

## Opava and its Position on the Medieval Route between Moravia and Prussia According to the Archaeological Sources \*

Petr Chlebec

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Between Moravia and Prussia there was an important medieval route passing through the economic and political centres (Olomouc, Opava, Raciborz, Krakow and Torun). A very important medieval route existed between Moravia and Prussia, connecting the economic and political centres (Olomouc, Opava, Raciborz, Krakow and Torun). Situation on this road made it possible to research the continuous material and ideological transfer, the existence of which is evident from the archaeological finds in Opava region. We have compiled three thematic groups of artefacts which include utility ceramics, numismatic material, and sacral artefacts used by pilgrims. Within the identified system, various groups of travellers including merchants, artisans, diplomats and pilgrims can be detected.

Key words: Opava region. Cultural transfer. Archaeology. Middle Ages. Road network.

Moravia and Prussia have always been connected by a road, better known as Amber Route, named after the luxurious article that was transported from the coast of the Baltic Sea to the Mediterranean. One of the major changes of landscape around the road occurred in the 13<sup>th</sup> century when cities started to grow as centres of trade and crafts, regulating the communication network in their surroundings. The city of Opava, founded at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century at the place of an older settlement on the right bank of the Opava river, ranked among these centres. In the course of a single century the city managed to dominate the whole region, which has been known as Opavsko since the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century. Subsequently, the city became a centre of a communication network, through which it was connected with the east-west route known as „Hohe Strasse“ (through Leipzig, Gorlitz, Wroclaw and Krakow), and north-south route (through Olomouc or Uherské Hradiště, Opava, Krakow or Opole and Torun).

It is impossible to track the exact network of roads within such a large area, mainly because of the lack of dependable sources. Nevertheless, the research of Janina Nowakowa, who studied the course of roads in Silesia on the basis of the location of customs stations (by which she indirectly confirmed the existence of this continuous connection), can serve as a certain type of guide.<sup>1</sup> We can also track the users of the route, as they were the actual creators of the route, instead of the actual route. Based on the written sources available, the route was mapped e. g. by Martin Čapský, Dalibor Prix or Martin Wihoda, all of whom researched the movement of Opava merchants between Olomouc, Krakow or Wroclaw.<sup>2</sup> In

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1 NOWAKOVA, Janina. *Rozmieszczenie komór celnych i przebieg dróg handlowych na Śląsku do końca XIV wieku*. Wrocław : Nakładem Wrocławskiego Towarzystwa Naukowego, 1951, 226 p.

2 ČAPSKÝ, Martin. *Hospodářský obraz Moravsko-Slezského pomezí v době vlády Jana Lucemburského*. In: *Král, který létal. Moravsko-slezské pomezí v kontextu středoevropského prostoru doby Jana Lucemburského*. Ostrava : Ostravské muzeum, 2011, pp. 301-312. KOUŘIL, Pavel – PRIX, Dalibor – WIHODA, Martin. *Hrady českého Slezska*. Brno-Opava : Archeologický ústav AVČR, 2000, 645 p.

his yet unsurpassed book „Čechy a Prusy ve středověku“, Jaroslav Goll outlines the main groups of travellers that included merchants, artisans and pilgrims.<sup>3</sup>

Lack of archaeological works that could enrich our image of roads network in the Opava region and the connection of the city of Opava with the surrounding political and economic centres is apparent from the aforementioned literary sources. The only exception is the work of Zdeněk Měřinský who pointed out the long-term character of the roads in the Moravia and Opava regions based on the relevant interdisciplinary research methods. However, he did not study the individual travellers who were the direct bearers of the ideological and material transfer.<sup>4</sup>

When researching the material culture we also encounter the problem of diversity of artefacts and objects on which many authors have found traces of local and foreign cultural influences. Therefore, we have focused primarily on the artefacts that meet the criterion of frequency and simple recognisability. As a result, we have divided artefacts into three groups. The first group consists mainly of ceramic vessels and commercial goods which were successfully distinguished by the archaeologists based on their relevant manufacture circuits and imported cultural influences, which were usually associated with the effects of economic and political transformations in Central Europe. The second group consists of numismatic material (single coins and depots) that should be easily recognized by the place of its origin. As a third group we researched the artefacts associated with the pilgrimages which we have found in the researched area.

The chronological outline is formed by the actual basis of sources, which comprises mainly the secondary literary sources. The most important sources are the researches of medieval archaeologists who studied the transformation of material culture between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century. The most important change occurs at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century when new cities were formed, changing the nature of craft production and business activities in the regions. Beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century is the period marked by further significant changes on the north-south route; therefore we have determined it as a boundary point of our work.

