

Glass vessels from Old Town in Elblag, from 14th to mid-16th century, as an element of the Prussian Teutonic Order glasswork.

Due to specific raw material, glass vessels are rarely found during archeological excavations. Generally this kind of Late Medieval remains of human existence represents a minor part of all artifacts discovered during excavation and oscillate around several dozen scraps. On the other hand set of glasses from Elblag's Old Town contains over 2 thousand pieces, what makes it unique worldwide. In addition to this states the fact that exceptionally well maintenance of the treasure, which was discovered in Elblag's latrines, where natural environment prevented far-reaching damages. Nonetheless current state of researches in area of Late Medieval and Early Modern Teutonic state is underdeveloped – latest scientific description were created in 70-90s XX century. Small number of fragmentary descriptions only scratch the problem. There is no work that in whole presents the issue. It should be highlighted that the distance between advancement of researches in Poland and foreign literature, mainly German and English.

Research project, that is part of my PhD thesis (Glass vessels from Old Town in Elblag, from 14th to mid-16th century, as an element of the Prussian Teutonic Order glasswork, writing under supervisory of Antiquity of Southeastern Europe Research Center University of Warsaw) covers provenance of vessels of glass fiber from Elblag, as well as origin of glass manufacture in Teutonic Order state. My current researches generate two possible sources of glass vessels from Elblag collection: Czech-Silesian or German region. The first possibility was analyzed and confirmed in my master thesis, while the latter one needs to be investigated more deeply. Not only forms of vessels (around 40% of whole Elblag set), but also construction of glass melting furnace (dating back to mid-14th) have clear connections to German glassmaking tradition. Lack of access to wide German-language literature in Polish libraries prevented confirmation or rejection of this hypothesis.

I consider that it's highly probable. My search in the library in Kiel and Schleswig would enable access to glass publications unavailable in Poland and would allow for a thorough recognize of the German glassmaking and to investigate it's relationship with the lands of the Teutonic Order. Elblag was an extremely important member of the Hanseatic League and maintained trade and political relations with other towns affiliated to the Association, among others, the German sites, for example – Kiel. As one of three so-called Prussian "Great Cities" had a very important role in both political (had a seat of National

Great Master until the transfer of the capital to the Malbork) as well as economic, trade controlled the Prussian Hanseatic towns. Research glass material from this resort are very valuable because of their basis it can take various types of economic and cultural analysis.

A very important element of the scholarship in Schleswig and Kiel would also be contact with German archaeologists dealing with the period of the Middle Ages who could direct my research on the origins of glassmaking Teutonic Order State. Extremely valuable it may be access to the results of analyzes of the chemical composition of glass vessels from German lands that can be compare with research from Elblag.