

# The Contribution of Local Residents to the Development of Archaeological Investigations in the Memelland before World War II

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The history of archaeological investigations in East Prussia has already received and will probably continue to receive a great deal of attention from scientists from various countries. It has been discussed in works by German, Polish, Russian and Lithuanian scientists. One of the main questions posed by such articles is the evolution of science and the methodological changes used in archaeological research, as well as the comprehension of the object of archaeological investigations. During the last decade, after the discovery of part of the Prussia-Museum of Königsberg's archaeological exhibits in Berlin and Kaliningrad, and after the returning of some of the documentation of this museum (and other's institutions) back to science, a number of scientific articles have appeared whose authors have returned to the question of the history of archaeology in Eastern Prussia before 1945 (Ibsen, 2005; Nowakiewicz, 2008; Reich, 2003; Reich, 2005; Reich, Menghin, 2008; Rzeszotarska-Nowakiewicz, 2008). The Prussian Antiquity Society (*Altertumsgesellschaft Prussia*) and Prussia-Museum have become the most oft-cited subjects in this period of history, which begins in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The most general model of the history of archaeological investigations in East Prussia that has been thus far established in the historiography concerning this period is:

- before the 19<sup>th</sup> century – the period of collectors;
- from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to 1918 – the period of the activities of scientific societies, in which the largest role was prescribed to the Physical and Economic Society (*Physikalische-ökonomische Gesellschaft*) and to the afore mentioned *Altertumsgesellschaft Prussia* and the activity of their museums;
- from 1918 to 1945 – the period of summarising the works of the investigations of prehistory.

This is the most general division; one which has been subdivided by separate authors into smaller periods. For example, H. Kemke (Kemke, 1910) distinguished the periods of 1844–1869 and 1869–1891. He defined the first period as being the initial stage of the activity of *Altertumsgesellschaft Prussia*, whose beginning is marked by its establishment and whose end is marked by the assumption of A. Bujack to the head of the organisation. H. Kemke marks the end of the period of 1869–1891 with the inception of A. Bezzenberger's governance over *Altertumsgesellschaft Prussia* and over its wing, the Prussia-Museum. Other researchers who have written on this subject also follow similar principles for the periodization of archaeological investigations in Eastern Prussia. V. Šimėnas also divides the development of 19<sup>th</sup> century Eastern Prussian archaeology into 2 stages: before 1891, and after (Šimėnas, 1999). The Polish archaeologist Prof. W. Nowakowski defines the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a period of self-taught archaeological activity without dividing it in more a detailed schema (Nowakowski, 2004). It should, however, be noted that all the aforementioned authors pay attention only to the activity of the public-scientific institutions and those persons who participated in their activity when writing about the science of Eastern Prussian archaeology in the 19<sup>th</sup> c. Such a model is also applied to the Memelland, which for 500 hundred years was the north eastern part of East Prussia.

Although the aforementioned periodization of the evolution of Eastern Prussian archaeology is acceptable in principle, it has in my opinion, one shortcoming. Researchers who divide the archaeological investigations of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century – early 20<sup>th</sup> century according to the activity of institutions fail to take account of one very important factor, i.e. the contri-

bution of local residents. As legitimate norms did not exist until World War II as regarded Eastern Prussian archaeological work, investigations were carried out by a large number of private persons. Their excavations provided large amounts of material; and after this material had reached the museums, it became possible to create chronological schemes of antiquities. The information gathered by those people was the main source of information about both the archaeological objects themselves and where the latter explorations had been carried out. Hence, the evolution of archaeology depended not only on the activity of the scientific societies but also on local amateur archaeologists.

The aim of this article is to present and summarise the evolution of archaeological investigations in the Memelland before World War II, giving particular attention to the contribution of the local intelligentsia.

#### THE EARLIEST INFORMATION ABOUT THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBJECTS IN MEMELLAND (THE LATE 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY – THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DECADE OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY)

Probably the earliest recorded information in written sources regarding the discovery of prehistoric antiquities in the Memelland can be traced to the work “Interesting Things of Prussia or the Prussian Scene” (*Deliciae Prussiae oder die preussische Schaubühne*) by *Mathäus Prätorius*; the content of this work and many excerpts of it were published by William Pierson (Pierson, 1871) in 1871. On the second page of the 15<sup>th</sup> volume of this work, which contains 19 pages and is called “Moneta Prussica”, it is written that on September 21<sup>st</sup> 1685, in the locality of Wilkieten (Vilkyčiai), 90 coins made of a copper fusion were found in a decayed pot; furthermore, mention is made that the images of Roman emperors (Hadrianus, Antoninus Pius, Commodus and etc.) were depicted on these coins. M. Prätorius indicated in his book that such coins in separate units had been found near the localities of Heydekrug (Šilutė) and Nimmersatt (present southern part of Palanga) (Pierson, 1871, S. 119). Information regarding finds of Roman coins in the Memelland was presented in the five volume journal *Erleutertes Preussen* published between 1724 and 1742 (Hollack, 1908, S. 14, 105, 18, 244). This journal is estimated to be the first periodical issue in which particular attention was given to the prehistory of Prus-

sia (Hollack, 1908, S. 223; Šimėnas, 1999, p. 14–16; Nowakowski, 2004, p. 69–70). *Erleutertes Preussen* provides mention of a few locations in the Memelland where Roman coins were found: in Bernsteinbruch (present territory of Klaipėda), Heydekrug (Šilutė), Nimmersatt (Nemirseta, present territory of Palanga), Prökuls (Priekulė) and Wilkieten (Vilkyčiai).

Apart from the ancient coins found in the Memelland, the interest in hill-forts might have began at quite an early stage. The activity of the Prussian lieutenant cartographer J. M. Guise marks the beginning of one of the first stages of the gathering of such information in the region. During the formation of the Eastern Prussian map in 1827–1828, he was charged with the registering of all the locations of the Order’s castles and other historical defensive fortifications (Tamulynas, 2001). J. M. Guise left an abundant archival inheritance, including the plans of the situations of hill-forts, which were enhanced by sketches and descriptions of their external view. Although this material has never been published, it was used by many later researchers who put together a digest of hill-forts; the most vivid result of which was the marking of the locations of many hill-forts in the Memelland on topographical maps up until the 1930s (Tamulynas, 2001). At present, part of the collection of Eastern Prussian hill-fort card-indexes (plans of situations and sketches) compiled by J. M. Guise are kept in the Museum of Prehistory and Early History in Berlin (Malliaris, 2003).

Among them information can be found concerning around 25 real hill-forts and further presumed hill-forts of the Memelland, as well as two castles of the Order in Memel (Klaipėda) and Windenburg (Ventė) (Fig. 1).