Due to the lack of available archaeological resources it is not possible to focus just on the area of the city of Opava, but the scope needs to be widened onto the entire Opava region. During the Early Middle Ages and until the 13<sup>th</sup> century ceramics with addition of graphite were produced here, similar to that produced in Olomouc,<sup>5</sup> but these traditions have survived here for longer period of time especially in Hlubčice and Raciborz region. Archaeologists managed to distinguish several developmental phases in the area of Opava and in several places in the region (see map). The earliest phase of ceramics with addition of graphite was found in a settlement area with pole constructions in Opava-Katerinky, which Jiří Juchelka determined to date back to the Early Middle Ages.<sup>6</sup>

The typical artefacts with addition of graphite dating back to the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> and the early 13<sup>th</sup> century were found mainly in the area of Opava, where the older settlement near the ford across the river Opava was built after Premyslids dynasty gained ground of

3 GOLL, Jaroslav. *Čechy a Prusy ve středověku*. Praha : Bursík a Kohout, 1897, 314 p.

4 MĚŘINSKÝ, Zdeněk. Středověké cesty na Moravě a ve Slezsku. In: MĚŘINSKÝ, Zdeněk (Ed.). *Morava ve středověku*. Brno : Moravské zemské muzeum, 1999, pp.125-131.

5 BLÁHA, Josef. Otázka kontinuity slovanského osídlení Olomouckého kopce a několik poznámek k hmotné kultuře olomouckých Slovanů. In: *Vlastivědný věstník moravský*, 1980, vol. 32, no. 3, pp. 301-311.

6 JUCHELKA, Jiří. Objekt z pozdní doby hradištní v Opavě-Kateřinkách. In: *Badania archeologiczne na Górnym Śląsku i ziemiach pogranicznych w latach 2007 – 2008*. Katowice : Śląskie Centrum Dziedzictwa Kulturoweg, 2010, pp. 109-112.

the Holasicko region. During the 13<sup>th</sup> century, after the new city was founded, the earlier tradition of ceramics manufacturing was replaced by a new ceramics of better quality, as was the case also in the cities of Olomouc, Opole, Krakow and Torun.

In 1967, research project of Vlasta Šikulová conducted in Janáčkovy sady next to the local archive led to the archaeological find which made it possible to demonstrate this transformation of material culture in the Middle Ages. She uncovered two pits with integral collections of ceramics. Šikulová dated older collection of artefacts, represented by integrated ceramics with addition of graphite, to the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> and the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. The pit no. 2 consisted mainly of shards of gray with a silver sheen and with thick corrugation, representing the characteristics archaeologists usually link to the late 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>7</sup>

A similar situation representing the technological transformation of the late 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century is mapped in another work by Vlasta Šikulová, mainly in her archaeological research of the area of the Dominican monastery and the Náměstí 1. Máje square (now Horní náměstí square) in Opava<sup>8</sup> or by the church of St. Wenceslas in Ostrava.<sup>9</sup> From later research studies, archaeological research by Hana Teryngerová and Pavel Kouřil on Ostrožná street in Opava should be mentioned.<sup>10</sup>

An older tradition of graphite vessels in the form of thick-walled storage containers, similar to the finds from Olomouc, was discovered here. The ceramics were found not only in the excavations in Janáčkovy sady,<sup>11</sup> but also on the street Mezi trhy, where a waste pit containing several complete vessels dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century was uncovered.<sup>12</sup>

The older tradition of manufacturing ceramics with addition of graphite appeared in Raciborz and Hlubčice region throughout the Middle Ages. Paweł Rzeźnik has pointed out this common cultural area, using the example of decoration of ceramic vessels. In his work, the area includes the cities of Opava, Opole, Cieszyn, Raciborz and Hlubčice and it outlined integral manufacture circuit.<sup>13</sup>

It certainly would not be a mistake to determine the eastern boundary of the manufacture circuit in the area along the border of Silesia and Malopolske Voivodship, which was in the sphere of influence of Krakow. Here domestic manufacture of ceramics from ferruginous potter's clay, which were of brick red colour after burning, has dominated. Alina Wałowy found the proof of transformation of this old manufacture tradition, in which graphite was used as a non-plastic material, in Krakow. Like in the previous manufacture circuits centred in Olomouc and Opava, she determined this turning point in the manufacturing

7 ŠIKULOVÁ, Vlasta. Záchrané akce v areálu středověké Opavy. In: *Přehledy výzkumů 1967*. Brno : Archeologický ústav ČSAV, 1968, pp. 107-108.

