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Przemysław Dulęba¹

New data for studies on settlement and economy of the La Tène culture in Lower Silesia

Abstract: The paper presents results of research carried out on two La Tène culture settlements situated in the vicinity of present-day Wrocław. The sites of Wrocław-Partynice 6 and Ślęza 11–12 revealed relics of La Tène culture buildings including semi-sunken houses, storage pits, and post-built structures, which are typical of La Tène culture villages distinguished by highly dispersed housing. The research yielded a considerable series of pottery and a small number of small finds made of clay, metal, and glass. Based on abundant analogies, the ceramic material, which included both wheel- and hand-made vessels, can be dated to the close of the Early La Tène period and the beginnings of the Middle La Tène period. The analysis of animal bones retrieved from archaeological features revealed that cattle was the predominant species in animal husbandry practiced by the people from both sites.

Keywords: La Tène culture, settlement, building, pottery, ornaments, supra-regional connections, animal husbandry, economy

1. Introduction¹

For a number of objective reasons, detailed studies on La Tène culture in Lower Silesia settlement are still at the initial stage, hence each new series of relevant materials is of particular value. Until relatively recently, the bulk of La Tène culture finds in Lower Silesia were known from sepulchral sites, and the knowledge about settlements was vestigial. The last 30 years of research has changed this proportion, but settlement features containing materials that could serve as comparative material for a large series of finds produced by surface surveys are still lacking. Therefore, even the few – but relatively well preserved – settlement features like those revealed at Ślęza 11–12 and Wrocław-Partynice 6 sites, both situated in the Wrocław district, provide significant contribution to understanding local specificity of La Tène culture settlement. They allow us to extend our knowledge about the local specificity of material culture, and investigate the relationships between the local Celtic population and its core areas beyond the Sudetes and Carpathians.

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2. History of research

The La Tène culture settlement at Ślęza was discovered in 1998 during rescue excavations preceding the construction of the A4 motorway. The research was carried out by Rescue Research Team established by the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IAiE PAN), Wrocław branch, under the leadership of Prof. Grzegorz Domański, Dr Elżbieta Kłosińska and Andrzej Kosicki. The works were continued in 2000, and were carried out in parallel on two sites designated as 11 and 12, both situated on land administratively belonging to the locality of Ślęza. In the end, it was concluded that the two sites are parts of one vast, multicultural settlement complex designated as Ślęza 11–12. In total, the research in 1998 and 2000 encompassed an area of 164 acres, and revealed approx. 1,000 archaeological features (Ślęza 11: 493 features; Ślęza 12: 497 features) whose chronology spanned various periods from the Neolithic up to the Middle Ages (Domański *et al.* 1999).

Other settlement features associated with the La Tène culture were uncovered during rescue excavations carried out in 2005 by M. Stefanowicz on behalf of private company AKME on a plot at Partynicka Street 5a, in the Partynice district of Wrocław. The explored area is the western part of site 6, and it neighbours an area excavated in 1995 (A. Kosicki from the Wrocław branch of IAiE PAN) and 2005–2006 (K. Kwaśnica from AKME). An irregular trench 375 m² in area was opened at Partynicka Street 5a, which, apart from La Tène culture features, also revealed features dated to the Early Medieval and Post Medieval periods.

3. Natural environment

In geographic terms, Ślęza 11–12 and Wrocław-Partynice 6 sites lie in the northern part of the Wrocław Plain, which belongs to the Silesian Plain, while in terms of hydrography they are situated in the left bank drainage of the upper Oder River (Fig. 1). Both sites occupy similar locations: a section of a valley bottom and the adjacent part of a moraine plateau (in geomorphological terms) on the right bank of the Ślęza River in its lower course. At Ślęza, the river terrace where traces of Iron Age occupation were identified, is covered by brown soils developed on medium and heavy moraine tills, while at Partynice these are black and grey soils developed on sands (Dobrzański 1972). Both sites occupy places highly attractive for prehistoric settlement, exposed to considerable anthropopression since as early as the beginnings of the Neolithic.

4. Architecture and settlement layout

4.1. Ślęza, site 11–12

Relics of the La Tène culture settlement were recorded in both parts of the settlement complex designated as site 11–12. In its south-western part (site 11), feature 150 with an accompanying post-built structure (designated as structure A for the needs of this study) were found, while feature 155 was discovered approx. 60 m to the north-east, on site 12, close to the edge of the explored area (Fig. 2). The data provided by surface surveys clearly indicate that prehistoric occupation stretched much further to the north, along the upper terrace of the Ślęza River.

Fig. 1. La Tène culture settlement in Lower Silesia and its settlement micro-region in the lower course of the Ślęza River: 1 – cemetery (at least 2 graves); 2 – singular grave; 3 – settlement (with at least one archaeological feature registered during excavations); 4 – trace of settlement. Developed by P. Dulęba

Fig. 2. Ślęza 11–12. Western part of the site with La Tène culture features marked. Developed by P. Dulęba

Structure A (post-built structure)

A post-built structure (16 postholes) located within are 26 on site 11 had a plan of an irregular rectangle approx. 7×4 m and was oriented with its longer axis to N-S (Fig. 3). It was comprised of the following postholes dug into the bedrock: feat. 155 (diam. 40 cm, depth 6 cm); feat. 156 (diam. 43 cm, depth 15 cm); feat. 157 (diam. 35 cm, depth 25 cm); feat. 169 (diam. 28 cm, depth 12 cm); feat. 249 (diam. 35 cm, depth 26 cm); feat. 250 (diam. 42 cm, depth 26 cm); feat. 251 (diam. 40 cm, depth 22 cm); feat. 252 (diam. approx. 40 cm, 27 cm); feat. 253 (diam. 40 cm, depth 27 cm); feat. 254 (diam. 30 cm, depth 25 cm); feat. 256 (diam. 30 cm, depth 30 cm); feat. 259 (diam. 40 cm, depth 25 cm); feat. 260 (25×40 cm, depth 18 cm); feat. 263 (25×40 cm, depth 12 cm); feat. 264 (diam. 40 cm, depth 21 cm); feat. 432 (25×40 cm, depth 20 cm). Some of them produced a small number of uncharacteristic potsherds, probably re-deposited. In the central part of structure A there was a relatively deep pit (feat. 150), which probably served as a cellar in the post-built structure.

Feature 150 (storage pit – “cellar”)

A pit oval in plan, 205×305 cm in size, it was dug into the bedrock to a depth of 70 cm; the pit had a regular, trough-shaped profile with a flat bottom (Figs 4–6). Its upper part, down to a depth of 16–18 cm, was filled with dark brown-grey humus (layer 1); below, there was light brown-light grey sand with admixtures of humus (layer 2), and the lowermost layer was light grey-light brown sandy humus (layer 3), in which numerous and relatively large fragments of several storage vessels were found. Pit 150 was cut by postholes 249, 252, and 253, which belonged to structure A. The fill of feature 150 produced 584 fragments of ceramic vessels attributable to the La Tène culture, a biconical spindle-whorl made from clay, and a small bronze ring.

