



ADAM MICKIEWICZ  
UNIVERSITY  
POZNAŃ



# Treasures of Time

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Research of the Faculty of Archaeology  
of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań





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Mirosław, Greater Poland Voivodeship, site 37. Part of the burial equipment.  
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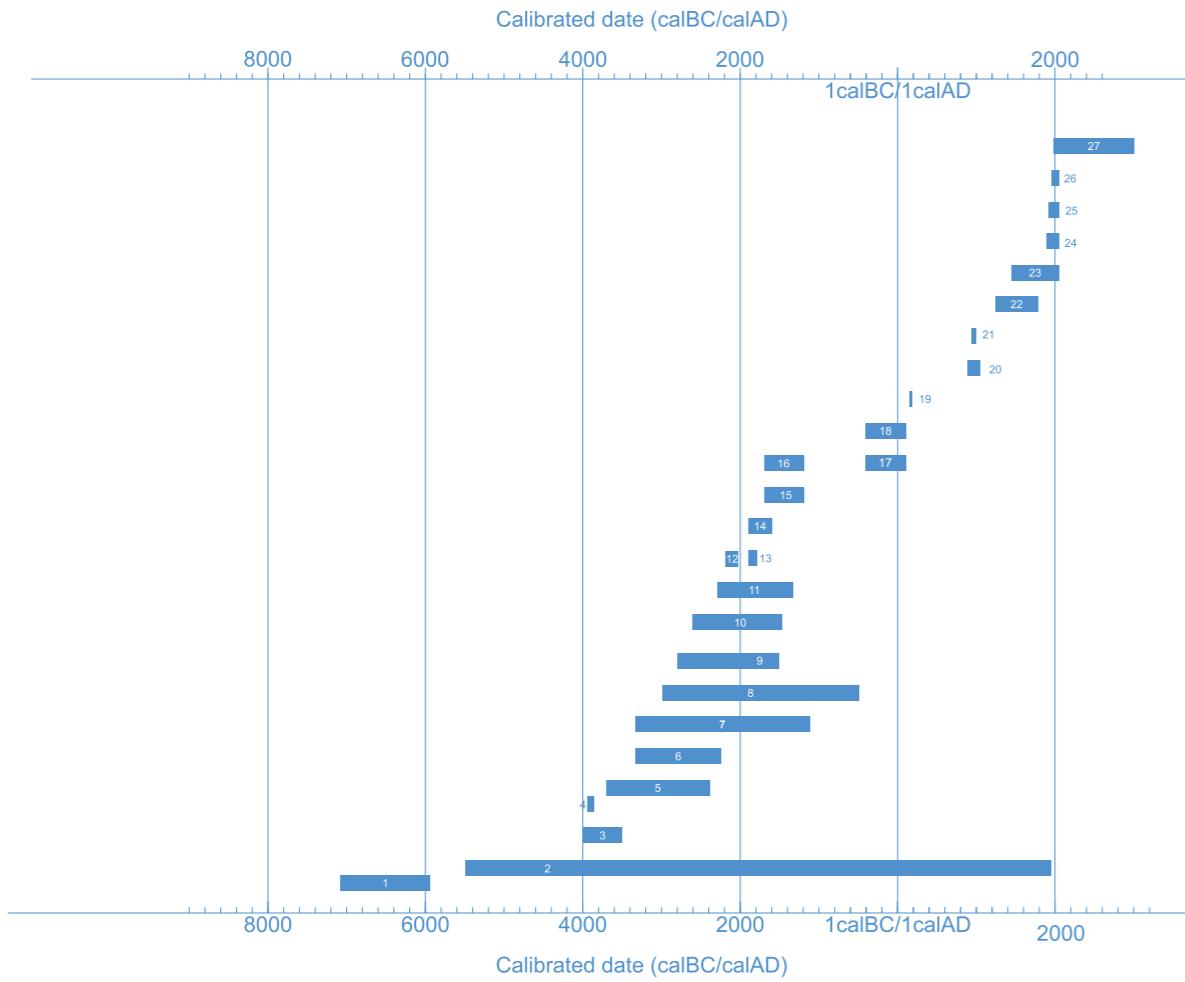
## Treasures of Time: Research of the Faculty of Archaeology of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

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### Introduction

In 2019, archaeology at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań celebrated its honourable 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary! The establishment of archaeology at this university was associated with the strong influence of the authority of Prof. Józef Kostrzewski and a succession of eminent scholars, many of whom we today call Masters.

The year 2019 was a real breakthrough. We started the second century of existence within the Alma Mater Posnaniensis with a new structural independence and quality that the academic archaeology of Poznań had not yet known for its one hundred years of existence. This change, the formation of the first Polish Faculty of Archaeology, has opened new chances and possibilities of which we are now taking advantage.



Calibrated date  
(calBC/calAD)



Prof. Józef Kostrzewski  
(1885-1969)

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Currently, the Faculty of Archaeology of Adam Mickiewicz University is formed by a number of teams, each with their own leaders. In the majority of cases, these teams are united by interdisciplinarity, which integrates within selected projects the experience of many so-called 'auxiliary' sciences of archaeology. This trend is paralleled by the development of specialised laboratories armed with the latest equipment in the Faculty of Archaeology.