8 ŠIKULOVÁ, V. *Záchrané akce 1967...*, pp. 108-110. ŠIKULOVÁ, Vlasta. Pokračování záchraných akcí v areálu středověké Opavy (okr. Opava). In: *Přehledy výzkumů 1970*. Brno : Archeologický ústav ČSAV, 1971, pp. 69-74. ŠIKULOVÁ, Vlasta. Záchrané akce v areálu středověké Opavy (okr. Opava). In: *Přehledy výzkumů 1971*. Brno : Archeologický ústav ČSAV, 1972, pp. 121-123.

9 ŠIKULOVÁ, Vlasta. Pokračování výzkumu v kostele sv. Václava v Ostravě. In: *Přehledy výzkumů 1968*. Brno : Archeologický ústav ČSAV, 1970, p. 57.

10 KOUŘIL, Pavel – TERYNGEROVÁ, Hana. Středověký poutní odznak z historického jádra města Opavy. In: BUŠKO, Cezary et al. *Civitas & villa. Miasto i wieś w średniowiecznej Europie środkowej*. Wrocław - Praha : Instytut Archeologii i Etnologii Polskiej akademii nauk - Archeologický ústav AV ČR, 2002, pp. 227-233.

11 ŠIKULOVÁ, V. *Záchrané akce 1967...*, pp. 107-108.

12 KIECOŇ, Marek – KOLÁŘ, František. Opava (k. ú. Opava-město, okr. Opava). In: *Přehledy výzkumů 50*. Brno : Archeologický ústav AV ČR, 2009, pp. 420-422.

13 RZEŹNIK, Paweł. Ślad oddziaływań garncarstwa morawskiego na ceramikę średniowiecznego Śląska u progu i w czasie lokacyjnych przemian osadniczych. In: BUŠKO, C. et al. *Civitas & villa...*, pp. 439-446.

to occur at the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when the occurrence of graphite ceramics artefacts in the collection of findings dropped to 1%. Most of the high and late medieval pottery with an addition of graphite from Krakow came from Silesia and Moravia according to the author.<sup>14</sup>

Vladimír Goš includes the whole ceramics collection with addition of graphite to the „North Moravian Manufacture Circuit“. During the research in Šumperk he identified the pots with ledge lip made from potter's clay with addition of graphite and of greyish-brown colour.<sup>15</sup> He also found an analogous collection of ceramic vessels in Nový hrad near Kopřivnice, where he found several lead glazed vessels.<sup>16</sup> Paweł Rzeźnik identified similar collection of artefacts, which he dated back to 14<sup>th</sup> century, similar to the one found in Šumperk.<sup>17</sup>

Another interesting collection of artefacts has been found in the small castle called Rýmařov, near Šternberk. This castle held a mixed collection of ceramic artefacts, including distinguishable ceramic vessels from „Olomouc Manufacture Circuit“ with a typical red painted pottery blending and artefacts from „North Moravian Manufacture Circuit“. We can assume that the border between the two manufacture circuits went through the Jeseniky Mountains near Rýmařov. This border probably also represented the line of economical influence of the cities of Olomouc and Opava.<sup>18</sup>

Cultural and material influence of Opava on the way to a Hlubčice and Raciborz was documented on the basis of material culture from Oldřišov, which was researched by Michal Zezula and Tereza Krasnokutská. They found several vessels with addition of graphite, which were dated based on analogy with the Opava finds to the turn of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century, and reduction fired pottery from the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>19</sup> Younger reduction fired ceramics from the 15<sup>th</sup> century was also found in the castle of Sovinec, yet this find does not bear comparison with any of other artefacts from the region.<sup>20</sup>

Glazed ceramics fall under a specific category in archaeological research in the Opava region. Vlasta Šikulová has estimated the number of these artefacts found in Opava at 800 pieces, mostly fragments. Putting aside the older tradition of green glazing, which appears

14 WAŁOWY, Alina. Późnośredniowieczne garncarstwo krakowskie w świetle źródeł archeologicznych. In: *Materiały archeologiczne*, 1979, vol. XIX, pp. 5-151.

15 GOŠ, Vladimír. Šumperk (okr. Šumperk). In: *Přehledy výzkumů 1993 – 1994*. Brno : Archeologický ústav AV ČR, 1997, pp. 443-445. ŠIKULOVÁ, V. *Záchranné akce 1967...*, pp. 108-110.

16 GOŠ, Vladimír. Kopřivná (okr. Šumperk). In: *Přehledy výzkumů 43*. Brno : Archeologický ústav AV ČR, 2002, pp. 260-261.

17 KOZŁOWSKA, Krystyna. Sprawozdanie z ratowniczych badań wykopaliskowych na Rynku w Raciborzu, województwo katowickie. In: *Badania archeologiczne na Górnym Śląsku i ziemiach pogranicznych w 1996 roku*. Katowice : Centrum Dziedzictwa Kulturowego Górnego Śląska, 2000, pp. 147-151.