#### THE PERIOD OF ANTIQUITIES’ COLLECTORS (THE EARLY 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY –1880s)

The 1832 trip to Nidden (Nida) (Curonian Spit) made by the inspector of fishery Wilhelm Beerbohm could be considered to be one of the first archaeological expeditions in the region. During this trip he visited a settlement of the Neolithic Age, later on announcing the results of his field walking survey in *Preussische Provinzial Blätter* edition. The archaeological survey in Curonian Spit was renewed only after 40 years. One more document witnesses the interest taken in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the local residents of Me-

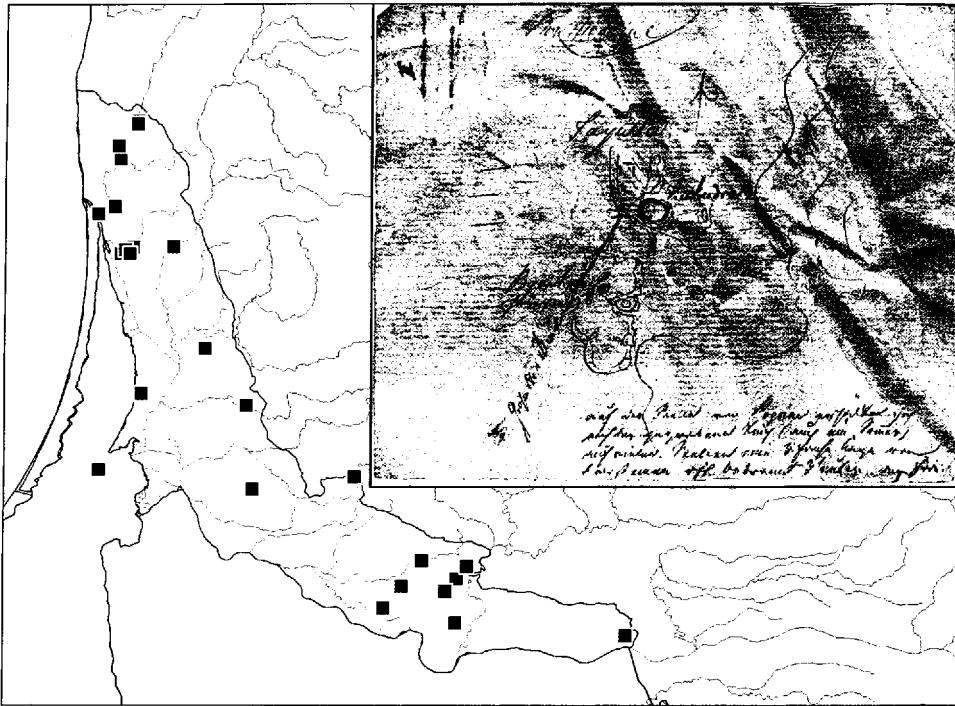


Fig. 1. The presumed and real hill-forts and the Order's castles in the Memelland registered in the indexes of J. M. Guise. On the right – a plan of the situation of Jaguten (Jogučiai) hillfort (SMB-PK/MVF, PM-IXh 39a).

*1 pav. J. M. Guise's kartotokejo užfiksuoti Klaipėdos krašto spėjami bei tikrieji piliakalnių ir Vokiečių ordino pilyų. Dešinėje – Jogučių piliakalnio situacijos planas (SMB-PK/MVF, PM-IXh 39a)*

melland into the region's antiquities, i.e. the 1847 report made by the master of roads (*Königliche Wegenaumeister*) von Hornigk to the society of *Altertums-gesellschaft Prussia*; published in 1895 (Ordentliche, 1895, S. 124–125). This report recorded that von Hornigk had excavated and found various artefacts in a cemetery in Wilkieten (Vilkyčiai). He also mentioned that the merchant Göhrke from Prökuls (Priekulė) had a great number of antiquities which he had gathered from this hill, part of which he had given to the doctor Schrader. In this report he also mentions the Cemetery of Witches (*Hexenkirchhof*) near Wilkieten (Vilkyčiai) (Czutellen (Čiūteliai) cemetery, dated back to the 15<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries) (ibidem, p. 124). Although the information about the collectors of archaeological finds provided here is quite poor, it still provides witness to the significant fact that in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century

there were quite a few persons who took interest in the gathering of archaeological finds. At that time this was a progressive phenomenon.

The teacher from Tilsit, Eduard Gisevius (1798–1880), who is also known as a painter and gatherer of ethnographic material, was the most striking personality to be involved in Memelland archaeological investigations of the collections' period. The painting works of E. Gisevius are most often appreciated for their inclination to depict the inhabitants of Tilsit and Ragnit regions in their national costumes, often forgetting that a separate group of his works consist of drawings of hill-forts. In the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century these drawings were one of the sources used for the formation of the registers of East Prussian hill-forts. According to the information presented by Emil Hollack and Hans Crome, at least 21 drawing of

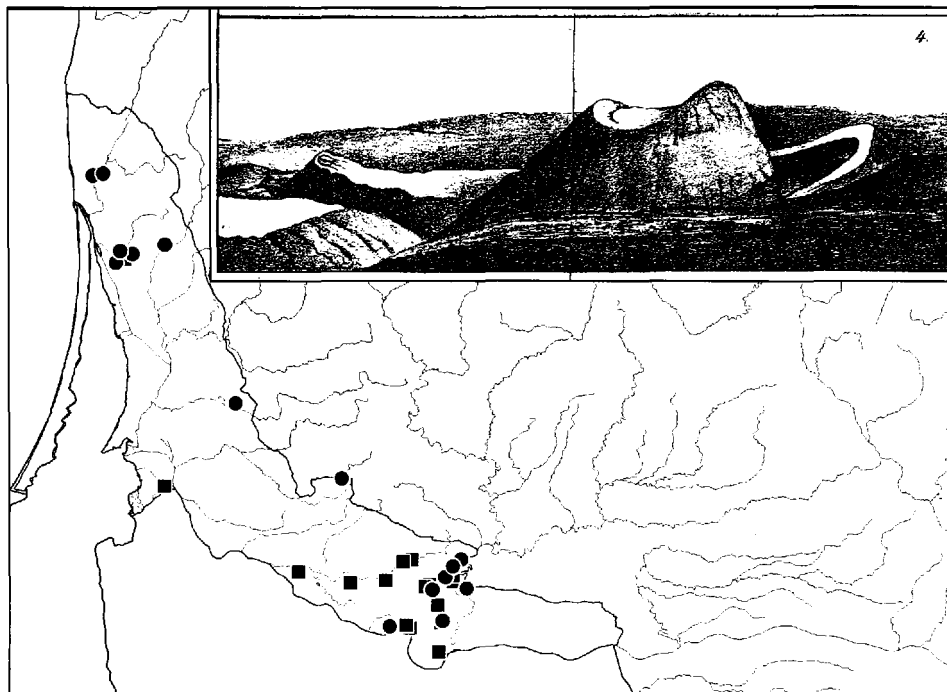


Fig. 2. The hill-forts drawn by E. Gisevius (red circles) and the sites from which he contained archaeological finds in his collection (green squares). On the right above – the drawing of Wartulischen (Vartūliškiai) hill-fort (Gisevius, 1859).  
 2 pav. E. Gisevius nupiešti piliakalniai (raudoni apskritimai) ir vietovės, iš kurių jo kolekcijoje buvo archeologinių radinių (žali kvadratai). Viršuje dešinėje – Vartūliškių piliakalnio piešinys (Gisevius, 1859)