Feature 155

Within acres 24 and 29 at site 12, next to the boundary of the explored area, a quadrangular pit with rounded corners was found; the pit was approx. 4.8×5.4 m in size, was oriented with its longer axis to NE-SW, and was dug into the bedrock to a depth of approx. 60 cm (Figs 7–8). The pit's bottom was irregular, and a groove approx. 30 cm wide and approx. 20 cm deep was identified in its western part (originally designated as feature 155/2), which probably was an element of internal construction of the building (Fig. 9). The drawing documentation and descriptions do not mention any postholes that could possibly be part of the building's structure, the presence of which is suggested by some of the profiles. The fill of feature 155 consisted of distinct cultural deposits. The first layer was a homogeneous layer of dark brown-grey brown humus (Fig. 9, profile A–J), also containing lumps of daub, which reached to a depth of approx. 24 cm. Beneath it, down to a depth of approx. 45 cm, there was grey-brown humus with occasionally occurring daub lumps. The third layer, approx. 10 cm thick, consisted of black-grey brown sandy humus. The fourth layer had the form of lenses (approx. 4 cm thick) of dark humus occurring at a depth of 40 cm. The lowermost part of the fill was built of silty, highly burnt-out humus of dark-orange and light-brown colours. Feature 155 cut through a Lusatian culture pit designated as 155/5, and was in turn cut by a ditch (feat. 155/3 – undetermined Iron Age culture) and by pit 155/4 (Przeworsk culture). Feature 155 should be interpreted as a kind of a semi-sunken pit-house. Its fill produced 608 fragments of ceramic vessels attributable to the La Tène culture, a fragment of a bracelet made from a light-green glass, a biconical clay spindle-whorl, and 8 poorly preserved iron artefacts.

Fig. 4. Ślęza 11–12. Plans and profiles of feature 150 and neighboring features belonging to structure A.
Developed by P. Dulęba

Fig. 5. Śleza 11–12. Plan and profile of feat. 150. Photos A. Kosicki

Fig. 6. Śleza 11–12. Pottery fragments concentration and profiles of feat. 150 and 249. Photos A. Kosicki

Fig. 7. Ślęza 11–12. Plan and profile of feat. 155. Developed by P. Dulęba

bottom. It was filled with a layer of brown loess highly mixed with sand. In addition, disturbances caused by burrowing animals were discernible in the profile. Materials: 6 fragments of La Tène culture pottery.

Feature 8 (pit)

A pit roughly oval in plan, 1.50×1.25 m in size, with its longer axis oriented to NW-SE, dug to a depth of 32 cm (Fig. 11: 2). In cross-section it resembled a trough with gently sloping walls. The eastern part was highly disturbed by burrowing animals. The pit was filled with a relatively compact layer of dark-brown loess, highly sandy in the bottom part. Materials: 11 fragments of La Tène culture pottery.

Feature 23 (pit)

A pit roughly oval in plan, 1.16×1.7 m in size, with its longer axis oriented to NW-SE, dug to a depth of 36 cm (Fig. 11: 3). In cross-section it resembled a trough with the western wall nearly vertical and the eastern wall slightly sloping. The pit was filled with a layer of dark-brown loess, highly disturbed by animal burrows in the bottom part. Materials: 140 fragments of La Tène culture pottery.

Feature 25 (pit)

A pit resembling an irregular quadrangle in plan, with the southern and south-western walls rounded, 0.8×1.1 m in size and with the longer axis oriented to NE-SW (Fig. 11: 4). In cross-section the pit resembled a trough with slightly sloping walls and irregular, undulating bottom, and the depth varied from 12 to 20 cm. The pit was filled with a layer of dark-brown loess, sandy in the bottom part. Materials: 11 fragments of La Tène culture pottery.

Fig. 8. Ślęza 11–12. Plan and profile of feat. 155. Photos A. Kosicki

Fig. 9. Ślęza 11–12. Feat. 155 during the exploration. Photos A. Kosicki

Fig. 10. Wrocław-Partynice 6. Plan of the excavation at Partynicka Street 5a. Developed by P. Dulęba and M. Stefanowicz

Feature 26 (semi-sunken house)

A semi-sunken house on a plan of an irregular rectangle with rounded corners, with an extension in the western part, oriented with the longer axis to E-W (with a slight deviation), 4.4×3.1 m in size at the level at which it was first identified (Fig. 12). The bottom was slightly undulating, and the feature was trough-shaped in cross-section, with a distinctly deeper area in the eastern part. The pit was dug into the ground to a maximum depth of 44 cm. It was filled with a layer of dark-brown loess mixed with sand, with clearly noticeable disturbances in the bottom part caused by burrowing animals. In the middle of the eastern wall there was a post-hole, sub-quadrangular in plan and 30 cm in diameter, which slightly leaned to the outside and was 6 cm deep. Its fill was a layer of light-grey loess highly mixed with sand, disturbed, especially in the bottom part, by the activity of burrowing animals. The analysis of the plan of feature 26 suggests that another post (perhaps shallow) may have originally been placed in

Fig. 11. Wrocław-Partynice 6. Plans and profiles of feat. 1, 8, 23 and 25. Developed by P. Dulęba and M. Stefanowicz

the western part, in the south-eastern corner of the extension (a niche for the entrance to the building?), which was not recorded in the cross-section. Materials: 160 fragments of La Tène culture pottery.

4.3. Analysis of features

The research at Ślęza revealed a very large number of various post-built structures. However, as in many other multicultural settlements, also here one encounters fundamental problems with ascribing the posts to individual structures and assigning them to particular phases of

Fig. 12. Wrocław-Partynice 6. Plans and profiles of feat. 26. Developed by P. Dulęba and M. Stefanowicz

occupation. This is only possible in a few cases where stratigraphic relationships between these structures and other, well-dated features can be observed, or where structures occur in clear separation from the rest. Therefore, post-built structures from La Tène culture sites in Central Europe still remain much less understood than sunken-floor buildings. The usable area of structure A was 28 m². Typical post-built structures recorded on Celtic settlements in the present-day Czech Republic averaged from 20 to 80 m² in area, although considerably larger structures, up to even 150 m², were sometimes recorded as well (Waldhauser 2001, 58; Venclová *et al.* 2008, fig. 23). Such structures have usually been interpreted as relics of houses or other buildings of special purposes – e.g. temples, as in the case of the structures known from oppida (Venclová *et al.* 2008, 49). An example of a “standard” post-built structure that can be interpreted as remains of a house is a structure discovered at Libišany, Dist. Pardubice in eastern Bohemia (Mangel, Zavoral 2013). The best analogy for the structure discussed in this paper are remains of a post-built structure discovered on a La Tène culture settlement at Královice, Dist. Kladno in central Bohemia (Waldhauser 2001, 56). The building from

Královice is similar in size to structure A from Ślęza, and is also accompanied by a pit dug within the post-built structure.

