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## Spectacular tombs from the early Middle Ages discovered in Burdąg, Poland



Archaeologists found richly equipped burials during excavations in Burdąg, Warmia and Mazury, reported project leader Dr. Mirosław Rudnicki from the Institute of Archaeology, University of Łódź. "These finds here are quite a surprise. Excavations have changed the image of the site that, in the light of previous studies, was considered quite poor." One tomb, belonging to a woman, contained a silver breastplate, carefully crafted belt elements, a necklace of glass beads, and silver fibulae of Frankish manufacture during the Merovingian Dynasty.

This year alone, archaeologists have discovered more than 40 cremation graves of the local aristocracy. Archaeologists have excavated the vessels intact with their contents, which will be removed in the laboratory, where they'll be opened.

"Ancestors of the Prussian Galinds tribe were buried here, known as +Olsztyn group+. Its appearance, growth and disappearance are among the most interesting phenomena in the ancient history of today's Polish land," said Dr. Rudnicki. The researcher added that most materials attributed to the Olsztyn group were acquired by German archaeologists in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, and then disappeared during World War II. Hence, the present work is crucial to its understanding.

This community's tombs reflect strong relations in the sixth - seventh centuries with the Merovingian state, Byzantium, Scandinavia, Goths, Slavs, and nomadic Avars. "Due to the fact that after all these are the frontiers of the late ancient world, the explanation of this phenomenon remains a mystery," added the archaeologist.

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