This publication presents the current scientific interests creatively developed by such teams at the Faculty of Archaeology of Adam Mickiewicz University. The research of these teams covers vast areas in time and space, summing up at least the last 9,000 years of prehistory. The following articles, arranged in chronological order, allow us to explore the prehistory of various areas.

The adventure begins around 7100 BC, in the Neolithic settlement of Çatalhöyük located in Turkey. Then, we move on to the loess uplands near Krakow, where the first farmers from the south of Europe had just arrived (5500 BC). A little later (4000-3500 BC), and a little farther north, in the area of Greater Poland, some of the first megalithic constructions in this part of the world were built. Around the same time, about 800 km to the southeast, a settlement

of the Trypillia culture remains in the phase of development (3950 BC). The end of the Stone Age in Poland was described in the history of Late Neolithic communities on a hill in the center of Kujawy region (3700-2400 BC). Farther east, in the forest-steppe area of Ukraine, significant cultural and social changes resulted in the formation of the Yamnaya culture (3350-2250 BC), beginning the Bronze Age.

Intense elements of this era can be traced in the area of southern Europe in the Greek Anthemous Valley (3350-1150 BC), in Attica (3000-500 BC) on the plains of the Hungarian Lowlands (2600-1450 BC) and to the Upper Dniester Valley, where numerous burial mounds were formed (2800-1500 BC). A similar chronological range is presented in the articles devoted to a unique site in Brusczewo, Greater Poland (2300-1350 BC), which not only accumulates valuable metal artefacts, but is also the subject of interest of an interdisciplinary team focused on reconstructing its environmental context.

The next text take us far to the east, to the area of Iraqi Kurdistan, where we can appreciate the importance of Mesopotamian influences in shaping the picture of the Early Bronze Age (2200-2150 BC).

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Subsequent texts describe the discoveries of Poznań scientists in Syria (1906-1787 BC) and in Greater Poland (1900-1600 BC). These two distant points describe various aspects of life in contemporary communities in the Middle and Early Bronze Age.

The characteristic archaeological materials of the later centuries of the Bronze Age (1800-1200 BC) reveal an intensification of military conflicts and migration processes (1700-1200 BC). The turn of the eras is illustrated in this volume by texts on the interpretation of representations on ancient Greek and Roman sculpture (400 BC-100 AD), as well as the cultural situation in the Polish lands (400 BC-100 AD).

We are introduced to the new era by an article on the funerary customs of communities from the Polish lowlands describing discoveries at the site of Mirosław (160-175 AD). Moments of the formation of elements of Polish statehood are referred to in texts describing towns at Grzybowo (919-1050 AD) and Poznań in the early Middle Ages (950-1000 AD).

Later parts of the Middle Ages are described by sacral monuments located also in the area of the contemporary city of Poznań: the Collegiate Church of St Mary Magdalene (1263-1802 AD) and the still extant Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Ostrów Tumski, founded around 1431 AD in the immediate vicinity of the previously described early medieval site of the 'origin' of the city of Poznań.

The final texts of the volume do not refer directly to a particular period of prehistory, but present the history of Polish archaeological research on the Iberian Peninsula, the contemporary perception of prehistoric art by the inhabitants of present-day Canada and Siberia, and the development of methodological thought among Poznań archaeologists.

The volume closes with a text describing one of the many perspectives currently faced by the staff of the Faculty of Archaeology of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań: the new ArchaeoMicroLab.