14 hill-forts of Memelland were kept in the archive of E. Gisevius. In 1859 he published drawings of the hill-forts of Ablenken-Gilanden (Oplankys-Gilandžiai), Absteinen (Opstainys), Ablenken-Greyszönen (Oplankys-Greizėnai) and Wartulischen (Vartūliškiai) (Gisevius, 1859) (Fig. 2). Unfortunately, the fate of these valuable iconographical sources is not clear to us. At present, the only original drawing from the E. Gisevius' collection is kept in Berlin, in an art library (*Kunstbibliothek der Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin Preußischer Kulturbesitz*) (Rėklaitis, 1975). Apart from drawing the hill-forts of the Memelland, E. Gisevius also recorded the legends about them. Furthermore, he actively gathered antiquities in Tilsē and Ragainē districts from the 1820s and also, related himself in this aspect to the archaeology of Memelland. In 1841 he sent some antiquities that had been found in the aforementioned Tilsit and Ragnit districts to the

*Berliner Museum für Völkerkunde*. According to the information published in the literature, the collection of E. Gisevius contained finds from at least 16 locations in the Memelland, which represented almost the whole prehistory of this territory. This collection included at least five stone axes (at present kept in Berlin museum)<sup>1</sup>, two bronze axes of Bronze Age (a flanged axe from Schilinen (Šilinė) and a socketed axe from

<sup>1</sup> An opportunity to become acquainted with the finds and archive materials which are kept in depositories abroad was created while pursuing the projects of State Fund of Science and Studies "The Register of Information about the Material of Cemeteries of Memelland in Foreign Depositories" (2004, Nr. T-04059, project head – Prof. PhD. M. Michelbertas) and "The Formation and Digitalization of Archaeological Stock of Lithuanistic" (ARCHEOLITAS) (2006, Nr. L-06011, 2007–2008, Nr. L-07017, project head Prof. PhD. A. Luchtanas).

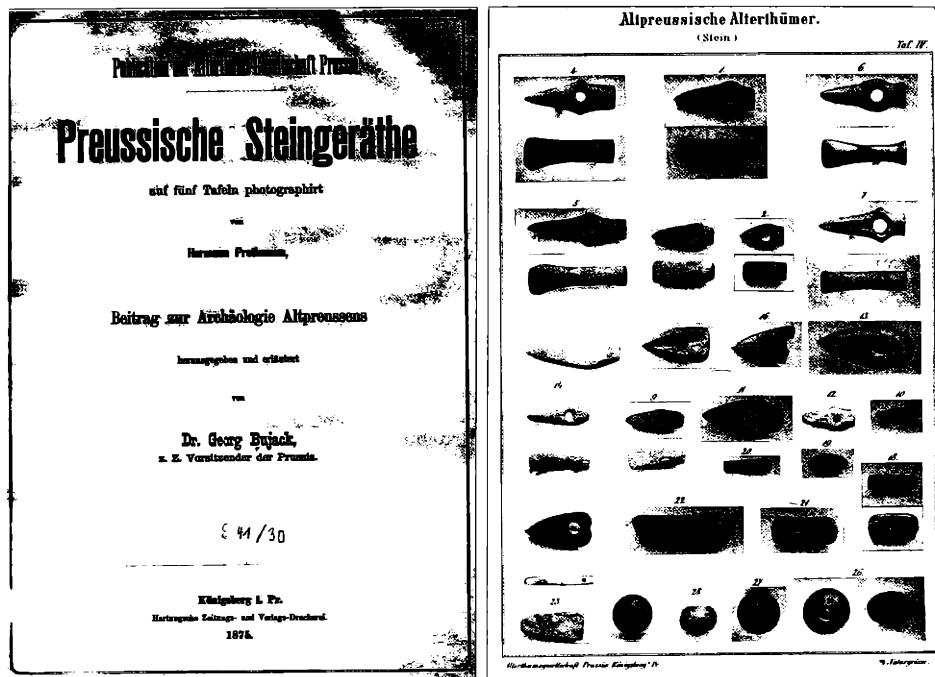


Fig. 3. The title-page of the book “Prussian Stone Tools” published in 1875 and the 4<sup>th</sup> table in which axes from Abteinen (Opstainys) and Rombinus (Rambynas) are depicted. Both of these axes were in E. Gisevius’ collection at that time.

pav. 1875 m. išleisto leidinio „Prūsijos akmeniniai įrankiai“ antraštinis lapas ir ketvirtoji lentelė, kurioje pavaizduoti irviai iš Opstainio ir Rambyno. Abu šie kirviai tuomet buvo E. Giseviaus rinkinyje

rombinus (Rambynas)), four Roman coins and many various Iron Age artefacts, mostly from the cemeteries of the Lower Nemunas. In the 1870s, the collection of E. Gisevius was far superior in the number of its finds from the Memelland than were the collections of finds representing the prehistory of this region in the museums of both Berlin and Königsberg. List of all Iron Age artefacts included in the collection of E. Gisevius, which were benefacted to this museum after his death in 1880) was published for the first and the last time in the Prussia-Museum catalogue in 1883. At present the remains of his collection are kept in the Berlin Museum (cf. the article by Ch. Reich in this edition). Apart from the afore mentioned merits of E. Gisevius in the field of the archaeology of the Memelland, mention should be made that he was one of the founders of the societies of *Altertumsgesellschaft Prussia* (1844) and *Litauische-literarische Gesellschaft* (1879).

Before summarizing the state of archaeology in the Memelland in the general context of East Prussia, it should be noted that the 1870s were a turning point in the evolution of the science of Eastern Prussia archaeology and prehistory. In 1872, Georg Bujack (1835–1891) became head of *Altertumsgesellschaft Prussia*’s society, while in 1874 Otto Tischler (1844–1891) began managing the archaeological collection of *Provinzial-Museum of the Physikalische-ökonomische Gesellschaft*. These people managed to stimulate an interest in archaeology in these institutions, and the interest of the members of these societies in archaeological objects and their uncovering began to grow; although the mainland of the Memelland remained *terra incognita* to the Königsberg scientists. For example, in the edition concerning stone tools in East Prussia, published in 1875, the Memelland region is represented by only four wares of this type (Bujack, 1875), three of which

belonged to the collection of E. Gisevius. It is also of interest to note that photographs of the finds were presented in this edition – something which is not seen in the later catalogues of Prussia-Museum (Fig. 3).

Summarising the period under discussion, we may assert that up until 1878 excavations had not taken place in the mainland of Memelland and if they had taken place, the information about them remained unpublished. This region was behind the rest of East Prussia in the sense that any data regarding antiquities that had been discovered was not widely known to the scientific community.

