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Summary of doctoral thesis "The history of the Land of Białogarda in Eastern Pomerania until beginnings of 14th century"

The aim of this work was to discuss the history of the Białogarda Land in the Middle Ages until the beginning of the 14th century. Many findings are hypothetical, which results from the weakness of the source material.

It was established that in the early medieval period (until the 12th century), preserved settlement trends were visible, also compared to the times before the migration of peoples. It is difficult to prove the existence of a separate tribe in the Białogarda Land until the 10th century. However, there are indications for the territorial independence of the above-mentioned area in the 10th-12th centuries, although it could also have been subject to the neighboring Gdańsk Land. The Białogarda Land was probably taken over by the Piast dynasty in the 10th century, although there is no certain evidence for this. However, the occupation of the above area by Bolesław Wrymouth (Krzywousty) should still very generally be placed in the period after 1113, and at the latest in 1119. Hypothetically, it happened closer to 1115/1116.

For the period of the second half 12th and early in the 13th century, the Land of Białogarda would probably be part of the governorship/principality of Gdańsk. It is possible that at that time Mściwoj I had a separate district here. On the other hand, only his private properties belonging to the mentioned dynast or his wife - Zwinisława - could have been located here.

Approx. In 1233, Racibor Mściwojewic took over his district in the Białogarda Land and probably immediately in the Chmielno Land. During the civil wars with Świętopełk, most likely in the period 1236-1238, perhaps exactly in 1237, Białogarda was destroyed. Racibor was in captivity from 1243, and at the end of 1248 he regained freedom. Source records show that in the period until 1266, this prince formally remained the owner of the Białogarda district, but the actual rule there was exercised by Świętopełk. Approx. 1266, Racibor joined the Teutonic Order and gave him the Białogarda district as a dowry, which began a long-term dispute. It was considered possible that one of the effects of Racibor's donation was the agreement in Choszczno of 1269. It was admitted that the stronghold mentioned in this agreement could be identified with Białogard nad Łeba. The dispute with the Teutonic Order ended with the conclusion of the Treaty of Milicz in 1282.

During the reign of Mściwoj II, the importance of local higher knights returned. At that time, the Zaręba family probably also acquired estates here. Perhaps during the reign of Władysław the Elbow-high (Łokietek), if not earlier, the Święca family had influence in the Białogard

region. In 1301, Białogard, perhaps with the support of the local knights, was captured by the Rügen army.

It cannot be ruled out that the administrative center in Białogarda collapsed at that time, although existing evidence indicates that the stronghold was still in use. Source records indicate that perhaps as early as the second decade of the 13th century, there was a separate administrative district in the Białogarda region, but it is not known what rank it was. The first mentions of local officials date back to 1257, and the castellany only in 1277. It is possible, however, that the Białogarda castellany and palace were established already during the rule of Prince Racibor in the 1330s. Although the last mentions of these units come from the 13th century. 80. 13th century, it is very possible that they still existed. In the case of palatia, however, this would only be a formal functioning. It cannot be ruled out that a separate castellany or judicial district existed in Salina already in the princely period. As for the church organization, it was established that parishes had not yet been established in the 10th and 11th centuries. In the period until 1308, there were parishes in Białogarda, Salina and probably in Łebunia or Rozłazino, and perhaps also in Garczegorze, Janowice, Osieki and Brzeźno Lęborskie. In economic terms, fishing and agriculture were of great importance in the Białogarda region. Not much can be said about the settlement due to the small number of mentions, although the large number of knights' settlements is noteworthy.

It is not known at what exact moment of the Teutonic aggression in 1308-1309 the Białogard land was occupied by them. During the period of Teutonic rule, the sources mention the Białogarda and Salino districts. The Order probably initially based its rule on the existing territorial organization, over time introducing its own structures. The appearance of the office of mayor of Lębork in the 1360s can be considered a turning point here. The Teutonic Knights pursued a favorable policy towards the local knights. Settlements under Polish law were particularly numerous in the area in question. In addition, you can observe the colonization action.

The conclusions indicated that the Białogarda Land as a separate political entity was short-lived. However, its importance as a settlement and administrative unit was lasting. The need to conduct further research was indicated, especially archaeological research on the strongholds in Białogarda and Salino. Diplomatic research and the study of certain problems of the political history of Eastern Pomerania are also required. For comparative research, it is also important to study the history of Białogard by Parsęta.