18 NOVÁK, Jaromír – KAREL, Jiří. Rýmařov-Hrádek (okr. Bruntál). In: *Přehledy výzkumů 1971*. Brno : Archeologický ústav ČSAV, 1972, pp. 103-105. NOVÁK, Jaromír – KAREL, Jiří. Rýmařov-Hrádek (okr. Bruntál). In: *Přehledy výzkumů 1972*. Brno : Archeologický ústav ČSAV, 1973, pp. 76-78. NOVÁK, Jaromír – KAREL, Jiří. Zaniklé středověké sídliště v Rýmařově (okr. Bruntál). In: *Přehledy výzkumů 1974*. Brno : Archeologický ústav ČSAV, 1975, pp. 85-86. NOVÁK, Jaromír – KAREL, Jiří. Zaniklé středověké sídliště (okr. Bruntál). In: *Přehledy výzkumů 1976*. Brno : Archeologický ústav ČSAV, 1978, p. 93.

19 KRASNOKUTSKÁ, Tereza – ZEŽULA, Michal. Oldřišov (okr. Opava). In: *Přehledy výzkumů 48*. Brno : Archeologický ústav AV ČR, 2007, pp. 488-489. For more information on reduction burning in pottery see: CHUDZIAKOWA, Jadwiga. Średniowieczny Toruń (w świetle źródeł archeologicznych). In: *Historia Torunia*, 1999, tom. 1, pp. 58-99. POLIŃSKI, Dariusz. Przemiany w wytwórczości garncarskiej na ziemi chełmińskiej u schyłku wczesnego i na początku późnego średniowiecza. In: *Archaeologia historica polona*, 1996, tom. 4, pp. 187-222.

20 KOHOUTEK, Jiří. První etapa výzkumu v areálu hradu Sovince (okr. Bruntál). In: *Přehledy výzkumů 1991*. Brno : Archeologický ústav AV ČR, 1993, p. 90.

in Opava in the 13<sup>th</sup> century (artefacts from Ostrožná street and Masařská street),<sup>21</sup> we are left with a collection of artefacts glazed with red to brownish-red glaze. The manufacturing centre was located in the area of the Dominican monastery. Artisans, who probably came with the Dominicans to the city in the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, could skilfully use the technique of red glazing, with the tradition surviving there until the Late Middle Ages.<sup>22</sup> However, it seems that the technique did not expand into the surrounding area. The tradition of green glazed pottery in the Opava region expanded with the increasing lead-mining activities in the region and the economic growth of the city. Merchants from Opava travelled to Krakow, where glazed pottery existed in the 11<sup>th</sup> century and where, according to the relevant finds, the predominantly green and translucent glaze pottery comprised some 30 – 40 % of ceramics in the 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>23</sup>

A glazed pitcher decorated under the mouth with masks alternating with motifs of a rider and a bird, chronologically dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century, could be seen as an interesting artefact from Opava, connecting the city with the northern areas (for example the city of Raciborz) in terms of material culture.<sup>24</sup> Pavel Kouřil already hinted of such possibility of material and ideological import in case of a pitcher decorated by series of masks under the mouth, which was found in Opava as well.<sup>25</sup> Another glazed pitcher decorated with impressed motifs of a deer with rosettes in between them was found in Raciborz-Rzeźnicza street. Krystyna Kozłowska dated it to the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century and assumed its origins to be in Moravia or in Germany.<sup>26</sup> From Germany, it could have been transported along the „Hohe Strasse“, which led through Raciborz and Krakow. Activities of the merchants on the east-west road confirms also a unique artefact from Raciborz-Stare Miasto, dating back to the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century. It was a small zoomorphic vessel glazed with green glaze. Analogous vessels, known as „Lavabokessel“, were found in the Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany.<sup>27</sup> Somewhere near Raciborz, the ideological and material transfer allowed for by merchants and craftsmen on the „Hohe Strasse“ route has probably veered towards the south through Opava to Olomouc. This argument is based on the origins of the objects found as well as the relatively short time

21 TERYNGEROVÁ, Hana. Opava (okr. Opava). In: *Přehledy výzkumů 39 (1995 – 1996)*. Brno : Archeologický ústav AV ČR, 1999, pp. 447-448. KOUŘIL, P. – TERYNGEROVÁ, H. *Středověký poutní odznak...*, pp. 227-233.

22 ŠIKULOVÁ, V. *Záchranné akce 1967...*, pp. 108-110. ŠIKULOVÁ, V. *Pokračování záchranných akcí 1970...*, pp. 69-80. ŠIKULOVÁ, Vlasta. Záchranný výzkum v bývalém dominikánském kostele sv. Václava v Opavě (okr. Opava). In: *Přehledy výzkumů 1987*. Brno : Archeologický ústav ČSAV, 1990, pp. 76-78. ŠIKULOVÁ, Vlasta. Středověká polévaná keramika z Opavy. In: *Archaeologia historica*, 1985, vol. 10, pp. 230-233.