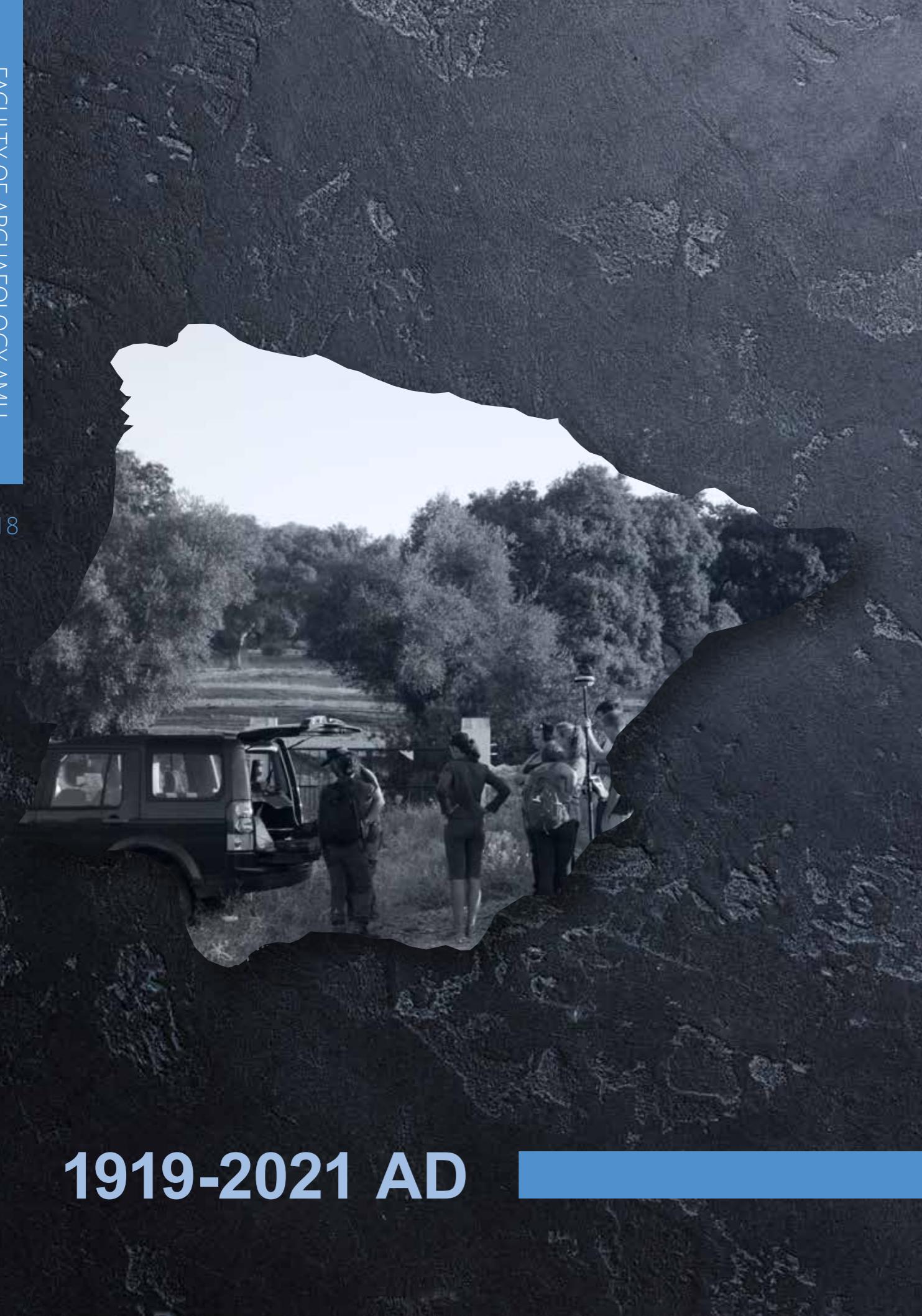
We look to the future with great hope that the Staff of the Faculty will provide ideas for many more volumes of Treasures of Time. We trust that this set of articles will present archaeology at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań in its new structure as a Faculty and show its potential. We would thus like to encourage you to get acquainted with our Poznań perspective on archaeological studies, and to reflect on ways of exploring the past.

Andrzej Michałowski

Danuta Żurkiewicz



Location of the main research areas.  
Numbering, compare the table of Contents.



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1919-2021 AD

Treasures of Time:

Research of the Faculty of Archaeology of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

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## Polish archaeological research in the Iberian Peninsula

Michał Krueger

### Abstract

*The aim of this article is to present the documented achievements of Polish archaeologists carrying out research on the earliest history of the Iberian Peninsula. As a result of a library query and community interviews, the main areas of activity of Polish archaeologists over the past decades were located, which were mainly in Galicia and Andalusia. The main centres conducting research activities in the Iberian Peninsula are the University of Warsaw, the University of Łódź, and Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. In recent decades, Polish scientific initiatives in the field of archaeology of the Iberian Peninsula have covered various aspects of field and archival research.*

**Keywords:** Iberian Peninsula, Classical Archaeology, history of research

The aim of this work is to summarise the history of Polish research interest in the Iberian Peninsula, with particular emphasis on initiatives undertaken in Poznań at Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU). The basic method used during the work on the referred topic was a library query and community interviews. The analysis covered the most important Polish archaeological journals: *Acta Universitatis Lodziensis. Folia Archaeologica, Archeologia, Archaeologia Polona, Archeologia Polski, Etudes et Travaux, Eurasian Prehistory, Fasciculi Archaeologiae Historiae, Folia Praehistorica Posnaniensia, Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean, Przegląd Archeologiczny, Recherches Archéologiques, Studies in Ancient Art and Civilization, Światowit, and Z Otchłani Wieków*. The following available library materials were also investigated<sup>1</sup>: BA and MA theses defended in the post-war years at the universities involved in the research of the Iberian Peninsula, namely the University of Warsaw, the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, the University of Łódź, and the University of Wrocław. The presentation of Polish scientific activities in Spain and Portugal is chronologically based to highlight the periods of greatest Polish archaeological activity on the Iberian Peninsula.

