

Created by Piast Dynasty, Polish state was one of the latest formed in Central Europe, and at the same time one of the few of the Slavic states which surprisingly quickly took a very important place in the structures of politic and economic powers of the continent. The circumstances of the emergence of the first Piast state are covered with darkness because of the very limited amount of historical sources. In addition to the constantly repeated interpretations of information derived from German annals, we possess the archaeological material, without what our knowledge would be much poorer. Studies of settlements and ceramics completely dominated the research focused on first Piast state, while another category of very copious objects - silver treasures consisting of coins and jewelry had been previously only unilaterally studied by numismatists. Another type of treasures, extremely rich and varied, is jewelry, mainly of Western Slavic provenance that has attracted the attention of researchers only to a limited extent. It is a wrong approach probably resulting from the recognition of jewelry as irrelevant objects, thought having admittedly economic significance but being for science not interesting as a subject of investigation. In fact this jewelry allows us to obtain knowledge about general ideology in the early societies, and also formerly recognized concepts of religion and magic, extent and type of the contacts with other early medieval countries. Resent study on Viking jewelry treasures from Scandinavia showed how a lot of knowledge about the whole era can be gathered by the study on such material source. Our goal is to perform similar studies. The first step will be to technological study of the West Slavic jewelry with distinctive decoration made of granulation (small globules) and filigree (fine wire). One of the most important technologies to investigate is a way of fixing all these elements. Preliminary studies have shown that the Slavic goldsmiths used the special bonding process (called by different authors as a Gold-adhesive, chemical solder, colloidal soldering), which belonged to one of the oldest technological achievements of mankind. Analyses using modern methods reveal composition and functions of that specific joint. Research on jewelry allow to introduction the Slavic tradition to the art history and material culture of Europe. This tradition until now has not been presented to the world science due to the lack of relevant studies.