Feature 155 is as large as 25.9 m² in area, which makes it the largest semi-sunken house known from La Tène culture sites in Poland (cf. Dułęba 2010, tables XVIII–XIX). What also makes it different from other Celtic semi-sunken houses discovered in southern Poland are the proportions, which are closer to a square than a rectangle. The majority of numerous structures of that type known from the Bohemia range from 10 to 20 m² in area, with larger buildings of 21–25 m² in area being much less common (Waldhauser 2001, 56; Venclová *et al.* 2008, 46). According to the long-established classification developed by J. Meduna (1980a, 48–49), the semi-sunken house discovered at Ślęza belongs to type E2 (features devoid of structural posts, with narrow grooves). Previously, analogical features had been only known from Moravia (Meduna 1980a, fig. 4, table 1). Long and narrow grooves recorded in the bottom part of feature 155 (Fig. 9) may be interpreted as remains of constructions connected with spatial divisions or some installation (e.g. a bench or a bed).

The semi-sunken house discovered at Partynice should be classed as Meduna's type A-2b (1980a, 54–55). Relics of semi-sunken houses of analogical shape have been revealed in several Moravian sites, although it is worth noting that most of them date to the Late La Tène period (Čížmář M. 2003, 21, fig. 4). **The extension in the western part of feature 26 from Partynice** can be interpreted as traces of an entrance, as was the case in a very well preserved house discovered in the settlement at Bořitov, Dist. Blansko in Moravia (Čížmář M. 2003, fig. 6). The usable area of feature 26 is 13.64 m², which in light of the discussion presented above makes it a standard structure of that type, typical of La Tène culture settlements in Central Europe.

The features in question mainly served economic functions, and traces of performing various craft activities are often recorded in semi-sunken houses (Venclová *et al.* 2008, 48). Their residential function is much less likely, since Celtic semi-sunken features rarely reveal traces of hearths, which could provide heating during winter months (Meduna 1980a, 61). The large, above-ground post-built structures presented above are much more likely to have been used as dwellings.

The pit designated as 150 in the Ślęza settlement was situated within a post-built structure. Its size, its regular bottom, and the fact that two nearly completely preserved storage vessels were found in its fill indicate that the pit may have been used as a cellar for storing food. The arrangement of postholes 249–253 suggests that they may have been part of some additional, internal structure, e.g. a wooden door closing the entrance to the cellar.

Settlement pits discovered at Partynice do not show any specific traits that could allow their functions to be reconstructed in more detail, although the storage function should be ruled out given the relatively shallow depths of the pits. Due to its location in immediate vicinity of feature 26, feature 25 may have served as a waste pit for the people using the semi-sunken house.

4.4. Analysis of the layout of the settlements

The small number of features recorded on both sites discussed here, combined with the absence of landscape features potentially limiting the extent of local occupation, suggest two possible interpretations. According to the first, both sites represent relics of small single-household settlements, while the other is that they only represent marginal areas of larger settlement complexes. Celtic occupation in southern Poland followed an extensive pattern, with a network of dispersed, typically single-household settlements situated along river valleys. Semi-sunken features in the type of feature 155 from Ślęza and feature 26 from Wrocław-Partynice have usually been recorded in small concentrations (from 2 to 5 structures) which, together with

post-built structures accompanying them, can be interpreted as remains of separate – and to a certain degree autonomous – households. General studies of La Tène culture settlement in Silesia³ and Lesser Poland indicate that in our case one should rather take into account the second of the presented interpretational possibilities (cf. Dziegielewski, Purowski 2011, 76, fig. 2; Dulęba, Okoński 2012, 14, plan 1; Dulęba *et al.* 2016, 18, fig. 2). The traces recorded in the two analysed sites are most likely only small, peripheral areas of settlements stretched along watercourses, sometimes over quite long distances.

5. Analysis of mass materials

5.1. General remarks

The only category of mass archaeological material represented in both of the analysed sites is pottery. In order to ensure that general traits of pottery assemblages from Ślęza and Wrocław-Partynice can be compared with analogical assemblages from other parts of Poland, a decision was made to implement an analytical system already used in previous studies (Dulęba 2010; Dulęba, Okoński 2012; Dulęba, Kosicki 2017). In many aspects, the analysis of ceramic vessels attempted to refer to the works published by Czech archaeologists dealing with La Tène culture materials from open settlements in what today is the north-west part of the Czech Republic (Waldhauser, Holodňák 1984; Rulf, Salač 1995; Salač 1998; Salač, Kubálek 2015). Their studies operated on relatively large collections of sources and used very clear criteria of identification of particular groups of artefacts.

Pottery made on a wheel has been divided into 6 technological groups (K1–K6), depending on the firing conditions and macroscopically identifiable tempers. As for hand-made pottery, divided into 5 groups (R1–R5), the only criterion was the type of the temper in ceramic mass. It is worth emphasising that in studies of La Tène culture pottery one should avoid the term “wheel-thrown pottery”, since the vast majority of vessels made using a potter’s wheel were first made by hand from coils and then turned on a wheel, sometimes very strongly. Only in the case of Late La Tène painted pottery can one assume that vessels were originally formed on a wheel, from a single piece of clay.

Based on morphological, metric, and functional criteria, six basic vessel types have been distinguished in this study: bowl, pot, vase, beaker, flask, and storage vessel (*dolium*). Moreover, there also is a category described as “other”, into which a few vessels eluding the above categories have been included. Here belong, for example, sieve vessels, which in formal terms represent bowls or pots, and which are commonly supposed to have been used for the manufacture of dairy products or wood tar. The metric criterion is the same for pots and vases (the height larger than the diameter), hence interpreted as vases are vessels which, given the technology of their manufacture (thin walls, polished surfaces), were most likely used for serving food rather than for cooking. Graphite vessels made on a wheel, commonly referred to in the subject literature as “*situlae*”, have been automatically classed as pots here, since there are numerous examples of secondary burning-out of their bottom parts, indicating their cooking function.

According to a previously adopted convention, a double system of quantification has been applied in quantitative analyses. Both the number of vessel fragments and the minimum number

³ In this context, a particularly telling example is provided by the research carried out by the author and Jacek Soida (Silesian Museum, Katowice) in the micro-region of the Psina and Troja Rivers in Upper Silesia.

of vessels (MNV) have been used in the calculations, with the latter encompassing all the vessels identifiable based on diagnostic fragments.

5.2. Formal analysis of vessels

The formal analysis of vessels was based on a typology developed for La Tène culture pottery from sites from the entire territory of present-day Silesia (Fig. 13). The vast majority of diagnostic fragments survived sufficiently well for credible determination of vessel type. This proved impossible only for 11 out of 163 vessels distinguished on the basis of MNV (table 2). Vessels representing the categories of flasks (400), beakers (500), and “others” (700) occurred neither at Ślęza nor at Wrocław-Partynice.