### THE TRANSITION FROM COLLECTING TO EXCAVATIONS (1880'S)

In the histories of the archaeological investigations of all regions, the period of self-taught archaeologists in the Memelland begins in 1878. This period differs from the tradition of antiquarians-collectors as now attention began to be paid not only to the findings themselves but also their context, i.e. their varieties began to be distinguished, they began to be dated and other information during the excavations began to be registered. Of course, the excavation technique of the amateur archaeologists depended on their education and the interest they took in the innovations of archaeological methods. In the Memelland this period was began not by the Königsberg scientific society but also by local enthusiasts. The research pursued by the director of the Klaipėda Gymnasium, Grosse, alongside his students Scherbring and Froelich (most probably with Georg Rheinold Frölich – the future head of *Altpreussische Monatsschrift Insterburg*) in September of 1878 could be considered to be the first archaeological excavations in Memelland to have a theoretical-methodical base. During this research they excavated two barrows in Schlaszen (Šlažiai, present southern part of Kretinga) of late Bronze – early Iron Age burials. It is important that they not only conducted excavations but that they also published their findings in *Altpreussische Monatsschrift* and *Sitzungsberichte der Altpreussische Gesellschaft Prussia* magazines. This was the first publication of the summary of an archaeological investigation in the Memelland. The finds from Schlaszen (Šlažiai) represented the region in the exhibition of German prehistoric and anthropological finds

organised in Berlin in 1880; where 206 collections were presented (*Katalog der Ausstellungen*, 1880).

The situation concerning archaeological discoveries in the Memelland radically changed in the 1880's. Quite a number of educated people appeared who understood not only the material but also the scientific value of these antiquities, and finds from various locations across the Memelland reached the Prussia-Museum and Provinzial-Museum. Those worthy of mention include Graf, the owner of Janischken (Joniškė) manor, Gubba, the owner of Adl. Götzhofen (Gedminai), Wilhelm Frenzel-Beyme, the owner of Oberhof (Aukštkiemiai) manor, Ernst, the owner of Spirkiiai manor and H. Ernst, the head of a choir (Musikdirektor). The collection of Ernst Ancker, a timber merchant from Russ (Rusnė), who was both a collector and an active public figure, deserves special attention; this collection, which contained finds from various periods and different locations across the Memel (Klaipėda) and Heydekrug (Šilutė), as well as Curonian Spit was transferred to Prussia-Museum in the late 1880s. Furthermore, E. Ancker himself organised excavations in the territory of the Heydekrug manor (Bujack, 1889; Nowakowski, Banytė-Rowell, 2001), and the object of his investigation was most probably the barrow of Hermanlöhnen (Armalėnai, Macikai) which was excavated by Bezenberger in 1891 (Tamulynas, 1996, p. 267). We can maintain with confidence that the 1880s was witness to a great flourishing of the activity of local amateur archaeologists. In their honour we could even assert that it was because of the work of these people that archaeological finds became of importance to the culture of the country, and it was the transfer to museum collections of the finds they excavated that was to act as an important stimulus for the first Königsberg archaeologist, Otto Tischler, to arrive in the Memelland. From 1886 O. Tischler excavated the cemetery of Oberhof (Aukštkiemiai) (Reich, 2005), whose existence had already been publicized by the aforementioned W. Frenzel-Beyme (O. Tischler even thanked him publicly in the press for the help he provided during the investigations).

In 1880s Prof. Adalbert Bezenberger became acquainted with the archaeology of the Memelland. There is surviving correspondence in the archives between him and the owner of Heydekrug manor, H. Scheu, which allows us to maintain that excavations took

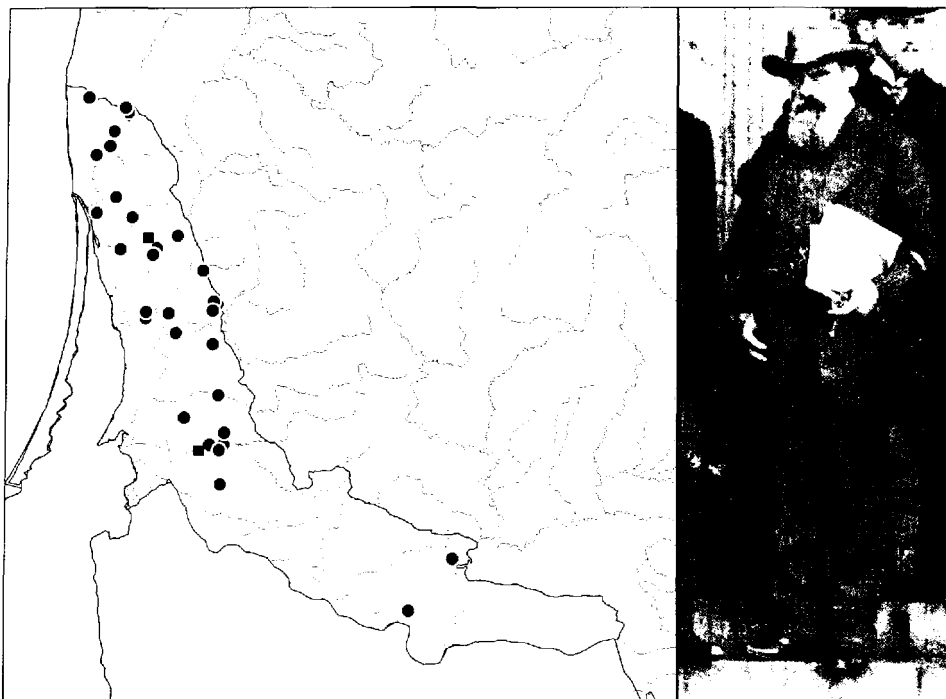


Fig. 4. The objects of Memelland researched by A. Bezenberger (except Curonian Spit) (red circles) and manors of H. Scheu (green squares). On the right: A. Bezenberger in the First Congress of Baltic Archaeologists (a fragment from a group photograph of the participants).

4 pav. A. Bezenbergerio tyrinėti Klaipėdos krašto objektai (išskyrus Kuršių nerijų (traudoni apskritymai) ir H. Scheu dvarai (žali kvadratai). Dešinėje: A. Bezenbergeris – Pabaltijo archeologų pirmajame kongrese (bendros dalyvių nuotraukos fragmentas)

place in the barrow cemetery of Mišeikiai (Mižeikiai) in 1883; there were also plans to excavate the burial ground of Schernen (Šernai) in the same year (there is no evidence that these investigations took place, however.) (Tamulynas, 1998; Tamulynas, 1998a). A. Bezenberger personally donated (or in some cases sold) finds from Szarde (Žardė) and Curonian Spit to Königsberg museum in the 1880s.

#### THE ERA OF ADALBERT BEZZENBERGER, HUGO AND ERICH SCHEU (1891–1919)

After G. Bujack died in 1891, the Professor of Königsberg University Adalbert Bezenberger (1851–1922) became the head of *Altertumsgesellschaft Prussia* society. During the 25 years of his direction, the so-

ciety's orientation towards archaeological and prehistoric studies was strengthened. As has already been mentioned, A. Bezenberger had been acquainted with the archaeological objects of the Memelland since 1880s. In 1891, during a general meeting of the society, A. Bezenberger drew its members' attention to the fact that there were a number of sites in the province of East Prussia districts that were yet to be fully explored from an archaeological point of view; one of which was the district of Heydekrug (Šilutė). This idea became the official base of his activity in the Memelland. Prof. A. Bezenberger explored more than 30 archaeological sites in this region (Tamulynas, 1998) (Fig. 4), and conducted research into more than 500 burials. However, he published only about a third of the information from the material he gathered during

