

The study of the origins of the Polish state allows for a deeper understanding of the foundations of its political, economic, and social structures, which shaped the nation's identity. The management of metals such as silver, lead, and tin played a crucial role in building the power of the Piast state, influencing its economy, trade, and military capabilities.

The aim of the project “*Silvershade dawn. Bullion economy of the Piast state*” is to find out where the silver, lead and tin used in Poland in the early Middle Ages came from. Silver was particularly important because it was used not only to make coins but also to make ornaments. So, whoever had the silver had the power.

From the 10<sup>th</sup> century, the Piast dynasty pursued a monetary policy closely linked to the redistribution of goods - silver. Its origins in this period are unclear. On the one hand, the inflow of silver should be linked to the exchange of goods exported from Polish lands and, on the other, to the extraction of silver from domestic deposits. Information from written sources or research on the diversity of ornaments and coins provide only limited information in this respect. The same applies to lead and tin, which were important elements of the early medieval economy, especially in trade. These metals were used to make ornaments, seals and even church roof tiles. The symbolic and even magical value of silver and, to a lesser extent, tin and lead should also be emphasized. In many cases, lead products were a cheaper substitute for silver, which most people did not use on a daily basis because it was reserved for the elite.

The knowledge of the early medieval origin of silver, lead and tin, supplemented by the analysis of the find using modern and pioneering techniques, in particular the study of silver, lead and tin isotopes, will make it possible to determine their origin. To this end, a package of archaeometric tests will be carried out, including geological and geochemical analyses of samples taken from potential deposits of the ores in question, isotopic tests and the determination of the chemical composition of silver coins, ornaments and other artifacts made of silver, lead and tin alloys. The knowledge gained in this way will be complemented by archaeological and historical analyses, which will undoubtedly enrich the project and make it more attractive.

By studying the find using modern techniques, we can learn more about the origin of silver, lead and tin. To find out more, we will do some tests. These will include looking at samples from places where the ores might have been found, testing the ores for isotopes, and testing coins and decorations made from silver, lead and tin. We will also do some historical and archaeological research. This will help us to understand more about the bullion and how they were used.

The implementation of the project will undoubtedly have a significant impact on expanding the current knowledge about the origin of silver and the circulation of bullion and objects made from them in the early Polish economy.