23 For more information on the links between lead mining and lead glazing see: AUCH, Michal. Wczesnośredniowieczne naczynia szklawione z terenu zachodniej Małopolski. In: *Archeologia Polski LVII*, 2012, Zeszyt 1-2, pp. 199-246. WAŁOWY, Alina. Ratownicze badania na terenie arsenału w Krakowie. In: *Materiały archeologiczne*, 1996, tom. XXIX, pp. 39-62.

24 ŠIKULOVÁ, V. *Záchranné akce 1971...*, pp. 121-123.

25 KOUŘIL, Pavel. Středověká kolonizace na severovýchodní Moravě a ve Slezsku a její odraz v archeologických pramenech. In: *Archaeologia historica*. Brno – Levoča : Muzejní a vlastivědná společnost v Brně – Spišský dejepisný spolok v Levoči, 1993, pp. 141-150.

26 KOZŁOWSKA, Krystyna. Sprawozdanie z ratowniczych badań archeologicznych przy ulicy Rzeźniczej w Raciborzu, województwo katowickie. In: *Badania archeologiczne na Górnym Śląsku i ziemiach pogranicznych w 1995 roku*. Katowice : Centrum Dziedzictwa Kulturowego Górnego Śląska, 1998, pp. 102-107.

27 TURAKIEWICZ, Romuald. Ratownicze badania na Starym mieście w Raciborzu, województwo śląskie. In: *Badania archeologiczne na Górnym Śląsku i ziemiach pogranicznych w latach 2007 – 2008*. Katowice : Śląskie Centrum Dziedzictwa Kulturowego, 2010, pp. 142-156.

span of their production, as dated by experts, which indicates the growing intensity of trade contacts in the focus area in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>28</sup>

Ceramics typical for the Loštice area (luxury beaker) was spreading from the south through the Šumperk and Opava regions to Raciborz from in the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century. At that time urban agglomerations were formed on the basis of the German or Magdeburg law and their economic position in the region strengthened. Earliest findings reported in literature date back to the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century (for example castle in Bruntál and Raciborz-Rzeźnicza street).<sup>29</sup> The other later artefacts from the 15<sup>th</sup> century originated in this region, too – e. g. one small beaker with handles around the circumference.<sup>30</sup> Import of Loštice beakers also appears of course in „Olomouc Manufacture Circuit“ and in Malopolskie region, especially in Krakow.<sup>31</sup>

In the second part of our article we would like to focus on numismatic material, in case of which it is impossible to distinguish various cultural influences using the researched sources, but the provenance of which is easier to document. These artefacts can be seen as direct proofs of business transactions. The most frequent and most widely discussed collections of artefacts are the so-called depots. It is still not known whether they were money stash relics of merchants or robbers or just represented a storage space within settlements.

Coins of domestic provenance were found in all examined areas on the road between Moravia and Prussia. In Opava region, overlapping to Ostrava, the findings included also the 15<sup>th</sup> century hellers from the Opava and Raciborz area, which were uncovered in the Dominican monastery in Opava<sup>32</sup> and in the Kostelní street in Ostrava.<sup>33</sup> Discovery of the coin in Ostrava was, similarly to the finding on the Dómske návrší hill in Olomouc, a part of sepulchral paraphernalia dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In the collection of artefacts there were also two Gdansk denari of Sigismund III (1590) and one pfennig of Otto von Kyrburk (1548 – 1607) as obolus of the dead. According to Vlasta Šikulová, this tradition of coins to pay Charon re-appeared in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>34</sup>

Individual coins found on the Dolní náměstí location in the ramp of the house from the Early Modern Period, originating in Germany and Swidnice, could serve as a proof of business connections of Opava and its links with the „Hohe Strasse“ route.<sup>35</sup> Evidence of

28 For more informations on the transportation of goods from Germany along the „Hohe Strasse“ route through the Opava region to Moravia see: BLÁHA, Josef. Komunikace, topografie a importy ve středověku a raném novověku (7. – 17. století) na území města Olomouce. In: *Archaeologia historica*, 1998, vol. 23, pp. 133-157. BLÁHA, Josef – DROBNÝ, Tomáš. Olomouc (okr. Olomouc). In: *Přehledy výzkumů 1993 – 1994*. Brno : Archeologický ústav AV ČR, 1997, pp. 222-223.