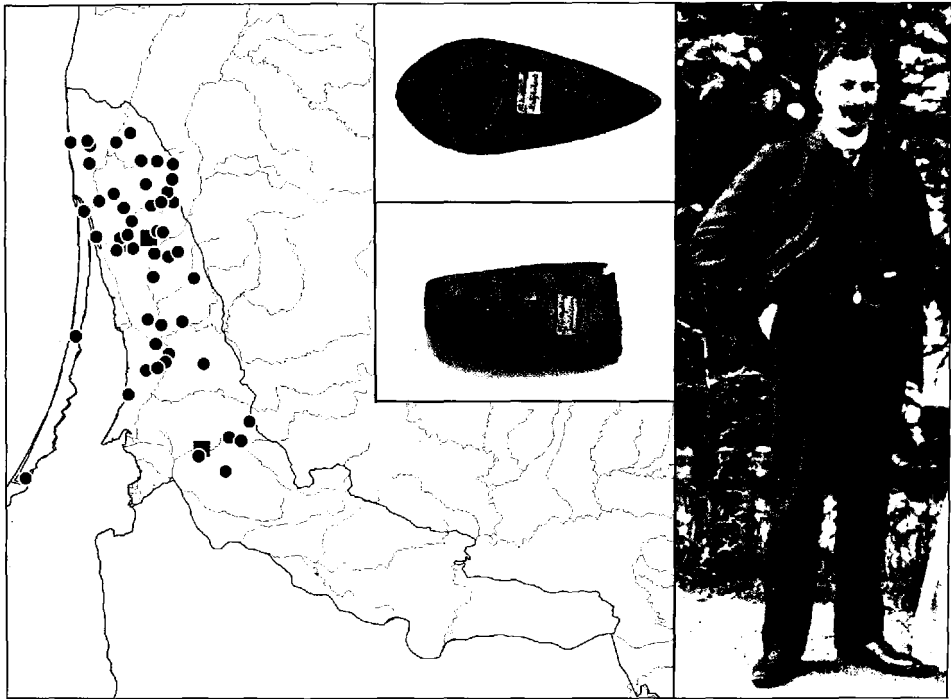


Fig. 5. The find spots where the stone axes which once belonged to Erich Scheu's collection were found according to the information published in press and the finds which are kept in Šilutė museum. On the right – E. Scheu; in the middle – the stone axes with original labels from his collection which are now kept in Šilutė museum.

5 pav. Ericho Scheu kolekcijoje buvusių akmeninių kirvių radavietės pagal spaudoje skelbtą informaciją ir Šilutės muziejuje esančius radinius. Dešinėje – E. Scheu, viduryje – kirviai iš jo kolekcijos su originaliomis etiketėmis, saugomi Šilutės muziejuje

those explorations (ibidem). After comparing the published material of A. Bezenberger with the material of his excavations that is recorded in the archives of other researchers, it becomes clear that the publications of A. Bezenberger cannot be considered as very comprehensive (cf. the article by PhD. R. Banytė-Rowell in this edition). The large volume of excavations, and the fact that only a small part of the material from those excavations was ever published, reveals that for A. Bezenberger (just as for majority of archaeologists at that time) the priority was to excavate as many finds as was possible in order to complement the funds of Prussia-Museum. Without taking a deeper interest in the works by A. Bezenberger in the field of the archaeology of the Memelland, subject which has already been discussed in a separate article (Ta-

mulynas, 1998), we should place emphasis on the fact that his activity in the region that is being discussed here depended on, to a greater degree, his personal connection with Hugo Scheu (1845–1937), the owner of the Heydekrug (Šilutė) and Löbarten (Lėbartai) manors, with whom he had become acquainted in 1880 (Dobranskienė, Junutienė, 2000).

In the library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences more than a hundred letters between A. Bezenberger and H. Scheu are kept. From these letters it becomes clear that the main organiser of the archaeological expeditions of the head of *Altertumsgesellschaft Prussia* society in the Memelland was H. Scheu. (Tamulynas, 1998; Tamulynas, 1998a; Tamulynas, 1999). He would hire workers for the excavations and inform them of new locations for investigations and would



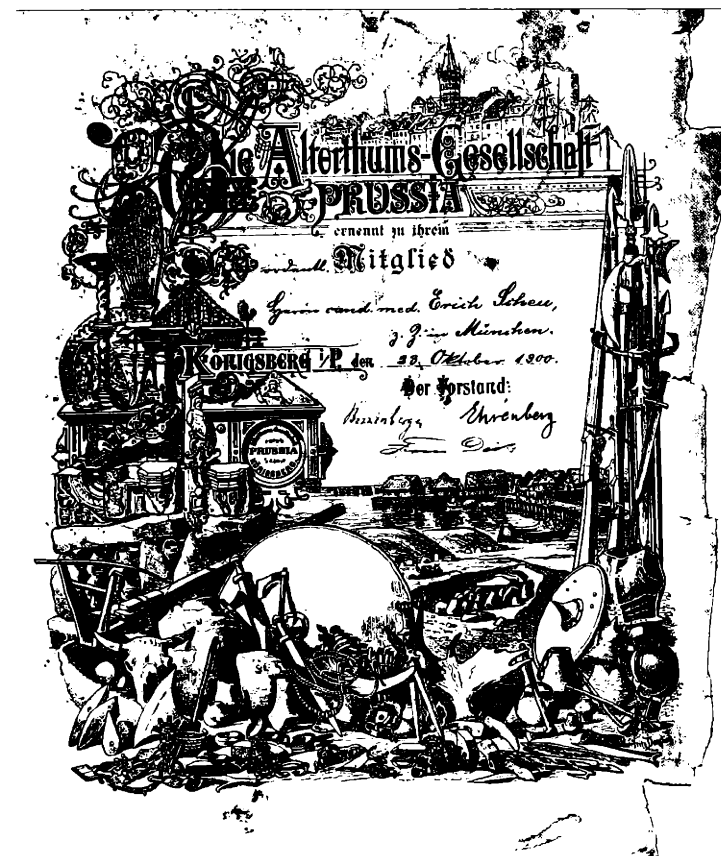


Fig. 6. A certificate of Altertumsgesellschaft Prussia's Society member given to Erich Scheu in 1900 (MAB RS F170, B. 2235, L. 1).

6 pav. Draugijos Altertumsgesellschaft Prussia nario pažymėjimas, 1900 m. išduotas Erichui Scheu (MAB RS F170, b. 2235, l. 1).

even mark the exact site where each object had been excavated on a map. It seems that it was his friendship with H. Scheu which determined the geography of A. Bezenberger's excavations in the Memelland. The majority of the objects uncovered by A. Bezenberger are concentrated near the H. Scheu manors (Tamulynas, 1998; Tamulynas, 1998a).