100 – Bowls

Throughout the entire La Tène period, bowls remained the most popular vessel category on settlement sites. This stems from the fact that bowls were typically used for individual consumption, which made them “wear out” faster. In formal terms, this is also the most diversified category. In north-western Czech Republic bowls constituted more than half of all vessels recovered from Celtic settlements (Salač, Kubálek 2015, 102, fig. 61).

The simplest type of bowls are vessels assigned to group 110, conventionally referred to as flower pot bowls. These are typically small and rather carelessly manufactured vessels having conical profiles and upright rims. An example of that type, representing technological group R1 and with a rim diameter of 15 cm, comes from feature 155 at Ślęza (Fig. 26: 11). Conical bowls revealing traits of technological groups R1–R4 are relatively common finds in La Tène culture settlements from western Lesser Poland (Dułęba 2010, 67). They occur from the very beginning of the La Tène period (Salač 1992, fig. 26) and are known from the entire range of Celtic settlement in Central Europe, from the Carpathian Basin (Szabó 2007, 239, figs 46, 54), to Bavaria (Stöckli 1979, 18–19, pl. 37: 335; 44: 454–455 f.).

Group 120, which includes two types of so-called “cloche” bowls, is quite well-represented in the discussed sites, the most common form being bowl 121 (Figs 18: 1–3; 20: 9; 23: 9–15; 26: 2, 5, 7; 31: 6–7; 33: 7; 34: 3). Only two of these vessels survived sufficiently well for their rim diameters to be determined, at 14 and 24 cm respectively. One bowl, from feature 26 at Wrocław-Partynice, was additionally decorated with a carelessly executed incised decoration in the form of oblique lines (Fig. 34: 4). Bowls of type 121 belong to the most popular vessel forms encountered in La Tène culture settlements in the Early and Middle La Tène periods, which is evidenced by the finds from Moravia (Meduna 1980a, 93–94) and the northern part of the Carpathian Basin (cf. Březinová 2000; Szabó 2007, 238, figs 46, 54). In the Czech Republic, they occur until the Late La Tène period (Salač 1992, figs 3–4, 26), although they are most common in assemblages from phases LT B1–C1 (cf. Salač, Kubálek 2015, 121–130). Among Lower Silesian materials, the forms in question occurred at Radłowice, Dist. Oława (Pazda 1992, fig. 9: e–g, i), Grodziszowice, Dist. Oława (Dułęba, Kosicki 2017, fig. 24: d), Kurzątkowice, Dist. Oława (Dułęba, Kosicki 2017, 93, figs 11: d–e, h–i; 13: c, f; 14: c, k; 15: l), and Gniechowice, Dist. Wrocław.⁴

Feature 23 at Wrocław-Partynice yielded a relatively large bowl of type 122, representing technological traits of group R1, with a rim diameter of 27 cm (Fig. 31: 9). A similar vessel having a rim diameter of 19 cm was found in neighbouring feature 26 (Fig. 35: 1), and fragments of another one were recovered from feature 155 at Ślęza (Fig. 20: 10). Bowls of type

⁴ Archaeological excavations from 1972 and 1976; collection of the Archaeological Museum in Wrocław.

Fig. 13. Typology of La Tène culture vessels in Silesia. Developed by P. Dułęba

122 are distinguished by a separated, cylindrical section of the neck, and upright rims, and are less popular than the type discussed above. In north-west Czech Republic they mainly occur in features from phases LT B2–C2 (Salač, Kubálek 2015, pl. 12: 21; 40: 16; 48: 17; 72: 15–16; 91: 15–19; 168: 7; 175: 7–8; 231: 5, 14; 260: 10, 15), and in Lower Silesia analogical examples have been found in Grodziszowice (Dułęba, Kosicki 2017, fig. 24: c), and in Górzec, Dist. Strzelno (Gralak 2012, fig. 6c, e).

Fig. 14. Ślęza 11–12. Feat. 150: 1 – spindle-whorl; 2–3 – pottery made on a wheel. Drawn by P. Dulęba and K. Świątek

Bowls with the rims curved inwards have been assigned to group 130. These are hand-made vessels only, most of which represent type 131 (Figs 26: 3–4, 8; 33: 8; 35: 2). An example preserved sufficiently well for the rim diameter to be reconstructed (26 cm) comes from feature 26 at Wrocław-Partynice (Fig. 35: 2). A fully reconstructable, relatively large bowl of type 132 was found in feature 150 at Ślęza (Fig. 15: 2). It has a rim diameter of 33 cm; the bottom, formed on a small pedestal, is 19 cm in diameter, and the vessel is more than 18 cm high. The bowl has relatively thick walls and reveals technological traits of group R1. Handmade bowls of group 130 are very simple forms, remaining in use throughout nearly the entire Hallstatt and

Fig. 15. Ślęza 11–12. Feat. 150: 1–3 – hand-made pottery. Drawn by P. Dulęba

La Tène periods in nearly all parts of Central Europe (Meduna 1980a, 95), although the time of their notable predominance in La Tène culture pottery falls to the Late La Tène period (Salač 1992, fig. 26). Bowls of the discussed type are most often handmade vessels, usually carefully manufactured, sometimes smoothed and polished; examples manufactured using a wheel are much less common.

Among bowls made on a wheel, vessels classed as group 150 are clearly predominant; they encompass forms with S-shaped profiles and thickened, everted rims, most of which represent traits of type 151 (Figs 14: 3; 28: 2, 4; 31: 3; 33: 2). The largest, and at the same time the best preserved example of such bowls was found in feature 150 at Ślęza (Fig. 14: 3). The vessel is 32 cm in rim diameter, and its S-shaped wall is one centimetre wider. The bottom part has not survived, but the bowl must have been at least 16 cm high. The vessel represents technological traits of group K1. Another two S-shaped bowls made on a wheel and retrieved from the same feature were distinguished by relatively small dimensions (rim diameters of 12 and 14 cm) and characteristic “sickle-shaped” rims (Figs 17: 1–2). S-shaped bowls made on a wheel are not good chronological indicators. Except for but a few characteristic variants, these are commonplace forms in La Tène culture settlement assemblages in Central Europe for the entire period of this culture development (Meduna 1980a, 138–148; Salač 1992, 70, figs 3–4; Salač, Kubálek 2015, 52–54, fig. 28). Settlement features sometimes also contain hand-made imitations of S-shaped bowls, which is also the case in the two sites discussed here (Fig. 20: 8). These imitations are typically very carefully executed, often with polished surfaces. A relatively large bowl (rim diameter of 27 cm) revealing technological traits of group R2, with an upright, thickened rim (Fig. 27: 1), slightly differs from typical imitations of vessels made on a wheel.

