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*Seals from Drohiczyn in the collections of Polish museums*

The PhD dissertation deals with lead seals of the Drohiczyn type, which are found in the collections of Polish museums. These relics are objects of small size, made of irregular pieces of lead, on which various kinds of images were imprinted. When the sealing device was tightened, the lead bearing the mark and the string wrapped around the valuable object formed a whole, informing the owner of, for example, a bundle of animal skins or a bale of cloth. The sealed goods were thus secured an intact seal testified to their integrity. The seals developed in the dissertation were used primarily in the 12th-13th centuries. The relics of interest were first encountered in 1864 in Drohiczyn in Podlasie. In later years, these objects were discovered in other centers of Kievan Rus. Currently, their number is estimated at about 30000 specimens.

In the study I took into account the relics stored in the National Museum in Cracow, the Archaeological Museum in Cracow, the Archaeological and Ethnographic Museum in Łódź, the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw, the National Museum in Warsaw, the Podlasie Museum in Białystok and the Regional Museum in Drohiczyn.

The dissertation consists of eleven chapters, and a bibliography. An integral part of the work is the Catalog included in a separate volume. The catalog includes information on 2699 seals. The catalog is in the form of a table with continuous numbering. The first chapter is in the nature of an introduction to the issue of Drohiczyn seals as the subject of the dissertation. The second chapter briefly presents the history of Drohiczyn, its importance in economic, administrative and political terms. The era of the city's splendor and the times when it was losing its importance are presented. The next, third chapter is devoted to the technology of production of Drohiczyn seals. The method of their manufacture is discussed, and at the same time the factors influencing their appearance and state of preservation today are presented. The fourth chapter contains a discussion of issues related to seal marks in medieval Europe. It presents the geographical and cultural variation in the use of seals and discusses the raw materials used in their production. The next part of the dissertation presents the history of research on seals of the Drohiczyn type. The results of the inquiries of the pioneers of the study of this category of objects and the achievements of subsequent generations of scholars are presented. The state of the source base constituting the basis of this work is discussed in chapter six. Two subchapters (VI.1. and VI.2.) present Drohiczyn type seals found in Polish museum

collections, which were often previously part of private collections, as well as relics obtained during archaeological excavations. The seventh chapter is devoted to the issue of the use of metal detectors, the use of which carries a number of benefits, but also risks. The next, and perhaps most important, eighth chapter contains an analysis of the source base. The principles of classification of representations appearing on seals and the basis for creating particular types based on their combinations are discussed in subchapter VIII.1, while subchapter VIII.2 covers the characteristics of individual groups of imagery. A total of seven groups are distinguished, including seals with so-called princely signs, with anthropo- and zoomorphic representations, with alphabetical signs, etc. Subchapter VIII.2. also contains comments on the combinations of the listed representations. Subchapter VIII.3. includes considerations on the chronology of the Drohiczyn seal type. The vast majority of the specimens analyzed in this work are loose finds, devoid of context, so their dating by archaeological methods is impossible. Nevertheless, analysis of the representations appearing on the seals, especially the Cyrillic alphabet signs, allows us to formulate some hypotheses about the chronology. Subchapter VIII.4 considers the spread of the Drohiczyn type seal. Chapter nine presents the problem of the origin of the lead raw material. This issue is particularly interesting if we take into account the fact that at the time when Drohiczyn type seals were widely used, lead ore reduction was not carried out in Russia. The tenth chapter is devoted to a consideration of the function of Drohiczyn type seals, their place in the economic and social life of Kyiv Rus and its borderlands. The last, eleventh chapter contains a summary of considerations on seals and research postulates.