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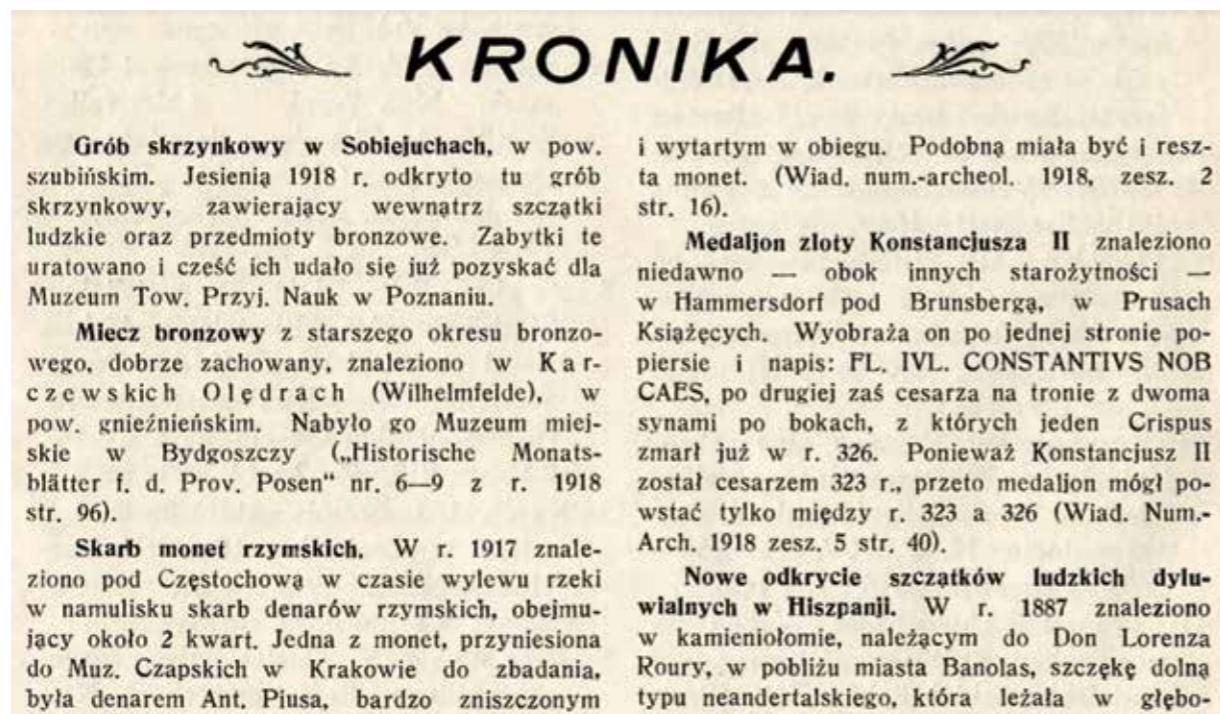


Figure 1. Fragment of 'Kronika' from the first issue of *Przegląd Archeologiczny*, informing about archaeological discoveries in Spain.

<sup>1</sup> The Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (Walkiewicz, 1999, 2004, 2011), The University of Łódź (Andrzejewski, & Barszczak, 2007), The University of Warsaw: BA and MA theses from 2004-2011 (<http://www.archeo.uw.edu.pl/zalaczniki/upload881.pdf>) (2004-2011), The University of Wrocław: BA theses from 2009-2012 (<http://www.archeo.uni.wroc.pl/index.php?sw=3&st=6>) and MA theses from 2001-2014 (<http://www.archeo.uni.wroc.pl/index.php?sw=3&st=7>).

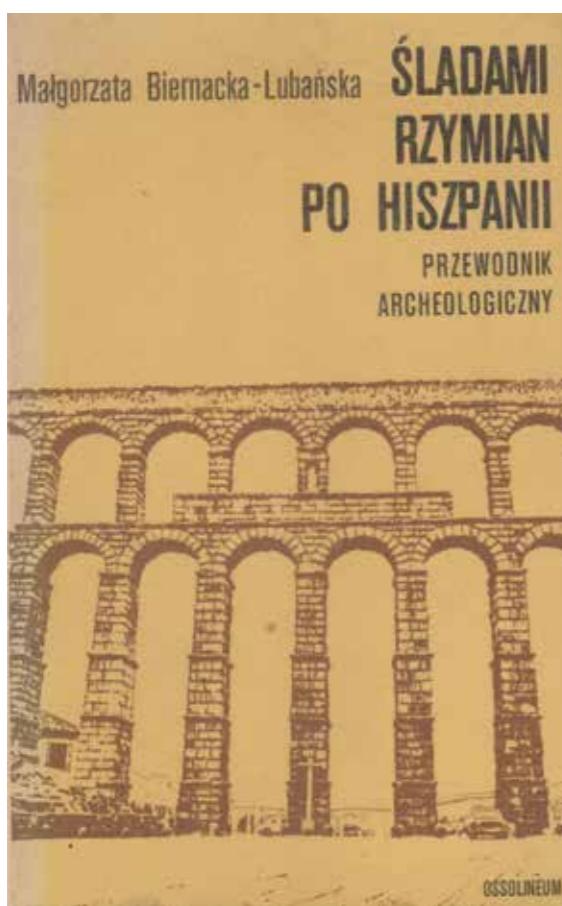
In addition to presenting scholarly initiatives from a historical perspective, this paper also aims to signal the problem of a clear disproportion that characterises Polish Mediterranean archaeology, the main interest of which is the Eastern Mediterranean. Taking into consideration the fact that even globally oriented British archaeology has relatively recently admitted that Iberia remains an unexplored region for European archaeology<sup>2</sup>, it seems worth considering a much closer cooperation between Polish, Spanish, and Portuguese archaeologists than that observed at present.