29 BŘÍZA, Svatopluk. Záchraný výzkum Bruntál – zámek 1976 (okr. Bruntál). In: *Přehledy výzkumů 1976*. Brno : Archeologický ústav ČSAV, 1978, p. 111. KOURIL, Pavel. Středověké nálezy ze zámku Bruntál (okr. Bruntál). In: *Přehledy výzkumů 1979*. Brno : Archeologický ústav ČSAV, 1981, p. 48. KOZŁOWSKA, Krystyna – TURAKIEWICZ, Romuald. Sprawozdanie z ratowniczych badań wykopaliskowych średniowiecznych działek mieszczańskich przy ul. Rzeźniczej 8 w Raciborzu, województwo Śląskie. In: *Badania archeologiczne na Górnym Śląsku i ziemiach pogranicznych w latach 2003 – 2004*. Katowice : Śląskie Centrum Dziedzictwa Kulturowego, 2006, pp. 166-172.

30 GOŠ, V. Šumperk..., pp. 443-445.

31 GOŠ, Vladimír. *Loštice : Město středověkých hrnčírů*. Opava : Slezská univerzita v Opavě, 2007, 126 p.

32 ŠIKULOVÁ, Vlasta. Pokračování výzkumu dominikánského kláštera v Opavě (okr. Opava). In: *Přehledy výzkumů 1976*. Brno : Archeologický ústav ČSAV, 1978, pp. 87-88.

33 ŠIKULOVÁ, Vlasta. Předběžná zpráva o výzkumu v kostele sv. Václava v Ostravě. In: *Přehledy výzkumů 1967*. Brno : Archeologický ústav ČSAV, 1968, pp. 101-102.

34 ŠIKULOVÁ, V. *Předběžná zpráva...*, p. 102.

35 TERYNGEROVÁ, H. *Opava...*, p. 449.

the transfer of capital at this long distance route was discovered also at the Chudow castle, where over 100 coins were found, among which bracteates from Swidnice and Opole from the period of Nicholas I. from Opole (2nd half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century) were also recognized.<sup>36</sup>

Interconnectedness of the cities in Lower Silesia with areas in the Opava region continued even in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, as another large depot from that time was found in Baborów. In the ceramic vessels found there were mostly filled by coins of Wrocław and Swidnice mintage.<sup>37</sup>

The findings likely to document the transportation of capital from Olomouc northwards within the scope of business or diplomatic routes rank among the most numerous of the researched collection of coins. This refers to the two depots of Prague groschen dating back to the reign of Charles IV. and Wenceslas IV., stored in a cup, which were found in Dalov. Both depots contained a total of 1072 coins, with the majority dating back to the period of Wenceslas IV.<sup>38</sup> Archaeologists discovered the third older depot of bracteates from the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, stored in a jug, in the area of the Rešov castle ruins (3 km southwest of Rýmařov).<sup>39</sup> The coins could be seen as the proof of existence of the northern route leading to Rýmařov or Bruntál, yet the depot could also serve as a storage space for larger sums. Still, the above mentioned jug is a better proof of the local contacts of the castle, as similar vessels were found by Vlasta Šikulová in the area of Dominican monastery in Opava.<sup>40</sup>

Economic and political influence of Czech monarchs in Upper Silesia is evident from the numismatic material found in Niemodlin (west of Opole) and Raciborz, where other depots containing Prague groschen were discovered.<sup>41</sup> Other coins were picked up during archaeological researches in Raciborz-Stare Miasto and Raciborz-Ostrog, including coins from the period of reign of Wenceslas II., Charles IV. and Ferdinand I.<sup>42</sup> The single silver denar coin found in Olomouc, dated by archaeologists to the 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century, is the only direct proof of contacts between Olomouc and Raciborz.<sup>43</sup> However, it is still necessary to keep in mind the ambiguity of coin findings, which, even though they document business

36 TARASIŃSKI, Arkadiusz – NOCŮN, Przemysław. Badania na zamku w Chudowie, województwo śląskie. In: *Badania archeologiczne na Górnym Śląsku i ziemiach pogranicznych w latach 2005 – 2006*. Katowice : Śląskie Centrum Dziedzictwa Kulturowego, 2007, pp. 192-199.

37 SPYCHAŁA, Krzysztof – KUBÓW, Piotr. Niemodlin, gm. loco, Stan B. In: *Opolski Informator Konserwatorski*, 1983, no. 2, pp. 76-79. MACEWICZ, Klemens – WUSZKAN, Sylwia. Baborów, gm. loco, ul. Głubczycka. In: *Opolski Informator Konserwatorski*, 1987/1988, no. 5, pp. 6-9.

38 BURIAN, Václav. Nálezy středověké keramiky datované mincemi z Dalova (okr. Olomouc). In: *Přehledy výzkumů 1968*. Brno : Archeologický ústav ČSAV, 1970, pp. 60-61.