Fig. 16. Ślęza 11–12. Feat. 150: 1–5 – pottery made on a wheel. Drawn by P. Dulęba and K. Świątek

In feature 150 at Ślęza, a large (rim diameter of 36 cm) hand-made bowl revealing technological traits of group R1 was found, which in formal terms should be assigned to type 153 (Fig. 16: 1). Its neck and rim are distinctly separated by a shoulder and by heavy polishing, while the remaining part of the body is highly coarsened on the outside (Fig. 30: 4). Such

Fig. 17. Ślęza 11–12. Feat. 150: 1–4 – pottery made on a wheel; 5–13 – hand-made pottery. Drawn by P. Dulęba and K. Świątek

a surface treatment is a reflection of an older, Hallstatt-period tradition, still occurring quite commonly in Early La Tène pottery. In Moravian settlements of the La Tène culture, S-shaped bowls of type 153 are known from the beginning of the La Tène period (Meduna 1980a, 138, fig. 16: 14–16) and continued to be used until phase LT C2. A similar chronological position can be ascribed to the finds from the northern part of the Carpathian Basin (Březinová 2000,

Fig. 18. Ślęza 11–12. Feat. 150: 1–12 – hand-made pottery. Drawn by P. Dulęba

Fig. 19. Ślęza 11–12. Feat. 155: 1–3 – pottery made on a wheel. Drawn by P. Dulęba and K. Świątek

pl. 9: 11; 47: 18; 49: 2; 53: 4). Handmade bowls with a clearly distinguished neck are known from Moravia (Meduna 1980a, pl. 60: 5; Meduna 1980b, pl. 34: 7; Čižmářová, Robličková 2014, figs 8: 8; 16: 2, 9) and the Czech Republic (Salač, Kubálek 2015, pl. 44: 9; 161: 18; 166: 5; 176: 13). Vessels of type 153 which are most akin to the discussed bowl from Ślęza

Fig. 20. Ślęza 11–12. Feat. 155: 1–6 – pottery made on a wheel; 7–12 – hand-made pottery. Drawn by P. Dulęba and K. Świątek

come from a semi-sunken house (feat. 2/1936) from Sobešuky, Dist. Chomutov, Czech Republic, where they were accompanied by an iron brooch of the Duchcov type, which dated the assemblage to LT B1 (Salač, Kubálek 2015, 500, pl. 239: 7, 15–16). A slightly different bowl of that type comes from feature 155 at Ślęza. It is significantly smaller (rim diameter of 16.5 cm) and reveals technological traits of group R2 (with a prevalence of grog in the temper), and its distinguished neck is very narrow and approx. 1 cm high (Fig. 20: 7). A very similar vessel has been

found in Moravia at Hrubčice, Dist. Prostějov (Meduna 1980b, pl. 23: 14). A handmade bowl from feature 26 at Wrocław-Partynice represents a transitional form between type 153 and cloche bowls (Fig. 34: 2).

200 – Pots

Barrel-shaped pots (group 210) are very simple vessels, distinguished by their large size and un-thickened or undistinguished inverted rims (Figs 18: 6; 22: 2, 5; 23: 5; 26: 1, 9–10; 31: 4; 33: 9). The best-preserved example, having a rim diameter of 18 cm, was distinguished by its coarsened outer surface (Fig. 25: 1). Coarsened pots of group 201 are known, among other places, from settlements in the north-western part of the Czech Basin (Salač, Kubálek 2015, pl. 136: 1; 171: 13; 191: 13; 218: 7; 219: 10 f.).

Three better-preserved pots with S-shaped profiles and everted rims (group 210) were found in feature 155 at Ślęza (Fig. 21). One of them (Figs 21:2; 30:2) had a distinctly separated neck (highly polished) and its body covered with brushed decoration. This type of ornament refers to the Hallstatt period style and is characteristic of Early La Tène pottery. S-shaped pots with separated necks and coarsened bodies are known from Moravia (Meduna 1980a, pl. 128:14; 135:15; 1980b, pl. 13: 5–7, 56: 9; Horáková 1993, fig. 5: 9) and Bohemia (Salač, Kubálek 2015, pl. 44: 9; 161: 16). In Moravia they occurred in assemblages typical of horizon 2 of local settlements, synchronised with phase LT B1 (Meduna 1980a, 140–141, fig. 17: 33).

A pot of type 223 discovered in accumulation layers of the Ślęza settlement (Fig. 28: 5) also belongs to archaic forms. The vessel's body is highly coarsened, the neck is slightly separated, and the rim is thickened. Similar pots are known from a nearby settlement at Kurzątkowice (Dulęba, Kosicki 2017, fig. 11:j).

What is slightly puzzling in the analysed collection of vessels is a very poor representation of graphite pots made on a wheel (technological group K2), commonly called situlae. Vessels of this type were only found in features 155 at Ślęza and 26 at Wrocław-Partynice (Figs 20: 1, 4–6; 33: 1). One such vessel from feature 26 at Wrocław-Partynice stands out with its large size (rim diameter of 33 cm), which makes it functionally closer to storage vessels. The sizes of graphite situlae vary, but specimens as large as the one from feature 26 occur relatively rarely. The vast majority of vessels in question are biconical in profile, with the maximum body diameter placed at $\frac{3}{4}$ of height. In terms of rim shape one can distinguish two basic variants: with inverted rim (type 231), and with a neck and everted rim (type 232). An atypical, relatively small (rim diameter of 13 cm) graphite pot from feature 155 at Ślęza (Fig. 20: 1) should be ascribed to type 231, although it is a unique example, standing out with its massive and flattened rim and the low angle at which the rim was inverted. Such vessels are known from Moravia (Meduna 1980a, pl. 119: 4; Meduna 1980b, pl. 31: 15, 16). Similar pots, although handmade and manufactured from ceramic mass devoid of graphite, occur primarily in the Early La Tène period. Another graphite vessel from feature 155 (Fig. 20: 4), with a strongly inverted rim and clearly marked neck, also finds precise analogies among vessels from Celtic settlements in Moravia (Meduna 1980b, pl. 87: 21; Hlava 2001, fig. 18: 6). Accumulation layers in the Ślęza settlement also yielded a fragment of a large graphite vessel (Fig. 28: 1) of type 232, decorated with a broad plastic cordon.

300 – Vases

The term vase was taken here to mean high vessels, similar to pots in terms of proportions (the height greater than the rim diameter) but notably different from pots in terms of the manner of their manufacture and their functions. Virtually all these vessels can be classed as tableware, a category primarily represented by forms made on a wheel.

