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THE STATE OF RESEARCH ON THE EARLIEST MONASTIC ARCHITECTURE IN THE LANDS OF POLAND

The doctoral dissertation concerns the state of archaeological and architectural research on the oldest monastic complexes that existed in the lands of the early Piast dynasty. Therefore, it was important to outline the origins of monasticism, its development in Western Europe, and its arrival in the Piast domain. This aspect is addressed in Chapter I ("The Birth of the Monastic Movement in the Christian World").

Another important issue discussed in the dissertation is the analysis of specific orders such as the Benedictines, Cistercians, Canons Regular, Dominicans, and Franciscans. This includes the origins of the orders, their structures (both male and female), architectural development, and their arrival in Polish lands (Chapter II: "The Oldest Conventual Orders").

The core of the dissertation is a catalogue (Volume II, parts 1 and 2), which contains an alphabetical study of 43 monasteries. Each entry includes historical descriptions, a breakdown of the buildings that made up the complexes (church, monastery, farm buildings, fortifications, and others), and a detailed presentation of the archaeological and architectural research carried out, along with resulting reconstructions and the location of archived documentation. Field, photographic, and descriptive documentation is also included, coming not only from the conducted work but also prepared personally by the doctoral candidate.

The concluding part of the dissertation is a detailed analysis of each order, with separate presentations of the architectural development of the churches, monasteries, and their accompanying structures. The dissertation describes the architectural solutions used, the materials employed (with an attempt to identify their origins), and comparative tables that organize data regarding the volume of the structures, the usage of specific materials, and the location of burials.

Additionally, the work describes construction techniques, the labor force involved (including both master builders and ordinary craftsmen), and the organization of the construction sites, along with information on the origin of the workers and the methods used in building particular structures.