39 PLAČEK, Miroslav. Povrchový průzkum hrádku u Rešova a revize Strálku, k. ú. Ondřejov (okr. Bruntál). In: *Přehledy výzkumů 1985*. Brno : Archeologický ústav ČSAV, 1987, p. 55.

40 ŠIKULOVÁ, V. *Středověká polévaná keramika...*, pp. 230-233.

41 KOZŁOWSKA, Krystyna. Skarb srebrnych groszy praskich z Raciborza-Ostroga, województwo katowickie. In: *Badania archeologiczne na Górnym Śląsku i ziemiach pogranicznych w latach 1991 – 1992*. Katowice : Centrum Dziedzictwa Kulturowego Górnego Śląska, 1994, pp. 108-109.

42 NEJOWA, Helena. Sprawozdanie z badań w Raciborzu na Ostrogu w latach 1961 – 1962 prowadzonych przez Muzeum w Raciborzu. In: *Badania archeologiczne na Górnym Śląsku i ziemiach pogranicznych w latach 1961–1962*. Katowice : Śląskie Centrum Dziedzictwa Kulturowego, 1964, pp. 39-42. KOZŁOWSKA, K. *Sprawozdanie z ratowniczych badań wykopaliskowych 1996...*, pp. 146-150. KOZŁOWSKA, Krystyna. *Sprawozdanie z ratowniczych badań wykopaliskowych na rynku w Raciborzu, województwo katowickie*. In: *Badania archeologiczne na Górnym Śląsku i ziemiach pogranicznych w 1997 roku*. Katowice : Centrum Dziedzictwa Kulturowego Górnego Śląska, 2000, pp. 184-191. TURAKIEWICZ, R. *Ratownicze badania...*, pp. 142-156.

43 TURAKIEWICZ, R. *Ratownicze badania...*, pp. 142-156.

activities, do not indicate the exact road they have travelled before being deposited at the place of their finding.

At the end of our journey we would like to focus on the group of people who used the route for religious purposes, pilgrimages. They left a scarce, yet easily distinguishable trace in the form of pilgrim badges and material of sacred significance. The place of origin is known for most of the discovered artefacts, which were easily localized by the researchers amongst many analogous artefacts from all over Europe. Tomáš Velímský already wrote a summary of medieval pilgrim badges found in the Czech Republic. He noted the high concentration of pilgrim badges of St. Stanislaus within the territory of the Czech Kingdom, which pilgrims gained when taking a pilgrimage to Krakow. The author explained this as a consequence of the growing convergence of Premyslids with Poland, which allowed for an easier access to the nearby place of pilgrimage in Krakow.<sup>44</sup> However, numerous proofs of the west-east direction of pilgrimages can be found directly on the long-distance route.

Going further north to the Opava region, our steps would lead directly to the city of Opava – Ostrožná street, where an important discovery was made by Hana Teryngerová and Pavel Kouřil in 1999. One pilgrim badge was discovered during the research with figural representation of Virgin Mary with the Christ Child. They identified the badge to originate in the German-Dutch language area of the Rhine and Maas region and dated it back to the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>45</sup> Another discovery of a pilgrim badge from the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century was made on the corner of Masaryk and Holubí street in 2005. Two figures standing by a tree, probably depicting Adam and Eve by the Tree of knowledge, were shown on this piece. It was inserted into the foundation walls of the house to protect the building and its inhabitants. The most recently discovered pilgrim badge within the Opava region also comes from the researched area between the Horní náměstí, Ostrožná and Popská street. The discovered object reminded of the earlier finding from Opava from 1999 and it was dated back to the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century similarly to the above mentioned discovery. The team of authors who studied manifestations of religiosity of Opava townsmen determined the place of its origin to be Aachen, thus confirming earlier assumption made by Pavel Kouřil and Hana Teryngerová.<sup>46</sup>

It is evident that material culture documents the transformation of medieval society in Opava related to the north-south connection. We can see a significant breaking point of transformation of material culture in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, when cities were built on the basis of the Emphyteusis Law and the stratification of medieval society started to occur. Opava was not among the most important economic centres on this long-distance road but we have documented connection of the town of Opava with such significant cities like Olomouc, Krakow, Wrocław and Torun. Dominant influence of regional centres is evident in the regions where relevant artefacts were found (Olomouc, Opava, Torun and Krakow). These, however, was probably not identical with the cities market circuit.

Proofs of foreign ideological and material transfer in Opava region can be seen on the examples of the imported luxury goods (Loštice beakers, ceramics decorated with plastic

44 VELÍMSKÝ, Tomáš. K nálezům středověkých poutních odznaků v českých zemích. In: *Archaeologia historica* 23. Brno : Muzejní a vlastivědná společnost v Brně - Archeologický ústav Akademie věd ČR v Praze, 1998, pp. 435-455.