Fig. 21. Ślęza 11–12. Feat. 155: 1–3 – hand-made pottery. Drawn by P. Dulęba and K. Świątek

Feature 23 at Wrocław-Partynice produced a partly reconstructable vase made on a wheel (Fig. 31: 1), with a slightly S-shaped profile and a thickened rim 13 cm in diameter, which can be assigned to type 311. The vessel was fired in reducing atmosphere (technological group K1), and its external surface is highly polished; in addition, the vessel is decorated with a relatively broad rib pushed out from the inside of the vessel, emphasised additionally by horizontal

Fig. 22. Ślęza 11–12. Feat. 155: 1–21 – hand-made pottery. Drawn by P. Dulęba

grooves. A fragment of what probably is a similar vessel was found in accumulation layers of the Ślęza settlement (Fig. 28: 3). Vessels of the discussed type occurred in sepulchral assemblages in the Early La Tène period, with the vessel from a single burial from Borek Strzeliński, Dist. Strzelin, being the closest analogy in Lower Silesia (Jahn 1931, 118, pl. V: 4, fig. 14: 5). The mentioned burial was furnished with a set of ornaments and dress items made of bronze (necklace, bracelet, and a pair of ankle rings) datable to phase B2a. Outside Lower Silesia, the discussed vase from feature 23 finds many analogies among vessels known from La Tène

Fig. 23. Ślęza 11–12. Feat. 155: 1–15 – hand-made pottery. Drawn by P. Dulęba

culture graves in Upper Silesia (Gedl 1978, pl. X: 3; XI: 7; XIII: 2), Moravia (Čižmářová 2005, figs 76: 13; 78: 14; 86: 2; 2009, pl. 11: 10; 2013, pl. 44: 4; 55: 16; 2017, pl. 43: 13–14; 50: 17), and the northern part of the Carpathian Basin (Benadik 1983, pl. V: 8; XXXV: 18). In Moravia, ceramic forms of that type occur in settlements as well (Meduna 1980a, pl. 88: 6; Horáľková 1993, fig. 2: 16). Vases made on a wheel adorned with broad, plastic ribs date to

Fig. 24. Śleza 11–12. Feat. 155: 1–10 – hand-made pottery. Drawn by P. Dulęba

phase LT B2 (Čižmář M. 1975, 424–426). Ceramic vessels very similar to that from Partynice have been found in graves 4, 25, 28, and 34 in the cemetery at Holubice, Dist. Vyškov, in Moravia (Čižmářová 2009, pl. 2: 2; 11: 10; 13: 11; 17: 4). These burials can be precisely dated to LT B2a, which is confirmed by metal ornaments and dress items they yielded, including a pair of bi-partite bronze ankle rings made from 11 hollow hemispheres, an iron brooch of the La Tène

Fig. 25. Ślęza 11–12. Feat. 155: 1–5 – hand-made pottery. Drawn by P. Dulęba and K. Świątek

Fig. 26. Šleža 11–12. Feat. 155: 1–17 – hand-made pottery. Drawn by P. Dulęba

construction provided with a very large spring, and younger variants of bronze brooches of the Duchcov type (Čižmářová 2009, pl. 2: 3, 6–7). Interestingly, two of the mentioned burials from Moravia also contained characteristic, bi-partite bronze bracelets, plain and fastened with a hinge (Čižmářová 2009, pl. 2: 4; 13: 7–8), very similar to the ornament found in a grave at Mokronos Górny, Dist. Wrocław, in Lower Silesia (Jahn 1931, 109, fig. 32).

From feature 150 at Šleža comes a fully reconstructable (height: 20.5 cm; rim diam.: 18 cm; base diam.: 10 cm) vase of type 322, made on a wheel (Fig. 14: 2). The vessel represents technological traits of group K6 and finds many direct analogies among typical pottery from Early La Tène graves in Upper Silesia (Gedl 1978, pl. III: 2; XI: 7) and Moravia (Čižmářová 2005, figs 74: 3, 5; 2009, pl. 11: 4, 12; 2013, pl. 20: 21; 22: 3; 53: 4; 2017, pl. 24: 1; 54: 6; 68: 4).

Fig. 27. Ślęza 11–12. Feat. 155: 1–2 – hand-made pottery. Drawn by P. Dulęba

In Moravia (Meduna 1980b, pl. 68: 11) and in the eastern part of the Carpathian Basin (Szabó 2007, pl. XX: 18; XXVIII: 17; LXI: 11) vessels of analogous shapes also occur in settlements. Furthermore, the discussed vase from Ślęza resembles a fully preserved vessel from Wilków, Dist. Miechów, in western Lesser Poland, which was most likely a cinerary urn from a damaged cremation burial (Woźniak 1970, pl. XXXI: 9). The vessel from Wilków also represents traits of group K6, but is significantly larger (height: 29.5 cm; rim diam.: 24.5 cm) and is additionally decorated with a second plastic rib, placed in the narrowest part of the neck. The closest analogy to the vase from Ślęza, which is surprising in light of the information presented above, is a vase originating most likely from a damaged burial from Aislingen, Dist. Dillingen, as far from Ślęza as Swabia (Krämer 1985, 173, pl. 97: 4). This vessel is very similar to the Ślęza specimen in terms of form, arrangement of decoration, and size. Based on the analogies presented above, the vase from feature 150 at Ślęza should be dated to phase LT B2.

600 – Storage vessels

Two handmade storage vessels were found in feature 150. The first, almost fully preserved (Fig. 15: 1), was as high as 71 cm and had a rim diameter of 32 cm, which makes it the largest fully reconstructed Celtic vessel known from the territory of present-day Poland (it could have held approx. 90 litres). In formal terms, the vessel resembles much smaller pots of type 221, which were quite common in settlement features to the south of the Sudetes and Carpathians. The body of the vessel in question is decorated with diagonal incised lines (brushed ornamentation), separated from the neck by a row of regularly spaced finger impressions. Decoration in the form of a single, horizontal line of finger impressions was recorded on two pots found in feature 27 from the Górzec, Dist. Strzelin settlement, dated to LT C1 (Gralak 2012, fig. 8:a, d), and is also known from the site of Radłowice, Dist. Olawa (Pazda 1992, fig. 9: a, c–d). Such decoration occurs relatively often in settlements from the Bohemia (Waldhauser, Krásný 2006, figs 4: 9; 6: 9, 16; 7: 2; Salač, Kubálek 2015, pl. 7–9; 15: 17; 19: 23 f.), and is known from Moravia as well, although in the latter territory it is particularly characteristic of Late La Tène materials (Čižmář M. 2003, 58–61, figs 16–17).

Fig. 28. Ślęza 11–12. Accumulative layer: 1–4 – pottery made on a wheel; 5 – hand-made pottery. Drawn by P. Dulęba and K. Świątek

Another storage vessel from feature 150 is the most surprising ceramic find revealed in the Ślęza settlement. It is distinguished by a clearly thickened rim, cylindrical neck, and plastic decoration in the form of a knob with a hollow in the middle (Fig. 15: 3). At the close of the Early La Tène period and in the beginnings of the Middle La Tène period, decoration in the form of plastic knobs is known exclusively from La Tène culture sites from the north-eastern part of the Carpathian Basin, where it is regarded as reflecting a local pottery tradition (the Szentcs-Vekerzug culture) with roots in the Hallstatt period (Tankó 2010, 325, pl. 2; 4:5,

Fig. 29. Ślęza 11–12. Vessel from feat. 150. Photo by P. Dulęba

10–11). This decoration was primarily applied on handmade pots of various forms. In relatively large numbers, handmade vessels decorated in this manner are also known from local La Tène culture cemeteries (Hellebrandt 1999, figs 116, 199, pl. LXIV: 6; LXVI: 11; LXVII: 11; LXIX: 8; LXXI: 4, 10 f.). The vessel from Ślęza is significantly larger than any example known thus far from the area discussed above. In terms of shape and morphology it resembles much later vessels known from the Púchov culture, although these too are still much smaller.

