

SUMMARY

The aim of this study is to examine the early medieval Latin text *Descriptio civitatum et regionum ad septentrionalem plagam Danubia* in terms of not only historical but also archaeological research. Since the analysis of the text by earlier researchers also concerned such concepts as the state or tribe, this work also includes an attempt to explain these definitions on the basis of other humanities.

Descriptio is a list of 58 tribal peoples and their *civitates* living north of the Danube and east of the Frankish state. It has long been used by researchers of the early medieval history, not only in relation to the lands of the Piast monarchy, but also many other lands in Central and Eastern Europe.

Descriptio civitatum was found in 1772 by Count Louis-Gabriel de Buat-Nançay, Louis XV's plenipotentiary minister, in the library of the Bavarian Elector Maximilian III Joseph. It was first published in print the same year.

We do not know the author of this work, therefore it is entitled *Bavarian Geographer* or *Bavarian Anonymous*, and the manuscript itself - *Carolingian Note*. Wolfgang Fritze decided that the author could have been the chaplain of Ludwig II of Germany and the abbot of the monastery in St. Gallen - Grimald von Weißenburg. It is equally difficult to establish the time and circumstances of the writing of this text. Most scholars assume that it comes from the 9th century. Exceptionally, it is dated at the end of the 8th century or at the turn of the 10th / 11th century. The context is also unknown, so we also know the purpose of the reason for writing the *Descriptio civitatum*. Among the many European researchers dealing with this source in the nineteenth century, publications whose authors were: Johann Kaspar Zeuss, Paweł, Józef Szafarzyk, Viktor von Keltsch and Anton Kralicek are particularly worth noting.

The first Pole who became interested in the *Bavarian Anonymous* was Count Jan Potocki, who named the note Bavarian Geographer. Considerations on the Bavarian geographer Joachim Lelewel presented in the article *Wimulska Sławiańszczyzna z Geografa Bawarskiego*, published in Tygodnik Wileński, in 1816. This text was also published in 1846. In this pioneering article, the scholar compared the names of the Slavic communities written in this message to the chronicles of Alfred, Didmar, Adam Bremen and Helmold. While analyzing the script, he found that there are difficulties in deciphering individual letters, which may affect the written words. A methodological reflection is also important that it is

only by looking for other writings of the author and individual names in other documents that they can be deciphered with greater or lesser probability. However, one should take into account the possibility of repeating the terms that may have been copied from one chronicle (notes) to another, in order to avoid erroneous conclusions. In the original text referring to the *Bavarian Geographer*, Joachim Lelewel, quoting the names of individual peoples, also attempted to locate individual tribal territories hidden behind individual records.

The monographic study devoted to the entry of the *Bavarian Geographer* is the work of Stanisław Zakrzewski - *Description of castles and territories on the northern side of the Danube*, from 1917. It is a full analysis of the Latin text reprinted from the edition of August Bielowski *Monumenta Poloniae Historica*, taking into account all previous research.

The last researcher who comprehensively dealt with the *Anonymous Record* was Henryk Łowmiański. The issue of the genesis and source values of *Descriptio civitatem et regionum ad septentrionalem plagam Danubia* was presented in two extensive articles: *O pochodzeniu Geografa Bawarskiego* or *O identyfikacji nazw Geografa Bawarskiego*.

Analyzing the number of settlements recorded by the *Bavarian Geographer* in relation to archaeologically confirmed settlements, it is high. Perhaps the information contained in this source was greatly overestimated or the *civitas* records did not apply to castle buildings. Perhaps it should be assumed that *civitas* could be *opole*, strongholds or ordinary settlements, broadly understood settlement units, perhaps the number of *civitas* by the *Bavarian Geographer* would be equal to the number of tribal settlement units. However, it is extremely difficult for archaeologists to find and examine the remains of most settlements, because they are not as visible in the landscape as the relics of settlements.

Cemeteries are the second important research element. It is an excellent archaeological resource, presenting a given population in several aspects: biological, social and ritual. Paradoxically, the presence of cemeteries proves settlement. Therefore, if we do not have traces of settlements, but we do have a burial ground, it should be assumed that there was some settlement that cannot be captured by archaeological research. It is extremely important in research as it allows for a relatively accurate reconstruction of the past of a given area.

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