

## DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Europe, being divided into many countries in the Middle Ages, needed stable transregional currencies, which would facilitate travelling and saving. Small pennies of dukes, counts and barons, served as a currency only within narrow territories, and usually were replaced with new ones every few months or a few years, so they were not suitable for this purpose. To introduce an international currency in the era of metallic money was needed but rich deposits of silver. At the end of the 13th century such resources were discovered in the Czech Kingdom. King Wenceslas II of Bohemia and Poland brought Italian professionals who, using the experience of South and West European coinage, developed a new, strong currency named "a large penny" - *denaro grosso*, commonly known as groschen weighing initially approx. 4 g. As affiliated to the Prague weighing system, the new coin was called the Prague groschen, although it was struck in Kutná Hora, near the silver mines. Thanks to its long lasting issue and wide circulation area, Prague groschen changed monetary systems of East-Central Europe and became home currency in many countries. Their impact was visible in the economies of Hungary, Transylvania, Wallachia, Moldavia, Flanders, Holland and German countries as well. Bohemian currency has also played a significant role in the monetary economy of fourteenth-century Poland, where Casimir the Great introduced Krakow groschen (c.1360) with appearance and metrology referring to Prague groschen. During the 15th century, Prague groschen became the basis of Western-style currency over the large area of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

Groschen were commonly used for saving and hoarding. There are many hoards of Prague groschen from Poland, one of them was discovered in the Wałbrzych vicinity. Unfortunately, most of them rest on the shelves of museum storerooms and covering with dust, or even being shown at exhibitions without scientific study.

The aim of the study is to compose a full, bilingual monograph of the coin hoard and of items it was accompanied by. The monograph will consist of a complete catalogue of 1,385 coins with their legends and typological determination, analysis and reconstruction of the vessels in which they were stored, and description of the iron objects. The preliminary analysis of the hoard composition before treatment showed that we are dealing with a hoard consisting entirely of Prague groschen: of Charles IV (1346-1378) and Wenceslas IV (1378-1419). After the death of Wenceslas IV Prague groschen were still minted in his name but different from the earlier in small details. A full analysis, typological and metallurgical, will allow to compare coins struck during the rule of the king with the Hussite Wars issues. Seperate analysis of vessels will allow to identify a raw material composition, a method of their firing and to determine their dating, and then to verify the latter with a hypothesis as to the hiding time. A study on historical events taking place in the Duchy of Świdnica and Jawor since second half of the 14th to the middle of the 15th century, will allow the understanding of the historical context. All these elements, brought together and analyzed, will deliver justifiable conclusions as to the date of hoard hiding.

The planned publication will be one of the pioneering works on this subject in Poland. Both the size of the hoard, and the number of coin metal examinations, will be a unique project in Poland. Similar works are undertaken in Germany (the Erfurt hoard), Austria (the hoard from Fuchsenhof) and the Czech Republic (the Černožice, Hradec Králové and Tábor hoards).