The acquaintanceship that existed between them was beneficial not only to Prussia-Museum; it was as a result of this connection that the relatively qualified local archaeologist Erich Scheu (1876–1929) appeared in the Memelland. His name is mentioned a number of times in the registers of those persons who donated archaeological finds to the Prussia-Museum in the 1890s. During a meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup> 1901 A. Bezen-

berger presented a collection of 66 stone axes owned by E. Scheu. This collection at that time hugely exceeded that of the collection of similar archaeological finds from the Memelland kept in the Prussia-Museum (Fig. 5). In 1900 E. Scheu became a member of the *Altertumsgesellschaft Prussia* society (Fig. 6), although in contrast to its other members, he did not re-sell archaeological finds to the museums of Königsberg but rather gathered his own collection instead. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> c. he excavated a few burial grounds in the Memelland himself (the burial grounds of Pöszeiten (Pėžaičiai), Weszeiten (Vėžaičiai) and, most probably, Stragna (Stragnai)). After World War I the press began writing about H. Scheu's private museum in the Šilutė manor, which was open to the public (Tamulynas,

1998a). The fact that this museum exhibited not only the finds themselves but also the documentation that led to their discovery – drawings and drafts – is of special importance. Hence, the work of A. Bezzenberger in the Memelland can also be viewed as an important contribution to both the training of the first local archaeologist (E. Scheu) and the creation of the region's first publically open museum (the archaeological collection of it at least).

Furthermore, attention should be paid to the fact that during the first years of his control of the *Altertumsgesellschaft Prussia*, the circle of its members was complemented by a quite considerable amount of persons from the Memelland; these persons have already been mentioned in this article as active amateur archaeologists during the 1880s. In 1892–1893 the society was joined by five members from the Heydekrug (Šilutė) district (up until then there had been no members from this district) and twelve members from the Memel (Klaipėda) district (only one member from this district belonged to the society before then). We may presume that this rise in membership is precisely the result of A. Bezzenberger's activity in Memelland.

From the 1880s to World War I, archaeological explorations were also carried out in the Memelland by the Berlin museum (Alfred Götze) and Georg Reinhold Frölich, the director of the *Altertumsgesellschaft Insterburg*, who excavated the burial grounds of Andulen (Anduliai), Ruschpelken (Rušpelkiai) and Leisten (Laistai). A. Götze excavated the burial ground of Andulen (Anduliai) and the Eglischken (Ėgliškiai) barrow which was near by because of the large amount of finds that were sent to Berlin museum by local inhabitants (Bitner-Wróblewska, Bliujienė, Wróblewski, 2003, p. 188), while G. R. Frölich's was most probably motivated to explore the area due to the fact that his motherland was in Paul-Normund (Normantai) village near Memel (Klaipėda).

In summary, the 1891–1918 period until World War I saw finds from the excavations of more than 60 sites in Memelland reaching the various museums. This was not only due to the intense activity of the societies and museums that operated in Königsberg and other Eastern Prussian cities, but was also due in part to the activity of local residents. The map of East Prussian prehistory, composed by E. Hollack and published in 1908, is the best reflection of the sites of archaeological discovery in the Memelland at that time (Fig. 7).

## 1923–1939 – THE PERIOD OF THE ACTIVITY OF THE PUBLIC WORKERS OF MEMELLAND AND OF KÖNIGSBERG UNIVERSITY

Memelland was separated from Eastern Prussia after the Treaty of Versailles (1919) and, in 1923 annexed to the Republic of Lithuania with the region assuming rights of autonomy. After the region was received by Lithuania, the local intelligentsia founded the society of the Regional Museum in Memel, whose goal it was to establish a local museum. Petras Tarasienka, a military officer and one of the first archaeologists of independent Lithuania was one of the most active (if not the main) organizers of both the society and museum (Tamulynas, 2008, p. 154). Among the other members, both E. Scheu and Otto Schwarzien, a teacher from Kerkutwethen (Kerkutviečiai), participated in the first council of this society. In 1925 (the year after its establishment), 70 private members and the most important institutions of Memelland authorities belonged to the museum's society (ibidem). One of the first achievements of the Society of Regional Museum in Memel was the handing over of a project of law to the Directorate in 1925; through this law archaeological investigations were to be regulated and the removal of antiquities was to be forbidden. On September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1925 the Directorate of Memelland issued an order (*Verordnung*) identical to that of Eastern Prussia's law of excavations (*Ausgrabungsgesetz*) of March 26<sup>th</sup> 1914, with the names of the Eastern Prussian institutions substituted by those of the Memelland institutions (ibide, p. 155).

Public lectures given by the Regional Museum Society relating to archaeology and prehistory are also of note. Prof. Eduard Volter's (1856–1941) lecture on the Curonians given in 1924 and the dr. E. Scheu's lecture concerning the prehistory of Memelland were both related to archaeology of the region that is being discussed; the dr. Carl Engel's (1895–1947) lecture "The Culture of Memelland during the Prehistoric Period" (*Die Kultur des Memellandes in vorgeschichtlicher Zeit*) read on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1931 became the basis of a book published in 1931. This is the only book until now to be solely devoted to the prehistory of the region. In September 1931 an exhibition of the Regional Museum was opened in the Memel Music School. In the same year the daybook of the Regional Museum became registered – the main source of information

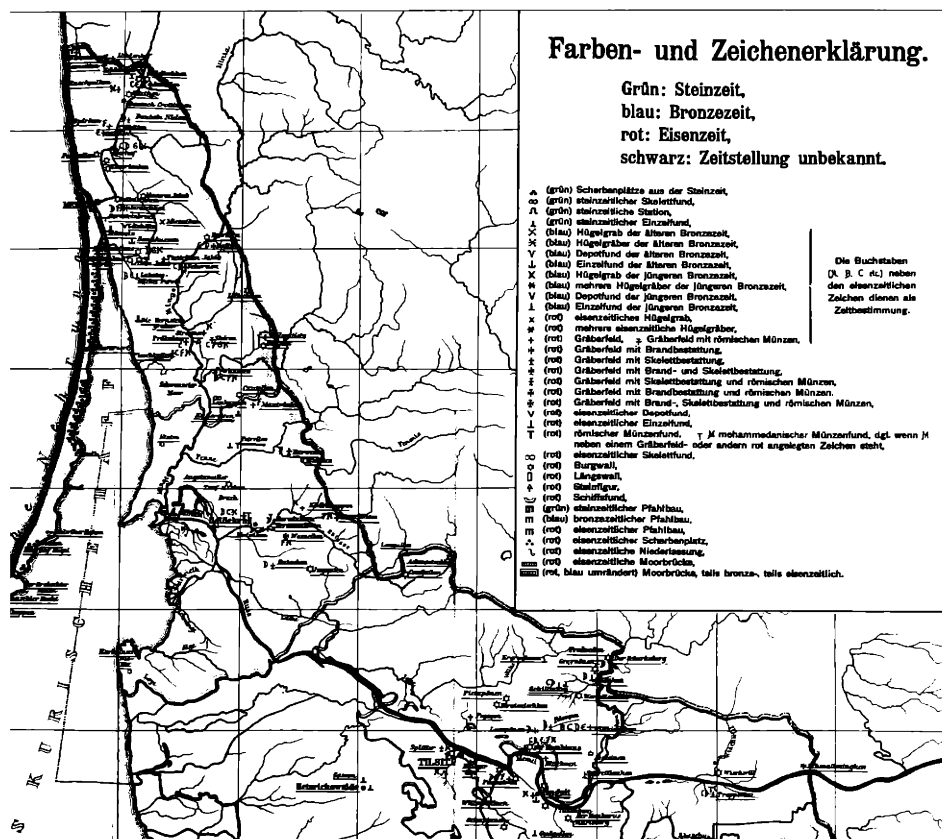


fig.7. A fragment of East Prussian map of prehistory published by E. Hollack in 1908 (Vorgeschichtliche Karte Ostpreussens).

pav. 1908 m. E. Hollacko paskelbio Rytprūsijų proistorės žemėlapis (Vorgeschichtliche Karte Ostpreussens) fragmentas

concerning the finds received by the museum. Despite the intensive activity of the Regional Museum, the inhabitants of the more remote territories of the Memelland continued to inform Königsberg's Prussia-museum of any antiquities they found (Tamulynas, 008b, p. 158).

