

## DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC (IN ENGLISH)

The circumstances of the Piast state origin belong to one of the most debated topics in Polish historiography. The tenth century, in which Piasts create their sway, is not illuminated by written sources until its second half, the time of rule of Mieszko I. The weakness of the classical sources is aligned by archeology. One of the most important category of finds elucidating in various ways the activities of the first Piast are deposits, treasures ore consisting coins, ornaments and other silver objects found during excavation. Treasures are a phenomenon reflecting the processes in the communities of early medieval Europe, especially in Scandinavia and beyond: the British Isles, Eastern Europe and on the West Slavic areas in Polabia and Poland. Ore deposits are an extremely important source of knowledge about the past because they provide us information about far and near contact, show the degree of economic and social development. Numismatists are the most engaged in studying coins in deposits. Much less attention is paid to other items in the treasures, especially ornaments. It has to do with a lack of understanding of the important role of ornaments in the early societies, operating there in the spheres of religious beliefs, in demonstrations of social groups, especially the elite showing its unique status. The appearance of the treasures in Piasts' Poland from the 40s of the tenth century allows science to obtain unique knowledge. The presence of ornaments has long been observed, but the importance of this material for science has not been sufficiently recognized, nor by archaeologists or historians. It is an obvious mistake. The key is that the amount of silver ornaments in Polish treasures has no analogies throughout Europe. In Poland, the ornaments are the next except ceramic vessels, large category of finds from the first Piast state. Ornaments of Western Slavic type are also in treasures in Scandinavia. Researches on these finds will allow to understand the nature of the contacts between the Piast state and Sweden and will introduce the Slavic issues to global interest of Scandinavians and Vikings.