Polish archaeology shows little interest in the Iberian Peninsula within the framework of Classical Archaeology. The interwar period certainly was not characterised by a high degree of interest in the past of the Iberian Peninsula, which does not mean, however, that the archaeological achievements from that area went unnoticed in Poland. Specialist archaeological knowledge from Spain can be found in the first issue of *Przegląd Archeologiczny*, which contains an anonymous note "Nowe odkrycie szczątków ludzkich dyluwialnych w Hiszpanii [A new discovery of human remains from the diluvium in Spain]" (1919, pp. 76-77; Figure 1). The fact that the Iberian Peninsula was not ignored by Polish archaeologists is evidenced by reviews published in *Przegląd Archeologiczny*. Their author was Professor Józef Kostrzewski, who reviewed books on the Aeneolithic (Kostrzewski, 1922/1924, pp. 145-146) and the Megalithic cultures (Kostrzewski, 1925/1927, p. 73) of the Iberian Peninsula.

In the post-war years, there was little interest in the archaeology of the western reaches of Europe. It is very likely that political factors could be behind this state of affairs. Nevertheless, there existed several scientific initiatives related to the Iberian Peninsula. In 1949, the archaeologist from Cracow, Janusz Orłowski, published an article "Wschodnio i południowohiszpańska sztuka skalna [Eastern and South-Spanish Rock Art]" in the journal *Z Otchłani Wieków* – the publishing body of the Prehistoric Department of the University of Poznań, and later of the Polish Prehistoric Society. In the same year, in the pages of Wrocław's *Archeologia* in the "Kronika [Chronicle]" section, there was a report on archaeological discoveries in Spain made by Ludwika Press (1949) concerning the Iberian and Roman cultures. The fifth volume of the same journal contains a laconic overview of the contents of the fascicule *Memorias de los museos arqueológicos provinciales* published in the years 1944-1946, which presents descriptions of the major artefacts from the most important Spanish museums (Lepik-Kopaczyńska, 1952-1953a). The volume also includes a report from the excavations in Barcelona and Merida by Wilhelmina Lepik-Kopaczyńska (1952-1953b), while another author, signed with the initials 'T. W.' wrote a review entitled "Przegląd odkryć archeologicznych w Hiszpanii [Review of Archaeological Discoveries in Spain]" (T. W., 1952-1953). These publications are reports and their aim was to familiarise the Polish research environment with the development of archaeology on the Iberian Peninsula. It is also worth mentioning that as early as the 1950s, a collaboration established between the then University of Poznań (renamed Adam Mickiewicz University after 1955) and the Catalan Archaeological Museum based in Barcelona brought the journal *Ampurias* to Poznań.

<sup>2</sup> The back cover of *The Archaeology of Iberia: The Dynamics of Change* contains a description of this book that is symptomatic of this science: For many archaeologists, Iberia is the last great unknown region in Europe. Although it occupies a crucial position between south-western Europe and North Africa, academic attention has traditionally been focused on areas such as Greece or Italy. However, Iberia has an equally rich cultural heritage and archaeological tradition (Díaz-Andreu, & Keay, 1997).

Also, in the 1960s and 1970s, some reviewing activities in the field of Iberian archaeology took place: in 1969 Jerzy Wielowiejski, PhD, reviewed a book by Antonio García y Bellido on the Roman camp in Leon, and six years later Professor Anna Sadurska summarised the session of the 6<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Federation of Associations of Classical Studies held in Madrid. The report was supplemented by some comments on the most vital archaeological artefacts present in collections of the museums in Madrid (Sadurska, 1975). What is more, an important event was the publication of an archaeological guide by Dr Małgorzata Biernacka-Lubańska entitled *Śladami Rzymian po Hiszpanii* [On the Trail of the Romans in Spain] (1976; [Figure 2](#)). The book proves a keen interest in the archaeology of the Iberian Peninsula also among those not professionally involved in this subject.

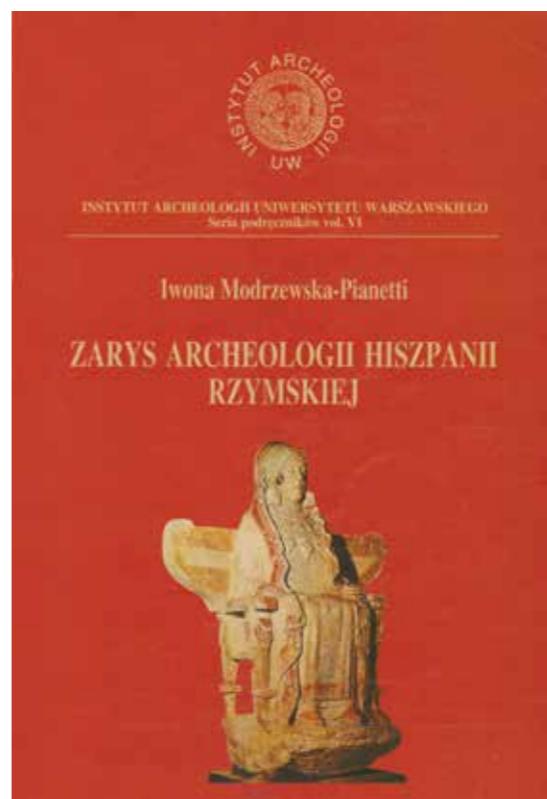


[Figure 2.](#) Front cover of the book *Śladami Rzymian po Hiszpanii. Przewodnik archeologiczny* (Biernacka-Lubańska, 1976).