The manufacture and exploitation of storage vessels in the La Tène culture became widespread from phases LT C2–D1 (Salač 1992, 70). Before that time, storage vessels were much less frequent finds. Two partly preserved handmade storage vessels are known from feature 2484 at Zagórze, Dist. Wieliczka (Dulęba, Okoński 2012, 36, pl. 373: 1–2). Based on other artefacts, this assemblage can be dated to LT C1b–C2. A quite abundant series of storage vessels,

Fig. 30. Ślęza 11–12. Surfaces of hand-made pottery. Photos by P. Dulęba

among which forms made on a wheel prevail, comes from settlements situated in the vicinity of the present-day city of Racibórz in Upper Silesia.⁵

Given their dimensions and weight, storage vessels were not suitable for transport after having been filled in, so, analogically to *dolia* and *pithoi* known from Mediterranean civilisations, they would become elements of furniture of dwellings and household buildings. In the case of Ślęza, this is clearly confirmed by the contexts in which both the vessels discussed here were discovered.

⁵ Unpublished research by P. Dulęba and J. Soida from 2013–2017, collection of the Silesian Museum in Katowice.

Fig. 31. Wrocław-Partynice 6. Feat. 23: 1–3 – pottery made on a wheel; 4–9 – hand-made pottery. Drawn by P. Dulęba

5.3. General characteristics of pottery manufacture

In order to determine the basic parameters of the pottery used by La Tène culture populations inhabiting the settlements at Ślęza and Wrocław-Partynice, the data are presented in tabular form. Mass material was analysed in two ways: by calculating proportions based on the total number of potsherds, and based on the determined minimum number of vessels (MNV).

Fig. 32. Wrocław-Partynice 6. Feat. 8, 23, 25: 1–8 – hand-made pottery. Drawn by P. Dulęba

Interestingly, and not quite like in other assemblages from Poland analysed in this manner, the proportions calculated using both approaches turn out to be very similar (Table 1).

Vessels made on a wheel constitute only 12.9% (11.6% of MNV) of the whole assemblage, which is notably below the standard value for finds from Silesia – 48.3% and 54.5% MNV, and western Lesser Poland – 35.4% and 52.8% MNV (Dulęba 2010, tables VII–VIII). The only published Early La Tène settlement, at Kurzańkowice, produced a significantly larger amount of workshop pottery (Dulęba, Kosicki 2017, tables 1–3). In feature 1/90 in this site, comparable

Fig. 33. Wrocław-Partynice 6. Feat. 26: 1–3 – pottery made on a wheel; 4–10 – hand-made pottery. Drawn by P. Dulęba

Table 1. Quantitative and proportional summary of the potsherds and so called minimum number of vessels from the La Tène culture assemblages

FEATURE	NUMBER OF POTSDERDS	MINIMUM NUMBER OF VESSELS	VESSELS MADE ON A WHEEL		HAND-MADE VESSELS		TOTAL	VESSELS MADE ON A WHEEL		HAND-MADE VESSELS		TOTAL
			ITEMS	(%)	ITEMS	(%)		FR.	(%)	FR.	(%)	
Ślęza 150	584	34	6	17,6	28	82,4	34	90	15,4	494	84,6	584
Ślęza 155	608	86	9	10,5	77	89,5	86	51	8,4	557	91,6	608
Wrocław-Partynice 1	6	0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	1	16,7	5	83,3	6
Wrocław-Partynice 8	11	1	0	0,0	1	100,0	1	1	9,1	10	90,9	11
Wrocław-Partynice 23	140	15	3	20,0	12	80,0	15	19	13,6	121	86,4	140
Wrocław-Partynice 25	11	1	0	0,0	1	100,0	1	0	0,0	11	100,0	11
Wrocław-Partynice 26	160	26	3	11,5	23	88,5	26	15	9,4	145	90,6	160
TOTAL	1520	163	21	12,9	142	87,1	163	177	11,6	1343	88,4	1520

in terms of size and function (semi-sunken feature), workshop pottery accounted for 36% (44% MNV) of the assemblage (Dulęba, Kosicki 2017, 111). Since the excavations at Kurzątkowice revealed a pottery kiln, the presence of specialised potters seems nearly certain in this settlement, while in the case of Ślęza and Wrocław-Partynice one can assume that there probably were no such workshops.

Fig. 34. Wrocław-Partynice 6. Feat. 26: 1–4 – hand-made pottery. Drawn by P. Dułęba

What seems to be very characteristic of Celtic settlement in Lower Silesia is a very low number of graphite vessels (Tables 3–4) (Dułęba, Kosicki 2017, 112), which make up merely 2% of the assemblage (technological groups K2, K3, and R4). This is also a basic difference between Celtic pottery from Lower and Upper Silesia, since archaeological sites in the latter territory abound in graphite vessels, which sometimes exceed 40% of all ceramic finds. These are mainly graphite situlae, and also numerous bowls, usually handmade, distinguished by tempers

Table 2. Quantitative and proportional summary of the vessel forms from the La Tène culture assemblages

QUANTITATIVE AND PROPORTIONAL SUMMARY OF THE VESSEL FORMS (NUMBER OF VESSELS)																	
FEATURE	BOWLS		POTS		VASES		FLASKS		BEAKERS		STORAGE VESSELS		OTHERS		NN		NUMBER OF VESSELS
	100	(%)	200	(%)	300	(%)	400	(%)	500	(%)	600	(%)	700	(%)	–	(%)	
Ślęza 150	17	50,0	10	29,4	1	2,9	0	0,0	0	0,0	2	5,9	0	0,0	4	11,8	34
Ślęza 155	41	47,7	41	47,7	3	3,5	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	1	1,2	86
Wrocław- -Partynice 1	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0
Wrocław- -Partynice 8	0	0,0	1	100,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	1
Wrocław- -Partynice 23	10	66,7	2	13,3	1	6,7	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	2	13,3	15
Wrocław- -Partynice 25	1	100,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	1
Wrocław- -Partynice 26	14	53,8	7	26,9	1	3,8	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	4	15,4	26
TOTAL	83	50,9	61	37,4	6	3,7	0	0,0	0	0,0	2	1,2	0	0,0	11	6,7	163