45 KOUŘIL, P. – TERYNGEROVÁ, H. *Středověký poutní odznak...*, pp. 227-233. The authors identified the origins of the pilgrim badge in Aachen.

46 HRDINA, Jan et al. Neue Pilgerzeichenfunde aus Opava (Troppau) und die Typologie der älteren Aachener Pilgerzeichen im Kontext der Zeugnisse zur Aachenfahrt aus den böhmischen Ländern im 14. Jahrhundert. In: *Wallfahrer aus dem Ostenmittelalterliche Pilgerzeichen zwischen Ostsee, Donau und Seine*. Frankfurt am Main : Europäische Wallfahrtstudien, 2013, pp. 321-360.

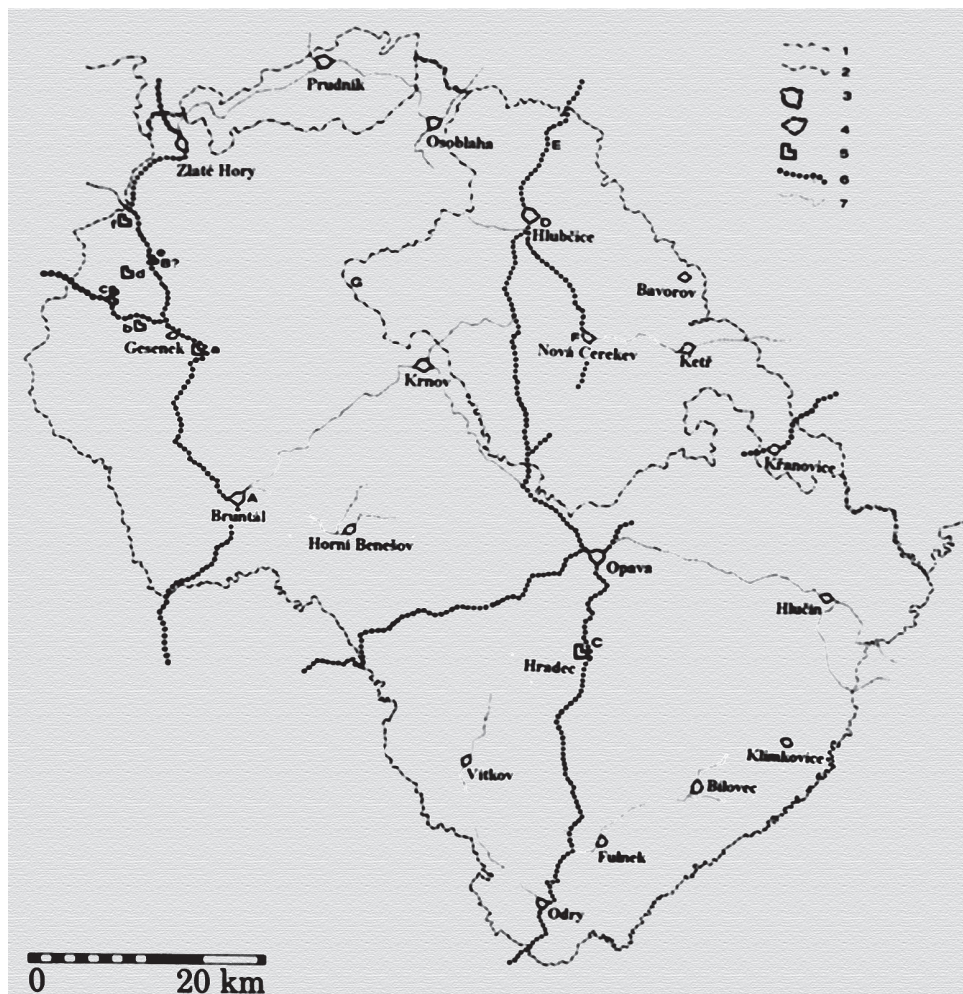


Fig. 1. Opava and its position within the road network in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

elements, etc.) and by the usage of techniques like red glazing or of reduction firing of pottery. Numismatic material, which represented transfer of capital, may or may not have been used for business purposes, as seen in the obolus of the dead. It could also be interpreted as a consequence of political influence over the territories (see Opava-Raciborz hellers). Mainly the coins of foreign provenance discovered in the focus area indicate the existence of economic links between Moravia and Prussia. Spiritual importance of the route can also be found in the documents available, yet the quantity of artefacts and their provenance does not correspond with the written sources providing information on the pilgrims heading north.<sup>47</sup>

47 BLÁHA, J. *Komunikace, topografie a imпорты...*, pp. 133-157.

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