Also in the 1980s, several joint research initiatives were undertaken, including visits of Polish researchers to Spain (e.g., Prof Aleksandra Wąsowicz participated in a seminar organised by the Department of Greek Archaeology at the Archaeological Museum in Madrid) and Spanish archaeologists to Poland. For example, Beatriz de Griñó Frontera visited Warsaw in 1983, and a year later, the Madrid-based archaeologist, Fernando López Castro, studied at the University of Warsaw in the academic year 1984/85. The fruit of these joint projects and established contacts were publications of issues related to the Iberian Peninsula in Polish scientific periodicals (Bisi, 1983; Olmos & de Griñó, 1985).

At the end of the 1970s, a large Polish-Spanish scientific undertaking began. On the initiative of the Superior Council for Scientific Research (*Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas*) based in Madrid, excavations of the medieval Mozarabic site of Marmuyas were initiated and lasted from 1978 to 1982. Polish archaeologists were invited by the Spanish, because of their field experience acquired during the Millennium Research Programme in Poland. The head of the Polish team was Professor Lech Leciejewicz. The cooperation resulted, *inter alia*, in the joint publication of the excavation results in *Przegląd Archeologiczny* (Leciejewicz et al., 1985). It was not the only research activity of Prof Leciejewicz in the Iberian Peninsula: in 1988 he was invited as a consultant to a site in San Salvador de Valdedios located in the province of Asturia, and in 1994 he consulted excavations in the town of Purchena in the province of Almeria (Rębkowski, 2012, p. 45).

In 1986, Professor Jerzy Kmiecinski initiated a cooperation between the University of Łódź and the University of Santiago de Compostela, which proved to be extremely important from the point of view of the history of Polish archaeology in the Iberian Peninsula (Grabarczyk, 1995, p. 91). In the subsequent years from 1987 to 1993, a Polish team under the tutelage of Prof Kmiecinski participated in excavations of the archaeological site in Castro A Graña and the Roman villa from Agro de Nogueira located in the valley of the Furelos River (Galicia). Surveys and test excavations were also carried out at three other castro sites: San Xiao do Monte, Piñero, and Vilamor (Grabarczyk, 1995, pp. 94-95). A summary of this research was published in three articles (Grabarczyk, 1995; Kmiecinski et al., 1991; Kmiecinski & Kowalczyk, 1992). The research projects carried out in Spain also resulted in robust scientific exchange. Consequently, in the second half of the 1980s alone, the Institute of Archaeology of the University of Łódź organized two conferences attended by numerous guests from Spain. Didactic activities included lectures given by scholars from the University of Łódź to doctoral students at the Universities of Santiago de Compostela and Orense. The multidimensional activities of Łódź archaeologists was certainly been an inspiration for three students at the University of Łódź, who wrote and defended MA theses thematically related to the archaeology of the Iberian Peninsula (Dembińska, 1996; Siewierski, 2002; Wdowiak, 1996). Finally, the interest in the past of this part of the Mediterranean Sea in Łódź is also reflected in three sessions of the scientific conference Rome and the Iberian Peninsula organised between 2017 and 2021. The series of meetings had an interdisciplinary character and included the presentation of papers from the field of archaeology.



[Figure 3.](#) Front cover of the book *Zarys archeologii Hiszpanii rzymskiej* (Modrzeska-Pianetti, 2002).

The University of Warsaw is another important centre for initiatives related to the archaeology of the Iberian Peninsula. Particularly noteworthy are the scientific, didactic, and organisational activities of Professor Iwona Modrzeska-Pianetti, who since the late 1980s has conducted systematic research on the Roman period in the Iberian Peninsula, with particular emphasis on trade and pottery. Among the rich achievements of this researcher, are the first academic textbook on the Roman period in Spain (Modrzeska-Pianetti, 2002; [Figure 3](#)) and numerous studies on trade between Iberia and the northern Adriatic coast (e.g., Modrzeska-Pianetti, 1995). Prof Modrzeska-Pianetti is the initiator of didactic and research cooperation with five academic centres in Spain (Modrzeska-Pianetti, 2011, p. 3), as well as the promoter of many BA theses on the archaeology of the Iberian Peninsula,

mainly those relating to the Roman period (e.g., Belicki, 2011; Bernaś, 2007; Janowska, 2007; Karpieńska, 2005; Niewiadomska, 2007; Zduńska, 2005), as well as MA theses (e.g., Fortuna, 2007; Janowska, 2009; Jaxa-Chamiec, 2007; Karpieńska, 2007; Kędzierski, 2005; Tyszczuk, 2011; Zduńska, 2007). Also, she supervises PhD students specialising in the aforementioned subjects and leads the Roman Provinces Research Group *Hispania*, whose members organise exhibitions, lectures, and scientific expeditions around the Iberian Peninsula. It is worth mentioning that the research headed by Prof Modrzeska-Pianetti carried out a project financed by the Polish National Science Centre in 2016-2019 – *Kontakty handlowe regionu Murcji (Hiszpania) ze światem śródziemnomorskim w starożytności na podstawie źródeł archeologicznych i historycznych [Trade contacts of the region of Murcia (Spain) with the Mediterranean world in antiquity, based on archaeological and historical sources]* (cf. Chołuj, 2018; Modrzeska-Pianetti, 2018; Modrzeska-Pianetti & Molina Gómez, 2019).

