological dogma — idolized by archaeologists no less than by historians — that the contemporaneity of Przeworskers and Slavs cannot be recognized. The Slavs of the 8th to 10th century are — *cum grano salis* — properly dated. Yet, Imperial Romans with Przeworskers and Wielbarkers of the 1st-3rd c. (and everybody coming before them) are dated some 700 years too early.

This brings us to the stratigraphy of the Early Medieval fortifications on the Castle Hill in downtown Kraków where Emperor Titus and his coin do not belong to the 1st century of chronological dogma but to the 8th century of Slavic stratigraphy:

"Research conducted in 2003 in the cellars of the Sandomierz Tower produced unexpected results. In two stratigraphic levels remains were discovered of unrelated walls built from vertical beams. Most probably these were remnants of two consecutive embankments — the older one and the newer one, dug into its remnants. The older one consisted of the clay earthwork and palisade, which could have been the primary element of the plaited construction of the inner wall of the embankment, or it could have been a wooden defence curtain with the walkway for the wardens, on its inner side (like in the case of the oldest early medieval fortifications of Kraków suburb, the 'vicinity'). The older embankment has not been found to bear any traces of violent destruction, at least in the excavation mentioned above. Therefore, it must have been rebuilt. It was used as a base for an oak beam chest framework, filled with earth, sand, clay and stone. It was the basis for the newer embankment, which from the inside of the town was strengthened with a palisade, which repeated the outline of the older structure. The newer embankment was **destroyed suddenly during a fire**" (Kukliński; bold GH).

Groundplan of Kraków's Castle Hill (Wawel). The Early Medieval fortifications (8th/9th c.) were found beneath BASZTA SANDOMIERSKA (bottom of map; right: today's appearance) [http://a-netknow.blogspot.com/2012/01/architektura-

wczesnego-renesansu-w.html / https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wawel_Sandomierz_Tower,_Krak%C3%B3w,_Poland.JPG]



Leaving aside the conflicting dates between dendrochronology¹ and pottery sequences (Kukliński 1998), the two stages of the Early Medieval fortifications on Kraków's Castle Hill could well correspond to the Roman period up to the Plague Crisis *cum* Antoninian Fires under Marcus Aurelius (1-160s ff.), and the period from the 160s ff. to the lethal Crisis of the Third Century in the 230s. The **sudden fire finishing Early Medieval Kraków**, thus, should correspond to the annihilation

CRISIS OF IMPERIAL CRISIS OF LATE ANTIQUITY IN COLLAPSE OF THE SLAVIC, **ANTIQUITY IN THE THIRD** THE SIXTH CENTURY **VIKING, AND MESOPOTAMIAN CENTURY** CITIES IN THE 930S AD "The **climax** of the physical "During the sixth century the cities of "There was a rapid, sometimes development of the classical city was the Greek East were hit by a series of catastrophic, collapse of many of the reached in some areas at the end of the pre-existing tribal centers. These events severe blows; earthquakes, Persian second century, more generally in the invasions, and, perhaps most serious of were accompanied by the permanent or first two decades of the third century. all successive waves of bubonic plague temporary depopulation of former After that the great flood of private [...]. The effect was like the crisis of the areas of settlement. Within a short time third century" (Liebeschütz 1992, 34). munificence [...] subsided everywhere, new centers representative of the Piast and **never recovered** to anything state arose on new sites, thus beginning remotely approaching its former level. [in 966] the thousand-year history of the The Empire was passing through the Polish nation and state" (Buko 2011, crisis of the third century" (Liebeschütz 464). 1992, 3f.).

of Roman culture (either dated to the 3rd or to the 6th c. AD) that, stratigraphically, is contemporary with the annihilation of the Scandinavian, Slavic, and Mesopotamian realms in the 930s AD (see in detail Heinsohn 2017 a).

¹ They may be incorrect. If not they may indicate an overstretch of the generally accepted chronology after the 930s AD.

III RESULTS

Slavs that turned into Poles during the 10th century AD did not crawl out of some hidden abyss, nor did they fall from the sky. Likewise, they did not hibernate in some unknown location further east from where they suddenly moved to Poland in the 7th/8th century AD without ever telling anybody. Such bizarre ideas are due to the belief that the human habitats from which the 10th c. Poles could have emerged must not be dated according to stratigraphy and hard evidence. Instead, they must be dated to fit a chronological dogma that separates Slavic Early Medieval strata by some 700 years from Slavs' and Poles' Late Latène stage. Since that dogma is adhered to by everybody, hope of finding a solution to the allochthonous-autochthonous controversy on the Poles' origins — did they come from abroad or did they originate at home? — faded away long ago: "The origin of the Slavs remained a topic of considerable interest (though a problem that remained unsolved, despite the organization of many conferences and discussions)" (Buko 2011, 454).

