

Jacek Błaszczyk

**MICRO-REGIONAL CULTURAL RELATIONS IN
THE EARLY IRON AGE ON THE EXAMPLE OF CEMETERY
FROM WILKOWICE AND WIERZBOWA IN CENTRAL POLAND**

This study aims to compare the neighbouring burial grounds of the Lusatian and Pomeranian cultures, located in Wilkowice (sites 1 and 2) and Wierzbowa (site 1), all within Poddębice County.

The whole area of the Lusatian burial grounds was examined, revealing 148 and 213 graves in Wilkowice and Wierzbowa, respectively. In contrast, the Pomeranian burial grounds were excavated only partially, exposing 50 graves in Wilkowice and 47 in Wierzbowa.

In the Lusatian burial ground in Wilkowice, which dates to the HaD period (6th and mid-7th centuries BCE), most graves were covered by stone cobbles. In addition to urns, they also contained numerous other artefacts, including bronze and iron ornaments, whetstones, and iron knives and spears.

Meanwhile, in the Lusatian burial ground in Wierzbowa, which dates to the late HaC and HaD periods (6th and 7th centuries BCE), most graves had no stone surrounds. Next to and inside the urns, several artefacts were found, including miniature vessels and bronze ornaments (broken or melted).

In the Pomeranian burial grounds (the LtA phase of the late pre-Roman period), the graves did not form clusters. In Wilkowice, single-box graves or graves without urns were more common, while in Wierzbowa, there were more multi-box graves. In both burial grounds, graves were discovered in which hardpan was deliberately placed.

The analysis proved that during the HaD period, there were two coexisting populations that used different customs in the construction and furnishing of graves, while during the LtA phase, the customs of the two populations were similar.