However, the activities of the circle centred around Prof. Modrzeska- Pianetti are unique in Poland. At other universities, the interest in the subject of ancient Iberia is not very high. For example, of all the lists of MA theses (available to the author), only one analysed from the University of Wrocław refers to the Iberian Peninsula (Rosińska, 2005).

An important event in the history of Polish-Spanish contacts in connection with archaeology was cooperation between researchers from the University of Szczecin and the University of Granada initiated with the aim to carry out joint research in the town of Madinat Ilbira in Andalusia. This is another example showing that the interest of Polish researchers in the western Mediterranean basin, and on the Iberian Peninsula in particular, is yielding important internationally published scientific results (e.g., Lityńska-Zajac & Rębkowski, 2020; Rębkowski et al., 2019).

In the Poznań research centre, changes in favour of the development of interest in the archaeology of the Western Mediterranean have been noticeable for several years. At the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, within the last decade, three researchers have selected the earliest history of the Iberian Peninsula as their main research topic, including Dr Maria Ruiz del Árbol Moro, Dr Anna Jankowiak, and Dr Michał Krueger.

For three years beginning in the academic year 2012/2013, the position of visiting professor at the Institute of Prehistory of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań was held by Dr María Ruiz del Árbol Moro, the author of numerous works on the archaeology of the landscape of the north-western part of the Iberian Peninsula. Dr Ruiz del Árbol Moro also conducted optional classes in Poznań for students of archaeology on the abovementioned issues.

Dr Anna Jankowiak was involved in the programme *Häuser aus Mirobriga* led by Dr Felix Teichner. In 2017, she defended her doctoral thesis under the supervision of Prof. Danuta Minta-Tworzowska entitled *Processes of change in the urban space of the Roman province Lusitania. Architecture, beliefs, worship and ceramic production: Augusta Emerita, Conimbriga and Mirobriga*. Dr Jankowiak also conducted an elective seminar on Iberia in the Roman times.

After completing his doctoral dissertation on the social structure of the Tartessian population, the author of this study together with Spanish archaeologists conducted a surface survey in the vicinity of Setefilla in Andalusia, with aiming to explore sites from the Late Bronze



Figure 4. Preparations for field work by an international team of archaeologists in the vicinity of Setefilla.

and Early Iron Ages (Figure 4). In 2014-2015, he carried out the research project *Early Iron Age in the southwestern Iberian Peninsula: chronology and material culture*. The results of the radiocarbon analysis of burned human bones obtained from the cemetery in Setefilla yielded detailed chronological data of the turn of the Bronze and Iron Ages in the Guadalquivir River Valley (Brandherm & Krueger, 2017).

Currently, a second project entitled *Region of Tartessos in the light of specialist research on pottery*<sup>3</sup> is underway with the aim to explore changes in the production and use of pottery in the south-western Iberian Peninsula from the Late Bronze Age to the end of the Tartessos culture in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC. This research uses interdisciplinary methods, including petrographic thin section preparation (Figure 5), scanning electron microscopy, X-ray fluorescence (XRF) (Figure 6), and analyses of organic residues.

The added value of investigation in the field as well as laboratory and archival research is the resultant *Słownik terminów archeologicznych polsko-hiszpański i hiszpańsko-polski [Dictionary of archaeological terms: Polish–Spanish & Spanish–Polish]* (Krueger, 2019) (Figure 7). This publication may help to bring the archaeology of Western and Central Europe closer to Polish and Spanish researchers.

<sup>3</sup> Project funded by the Polish National Science Centre, grant number: DEC-2017/25/B/HS3/00635.

Finally, the scientific interests of the staff of the Faculty of Archaeology of AMU are reflected in the undergraduate theses of its students, six of which discuss the archaeology of the Iberian Peninsula (Antczak, 2020; Gierszewski, 2018; Rybarczyk, 2017; Walkowski, 2019; Wiśniewski, 2016; Włodarczyk, 2015). Undoubtedly, the contribution of the students who prepared their research for publication – who presented during the elective course *Półwysep Iberyjski w epoce żelaza [The Iberian Peninsula in the Iron Age]* and published in the 16<sup>th</sup> volume of *Wielkopolskie Sprawozdania Archeologiczne* – as well as their considerable assistance in the preparation of the international conference *Interdisciplinary Studies on Pottery from the Iberian Peninsula* (Poznań, June 27-28, 2019) deserves appreciation.

Recent Polish scientific activity in the archaeology of the Iberian Peninsula has covered various aspects of research in the scope of field activities and archival research, although initial interest in ancient Iberia presented by Polish archaeologists was rather incidental until the late 1970s. It was not until the 1980s that ambitious research projects conducted through Polish-Spanish cooperation could be undertaken, involving excavation, surface, and archival studies. It is to be hoped that this established cooperation will continue, and consequently, the Iberian Peninsula – being an integral part of the Mediterranean world – will find a permanent place in the research practice of Polish Mediterranean archaeology.

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Figure 5. Petrographic analyses of the samples from Andalusia carried out at the AMU Department of Archaeology by Dr Violeta Moreno Megías.



Figure 6. X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectrometer used for analysing pottery samples from Andalusia.