The political changes which took place in Germany in 1933–1934 and the 1934 elections to Memel-land's directorate (when the pro-Lithuanian government was elected) changed the course of the activity of the Regional Museum's Society. In 1934 the German members of the society abstained from attending society meeting, although the Society's activity was

not suspended and its members (more precisely, its director E. Nauburs) even organised archaeological excavations of Bandhuszen (Bandužiai) and Dwielen (Dvyliai) burial grounds. Due to a shortage of qualified specialists it began to turn into an amateur organisation instead of an institution which already had the rudiments of a scientific society. Despite increasing tension amongst the inhabitants of Memelland, based on nationality, some exceptions also existed.

One of them was the aforementioned Kerkutwe-then (Kerkutviečiai) teacher K. O. Schwarzien to whom the idea of the Regional Museum was of far greater importance than political or pseudo-national

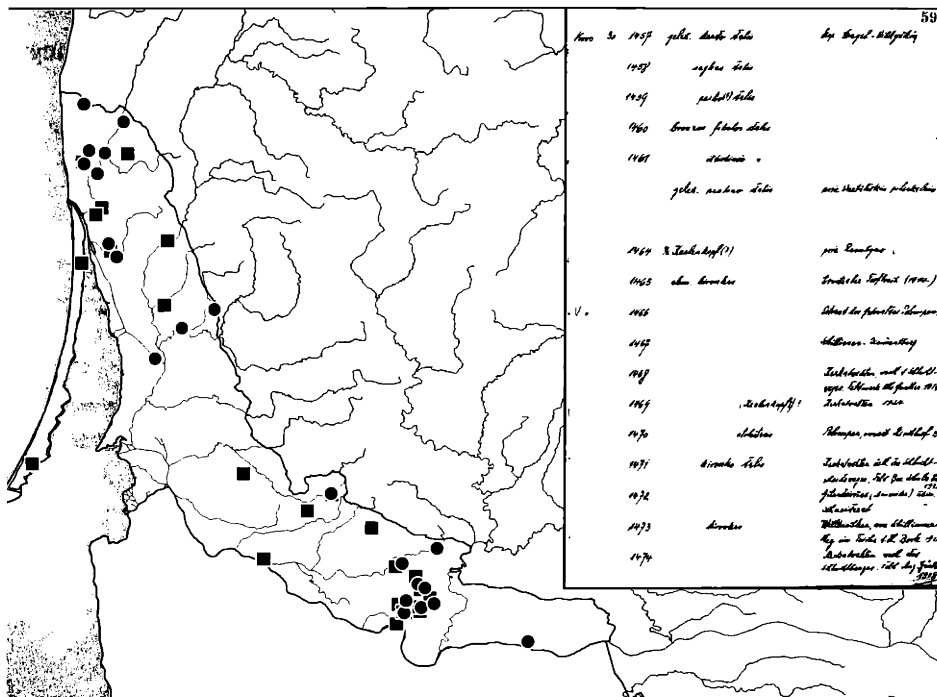


Fig. 8. The find spots of the archaeological finds which were in Memel Regional Museum (squares mark finds dated 3C; circles mark finds dated AD). The find spots of the artefacts from O. Schwarzien's collection are marked in red. On the right – page 59 from the Daybook of Regional Museum in which a part of the finds given to this museum by O. Schwarzien are named.

į pav. Klaipėdos krašto muziejuje buvusių archeologinių eksponatų radavietės (kvadratai – radiniai, datuojami laikotarpiu n. Kr., apskritimai – laikotarpiu po Kr.). Raudonai pažymėtos O. Schwarzieno kolekcijos eksponatų radavietės. Dešinėje – Črašto muziejaus Dienyno (gautų eksponatų inventorinės knygos) 59 lapas, kuriame išvardyti kai kurie O. Schwarzieno muziejui perduoti daiktai

lisagrements. In 1939 he transferred his collections of antiquities from the Wilkischken (Vilkyškiai) environs to the Regional Museum in Memel (Tamulynas, 2008b, p. 160). Judging from the information registered in the daybook of the Museum, various archaeological finds from more than 30 sites of the Memel-land had reached the institution before 1939 (Banyte-Rowell, 1999) (Fig. 8).

During the 1920s and 1930s significant changes took place in the activity of the Königsberg institutions which governed Eastern Prussian archaeology. Königsberg University began to ascribe greater significance to the scientific investigations of prehistory. The Seminar of Prehistory, which operated in the University between

1918 and 1933, was between 1922 and 1927 known as the non-ordinary Department of Prehistory (*Außerordentliches Lehrstuhl*). Prof. Max Ebert read lectures and led practical training in the seminar until 1927; while in 1928 Prof. La Baume, the director of Danzig museum, assumed this position. In 1930, he became the head of this seminar (Janssen, 1935, S. 34). During the period of M. Ebert's guidance over this seminar, conditions were created in Königsberg University for such Latvian archaeologists as F. Jakobson, V. Ginters and E. Šturms to come and study (Tamulynas, 2008a). The latter defended his thesis, "The Ancient Bronze Age of the Eastern Baltics" (*Die Ältere Bronzezeit in Ostbaltikum*), in Königsberg University's Department

of Philosophy. When speaking about the prehistory of Memelland, it is very important to remember that in 1935 Königsberg University was granted the law of the Doctorate of Prehistory (Verschiedenes, 1934, S. 224) and that in 1937 two out of the seven theses produced in this field were related solely to the Memelland, i.e. Joachim Hoffmann's, "The Late Pagan Culture of the Memelland" (*Die spätheidnische Kultur des Memellandes*) and Dorothea Waetzold's, "The Cultures of Memelland During the First Five Centuries Following the Acceptance of the Christian Calendar" (*Die Kulturen des Memellandes in den ersten 5 Jahrhunderten nach Beginn der christlichen Zeitrechnung*) (Dieck 1938).

In summary, within the period between 1923 and 1939, the Society of the Regional Museum in Memel that was established in 1924 took its initiative from the institutions of Königsberg. Thanks to the activity of P. Tarasenska's and E. Scheu's this society was able to become a scientific institution of the Eastern Prussian model. The Political events of 1933–1934 determined that almost all of the German members of the society withdrew from the institutions activity and as a result the Society of the Regional Museum in Memel became an amateurs rather than scientific institution. After World War I large changes took place in the archaeology of Eastern Prussia with the effect that an increasing role fell upon Königsberg University. Neither the Prussia-Museum nor the Albertina let Memelland out of their range of sight.