Yet, if stratigraphy is allowed its say, the answer is straightforward. The predecessors of the 10th c. Poles have lived in Poland from the Trzciniec and Lusatian Bronze Age through the Latène Iron Age right into Imperial Rome that — together with Przeworsk and related cultures — is counter-stratigraphically dated to the 1st-3rd c. AD. The finest Slavic linguists — e.g., Witold Mańczak (1924-2016; 1981) — have claimed with all due right that 8th c. Slavic river and mountain names cannot have been derived from Germanic languages but must have grown out of a preceding Slavic terminology. Thus, 1st c. BC Latène strata, found immediately beneath 8th c. AD Slavic tribal strata, must have also been settled by Slavs. Because, however, the language experts shared their opponents' unwavering belief in some 700 years separating Late Latène and Early Medieval strata they could not help but fall by the wayside.

Since, however, only some 300 years can archaeologically be confirmed for any site in Poland during the entire first millennium, one has to decide where to put the evidence that is now dated 1st-3rd century. Since strata dated to the 9th century contain the same small finds (coins, pearls, combs, locks, keys, weights, tesserae etc.) as strata dated to the 2nd century, and both are contingent with strata of the High Middle Ages (10th/11th c.), the Roman dates must be moved some 700 years towards the present. What is dated 160AD is directly continued — *cum grano salis* — in the 860s AD. The showcases of Kraków's archaeological museum, therefore, got it more or less right. Poland's 8th c. ff. Slavic sites do not fall short by two full periods (Imperial Antiquity and Early Middle Ages) against Rome or Constantinople. These metropoles, too, have just one period (Imperial Antiquity or Late Antiquity respectively) in which housing quarters, latrines, roads, ports or water pipes are built.

The search for predecessors of the 10th c. Polish Slavs ends at the Przeworskers as well as related cultures now dated some 700 years earlier. Slavic Tribal Centers (8th-10th c.) are never found on top of Przeworsk sites (1st-3rd c.) because the latter are not 700 years earlier than the former. Both belong to the same Early Medieval time span. The devastation of Rome in the 3rd c. is contemporary with the fires that annihilate the second stage of Wawel's Early Medieval fortifications at the beginning of the 10th century. The following table summarizes the parallelization of periods according to stratigraphy, i.e. it underlines the author's disagreement with the dogma of textbook chronology (cf. in more detail: http://www.q-mag.org/the-1st-millennium-a-d-chronology-controversy.html).

| STRATIGRAPHY-BASED CHRONOLOGY OF KRAKÓW AND SLAVS IN LESSER POLAND | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| | (same color==same period; stratigraphy-based dates are given in the left column)- | | | | | |
| After 930s | SLAVIC POLES OF THE HIGH MIDDLE AGES | | | | | |
| Around 930s | Catastrophe of the Third Century | Catastrophe of the Sixth Century | Tenth Century Collapse | | | |
| 860s-930s | From plague-crisis and invasions under Marcus Aurelius to the end – also of Przeworsk – in the 230s (= Migration Period) | From plague-crisis and invasions under Attila in the 450s to the 6 th century (= Migration Period) | Second phase of Slavic Tribal Centers from the 2 nd fortification of Early Medieval Wawel to the end of Roman culture (860s-930s) | | | |
| 700s-860s | Przeworsk / Roman Imperial Antiquity (1-160s) | From the 280s to the 450s | First phase of Slavic Tribal Centers (and of Early Med- ieval Wawel fortifications. | | | |
| 600s-700s | Final stage of Iron Age / Late Roman Republic and Augustean Period / FINAL STAGE OF LATE LATÈNE whose cultural artifacts are continued in 1st c. Przeworsk sites as well as in 8th c. Tribal Centers. Poland's Latène inhabitants were as Slavic as the Przeworskers and the people from the Tribal Centers. | | | | | |

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APPENDIX: Though museums highlighting the bewildering material scarcity between the 4rd and 10th c. AD (Late Antiquity + Early Middle Ages), Kraków is not alone in this truly scholarly endeavor. The majestic **MUSEO NAZIONALE ARCHEOLOGICO DI TARANTO**, once the rich and powerful capital of the *Magna Graecia*, covers the period from 750 BC to 1000 AD with 16 halls. The 700 years from 300-1000 AD, for which the richest finds had to be expected because they are closest to the present, received just one hall (XXV) out of the 16 (IX to XXV minus XXI [dedicated to the museum's history]). The artifacts shown in XXV hardly differ from 1st-3rd c. artifacts. None of them are structural elements of residential houses, latrines, water pipes etc.; they all belong to the highly mobile genres of small finds and coins. Thus, they cannot confirm distinctive building strata for Late Antiquity or the Early Middle Ages for that strategic site.

The museum's ground plan with 15 halls (IX to XX, and XXII to XXIV) dedicated to the timespan of 800 BC-300 AD but only one (XXV) to 300-1000 AD.

[http://www.museotaranto.org/web/index.php?area=4&page=0&id=0&lng=it.]



Designation of Hall XXV of Taranto's museum (one out of 16 [IX to XXV minus XXI {dedicated to the museum's history}) to Late Antiquity, and the Early Middle Ages [J. Sidorczak-Heinsohn]

SALA XXV

LA CITTÀ TARDOANTICA
E ALTOMEDIEVALE
IV - XI SECOLO d.C.
LO SPAZIO URBANO
THE TOWN IN LATE ANTIQUITY
AND EARLY MIDDLE-AGE
4th - 11th century A.D.
THE URBAN SPACE

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