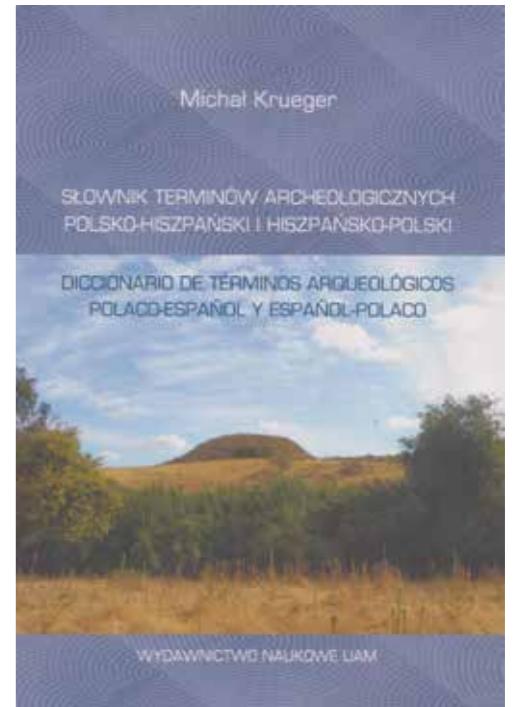


Figure 7. Front cover of *Słownik terminów archeologicznych polsko-hiszpański i hiszpańsko-polski* [Dictionary of archaeological terms: Polish–Spanish & Spanish–Polish] (Krueger, 2019).

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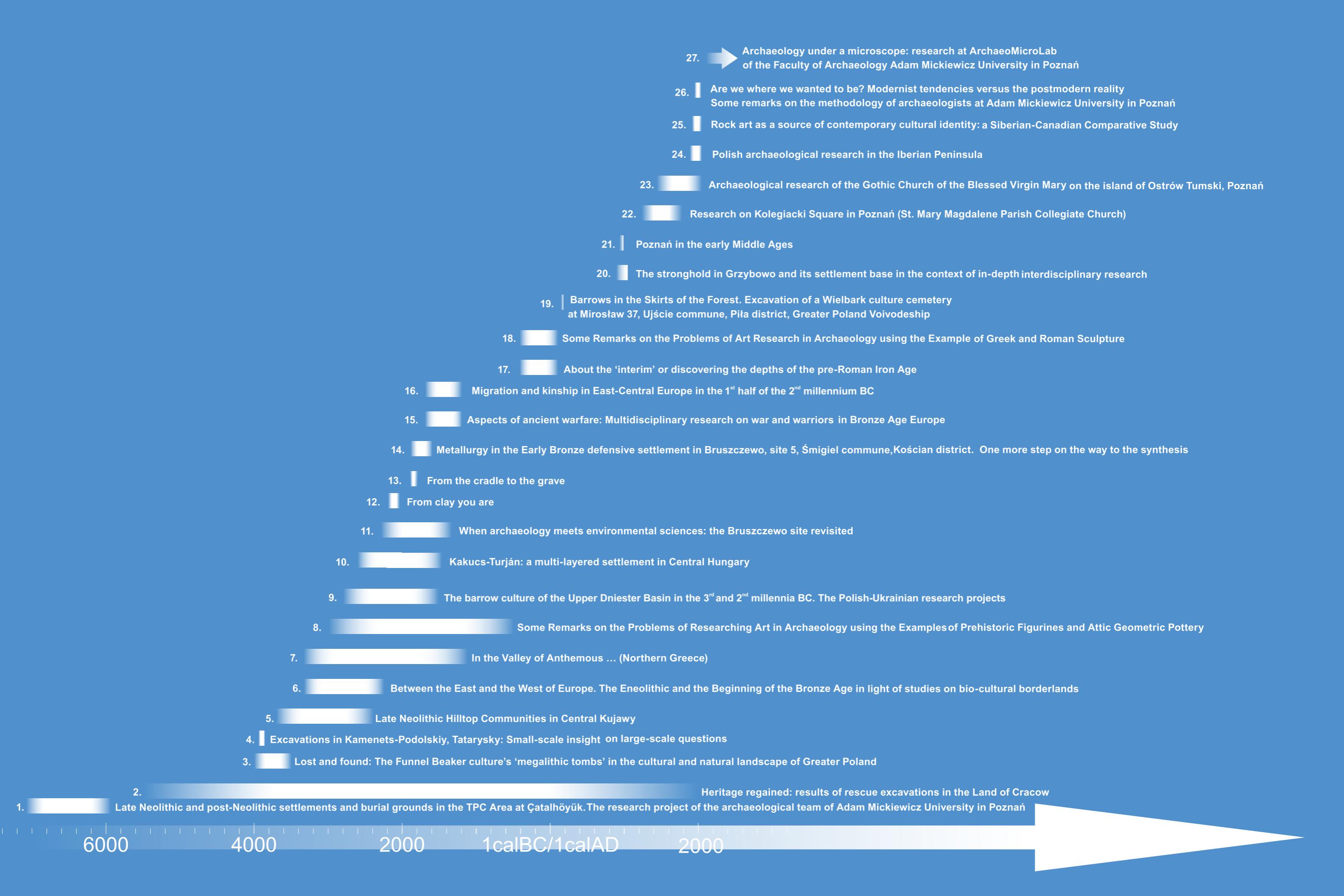
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