## CONCLUSIONS

In summary, through the material provided we can maintain that the evolution of archaeological investigations in the Memelland was influenced not only by scientific organisations and museums but also by the activity of the local intelligentsia. Taking into consideration these two factors, the archaeological research of Memelland can be divided into:

The period before the 1830s, when the largest attention was paid to hill-forts and such objects as the Roman coins that were found in the region.

The period between the 1830s and 1870s, when local collectors of antiquities began to appear in

the Memelland; their collections were closed and almost inaccessible to the scientific society. The teacher from Tilsit, Eduard Gisevius is the most representative personality of this period.

1880s–1918 was the period that marked the formation of a conception of the specific scientific value of archaeological antiquities within the local intelligentsia, local amateur archaeologists and scientific societies of Königsberg. The first archaeological investigations in Memelland (whose results were publicly announced in the press in 1878) and the barrow cemetery of Schlaszen (Šlažiai) (guided by Grosse, the director of Gymnasium of Queen Louise in Memel) were important to this formation. Although within the field of publishing the results of archaeological research the most significant role fell to Otto Tischler and Adalbert Bezenberger, the progress of archaeological science in the area would not have been so successful had it not been for the activity of local amateur archaeologists who contributed greatly, not only to the discovery of archaeological objects and the provision of information regarding their finds to museums but also in the conducting of investigation into these objects (examples of W. Frentzel Beyme, E. Ancker and H. Scheu). The establishment of the museum in Heydekrug (Šilutė) manor in Memelland, which was the first museum accessible to society, also contributed to the significance of this period.

The years between 1923 and 1945 which can be divided into two periods:

the period of 1923–1934 during which the Society of the Regional Museum in Memel was created under the efforts of the intelligentsia of Memelland; this Society had the potential to become a scientific institution of the Eastern Prussian model. In 1931, under the efforts of this Society, the Regional Museum of Memel was opened;

the period of 1934–1939 during which the Regional Museum operating in Memel remained an institution of local importance, while Königsberg University became the centre of prehistoric studies in the Memelland.

*From lithuanian translated by Ignė Aidukaitė*

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## VIETOS GYVENTOJŲ INDĖLIS Į ARCHEOLOGINIŲ TYRIMŲ RAIDĄ KLAIPĖDOS KRAŠTE IKI ANTROJO PASAULINIO KARO

Linas Tamulynas

### Santrauka

Archeologinių tyrimų istorija Rytprūsiose sulaukė ir, matyt, dar sulauks nemažai įvairių šalių mokslininkų dėmesio. Pastarajame dešimtmetyje Berlyne ir Kaliningrade aptikus kai kuriuos Karaliaučiaus „Prussia-Museum“ archeologinius eksponatus ir mokslui sugražinus dalį šio muziejaus bei kitų institucijų dokumentacijos, pasirodė ne vienas mokslinis straipsnis, kuriame vėl grįžta prie Rytprusių archeologijos istorijos iki 1945 m., o jos pagrindiniu subjektu nuo XIX a. vidurio dažniausiai įvardijama Prūsijos senovės draugija (*Altertumsgesellschaft Prussia*) ir „Prussia-Museum“. Bendriausias istoriografijoje įtvirtintas archeologinių tyrimų istorijos Rytprūsiose modelis yra toks:

- iki XIX a. – kolekcininkų laikotarpis; XIX a. pr.–1918 m. – neprofesionalių archeologų ir mokslinių draugijų veiklos laikotarpis, kuriame svarbiausias vaidmuo skiriamas Gamtos ir visuomenės mokslų draugijai (*Physikalische-ökonomische Gesellschaft*), jau minėtai „Altertumsgesellschaft Prussia“ ir jų muziejų veiklai. 1918–1945 m. – apibendrinamųjų proistorės tyrimų darbų laikotarpis.

Nors toks Rytprusių archeologijos mokslo raidos periodizavimas iš principo priimtinas, turi vieną trūkumą. Periodizuojant XIX a. vidurio–XX a. pradžios archeologinius tyrimus pagal institucijų veiklą, neįvertinamas vienas labai svarbus veiksnys – vietos gyventojų indėlis. Nesant įstatymais įteisintų (paveldosauginių) normų, bent jau Rytprūsiose, iki Antrojo pasaulinio karo archeologiniai tyrimai užsiėmė nemažai privačių asmenų. Jie pateikė daug medžiagos. Jai patekus į muziejus, buvo įmanoma sukurti chronologines senienų schemas, šių žmonių surinktos žinios buvo pagrindinis informacijos apie archeologinius objektus, kuriuose vėliau vykdyti tyrinėjimai, šaltinis. Taigi, archeologijos raida priklausė ne tik nuo mokslinių draugijų veiklos, bet ir nuo vietos savamokslinių archeologų (kraštotyrininkų).

Straipsnyje pateikiama archeologinių tyrinėjimų Klaipėdos krašte periodizacija atsižvelgiant į vietos gyventojų indėlį. Regiono archeologiniai tyrimai skirstomi į šiuos laikotarpius:

laikotarpis iki XIX a. ketvirtjo dešimtmečio, kai daugiausia dėmesio kreipta į regione randamas romėniškas monetas ir piliakalnius;

XIX a. ketvirtasis–aštuntasis dešimtmečiai, kai Klaipėdos krašte atsiranda senienų vietinių kolekcininkų, jų kolekcijos uždaros ir mokslinei visuomenei beveik neprieinamos. Ryškiausiai šį etapą reprezentuojanti asmenybė – Tilžės mokytojas Eduardas Gisevius.

XIX a. devintasis dešimtmetis–1918 m. – vietos inteligentijos archeologinių senienų mokslinės vertės sampratos susiformavimo, vietinių kraštotyrininkų ir Karaliaučiaus mokslinių draugijų veiklos laikotarpis. Pirmieji archeologiniai tyrinėjimai Klaipėdos krašte, kurių rezultatai skelbti spaudoje, vykdyti 1878 m. Šlažių pilkapyne (vadovas – Karalienės Luizės gimnazijos Klaipėdoje direktorius Grosse). Nors skelbiant archeologinių tyrimų rezultatus, be abejo, ryškiausias vaidmuo tenka Otto Tischlerui ir Adalbertui Bezenbergeriui, ši veikla nebūtų buvusi sėkminga be vietos kraštotyrininkų, kurie daug prisidėjo ne tik prie archeologinių objektų suradimo – suteikė informaciją apie juos muziejams, – bet ir prie šių objektų tyrimų (W. Frentzelio Beyme's, E. Anckerio ir H. Scheu pavyzdžiai). Laikotarpis svarbus ir tuo, kad jo pabaigoje Šilutės dvare įkurtas pirmas Klaipėdos krašte visuomenei prieinamas muziejus.

1923–1945 m. laikotarpis, kuris dalytinas į du trumpesnius:

- 1923–1934 m., kai Klaipėdos krašto inteligentijos pastangomis buvo sukurta Krašto muziejaus Klaipėdoje draugija, turėjusi potencialą tapti Rytprusių mokslinių draugijų modelio institucija. Draugijos pastangomis 1931 m. Klaipėdoje atidarytas Krašto muziejus. 1934–1939 m. Klaipėdoje veikęs Krašto muziejus lieka vietinės reikšmės įstaiga, Karaliaučiaus universitetas tampa Klaipėdos krašto proistorės studijų centru.