Table 3. Quantitative summary of the potsherds representing particular technological groups from the La Tène culture assemblages

FEATURE	TECHNOLOGICAL GROUPS											TOTAL
	VESSELS MADE ON A WHEEL						HAND-MADE VESSELS					
	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	K6	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	
	(FR.)	(FR.)	(FR.)	(FR.)	(FR.)	(FR.)	(FR.)	(FR.)	(FR.)	(FR.)	(FR.)	
Ślęza 150	35	2		2		51	454	5	34	1		584
Ślęza 155	14	7	4			26	513	32	6	6		608
Wrocław-Partynice 1	1						5					6
Wrocław-Partynice 8	1						9					10
Wrocław-Partynice 23	17					2	101	4	16			140
Wrocław-Partynice 25							8		2	1		11
Wrocław-Partynice 26	10	4		1			117	6	18	4		160
TOTAL	78	13	4	3	0	79	1207	47	76	12	0	1519

consisting of large, poorly mixed lumps of graphite combined with grog or fine-grained sand. This attribute can also be of certain chronological value, since recently discovered first settlement features in Upper Silesia confidently dated to the Early La Tène period also contained negligible numbers of graphite vessels.⁶ Graphite enhanced vessels are resistant to high temperatures, as well as to acid and lye, so vessels with high contents of graphite in the ceramic mass could have been “specialist” pottery, destined for performing some specific activities. The analysis of a very large collection of graphite pottery from Manching, Lkr. Pfaffenhofen a. d. Ilm in Bavaria demonstrated that a local clay was mixed there with graphite whose deposits were identified 140 km away in Kropfmühl, Lkr. Passau, but also that a significant number of

⁶ Samborowice, Dist. Racibórz, site 13 – research by P. Dułęba and J. Soida, collection of the Silesian Museum in Katowice.

Table 4. Proportional summary of the potsherds representing particular technological groups from the La Tène culture assemblages

FEATURE	TECHNOLOGICAL GROUPS										
	VESSELS MADE ON A WHEEL						HAND-MADE VESSELS				
	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	K6	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Ślęza 150	6,0	0,3	0,0	0,3	0,0	8,7	77,7	0,9	5,8	0,2	0,0
Ślęza 155	2,3	1,2	0,7	0,0	0,0	4,3	84,4	5,3	1,0	1,0	0,0
Wrocław-Partynice 1	16,7	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	83,3	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Wrocław-Partynice 8	10,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	90,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Wrocław-Partynice 23	12,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	1,4	72,1	2,9	11,4	0,0	0,0
Wrocław-Partynice 25	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	72,7	0,0	18,2	9,1	0,0
Wrocław-Partynice 26	6,3	2,5	0,0	0,6	0,0	0,0	73,1	3,8	11,3	2,5	0,0
TOTAL	5,1	0,9	0,3	0,2	0,0	5,2	79,5	3,1	5,0	0,8	0,0

complete graphite vessels were imports (Gebhard 1995, 112). At present, it is impossible to determine whether local deposits were used in Lower Silesia or graphite was imported; this extremely interesting issue requires further research, and a large series of physico-chemical and petrographic analyses in particular.

In formal terms, the ceramic assemblage presented here shows little diversity, which is evidenced by the total absence of such vessels as beakers, flasks, and special forms (sieve vessels, lids, cups, etc.). Bowls are clearly prevailing, making up 50.9% of all vessel forms (Table 2). The formal analysis of vessels from western Lesser Poland (Dulęba 2010, table XII) reveals a nearly totally opposite proportion, with pots being clearly predominant (52.9%). This can also be connected with the chronological position of these materials.⁷ Such a possibility is suggested by the finds from north-western Bohemia, where high vessels became more popular in phases LT C2-D1 (Salač 1992, 70, fig. 25).

Only slightly above 22% of the identified vessels bear traces of ornamentation of various forms (Table 5), and it is worth emphasising that the most popular manner of adorning vessels was polishing their outer surfaces. This low percentage of decorated vessels is a distinct tendency in Central European materials dated to LT B–C1 (Salač 1992, 70, fig. 24). In this chronological period, the most common decorations include circumferential horizontal grooves and plastic ornaments such as ribs and cordons (Salač 1992, fig. 27). This is even more distinctly noticeable in workshop pottery.

6. Analysis of small finds

The research discussed here yielded only a small number of La Tène culture artefacts made of raw materials other than clay, which unfortunately stems mainly from unprofessional use (or a complete lack) of metal detectors, in particular during the exploration of accumulation layers removed with mechanical equipment. This highly inappropriate approach, unfortunately still practiced by some archaeologists, in many cases precludes more precise dating of settlement sites.

⁷ The mentioned collection of vessels from the Lesser Polish enclave of the La Tène culture is younger and, as all features from this region, should be dated to LT C1–C2 (Dulęba 2010, figs 5–6).

Table 5. Quantitative summary of the ornamentation types on the La Tène culture vessels

FEATURE	POLISHING	GRAPHITE BURNISHED	INCISED ORNAMENT	PLASTIC ORNAMENT	MINIMUM NUM- BER OF VESSELS
Ślęza 150	8		1	3	34
Ślęza 155	10	1	1	2	86
Wrocław-Partynice 1					0
Wrocław-Partynice 8					1
Wrocław-Partynice 23	2		1	1	15
Wrocław-Partynice 25					1
Wrocław-Partynice 26	9	2	1	1	26
TOTAL	29	3	4	7	163
%	17,8	1,8	2,5	4,3	100%

The semi-sunken house (feat. 155) contained several uncharacteristic iron objects (Fig. 37: 3–10), which may be regarded as remains of various nails, rivets, or hasps. Such objects are very common finds in La Tène culture settlements. Of particular note among them is a partly preserved tool 11 cm long, with a distinctly separated shaft for a handle, and a rectangle-sectioned lower part 0.9 cm wide. The artefact can be identified as an iron file (or rasp), as suggested by one of the edges with characteristic horizontal grooves. Such tools are known from La Tène culture settlements, although they have most commonly been found in Late La Tène oppida (Jacobi 1974, 15–18, pl. 5).

Two clay spindle-whorls, both of biconical form, were found in pit 150 (Fig. 14: 1) and semi-sunken house 155 (Fig. 37: 2) at Ślęza. These commonplace artefacts in settlement sites were produced by La Tène culture people in a great variety of shapes (Jacobi 1974, 59–61, pl. 86; Meduna 1980a, 128–129). Analogical spindle-whorls, possibly contemporary with the objects from Ślęza, **are known from La Tène culture features discovered at Kraków-Wyciąże settlement** (Poleska 2006, 165, pl. 364: 13–14, 376: 3).

The only artefact retrieved from feature 155 that can be considered a precise chronological indicator is a fragment of a bracelet made of light-green glass (Fig. 37: 1). The dimensions of the surviving fragment are as follows: length 3.2 cm, width 0.8 cm, and height 0.6 cm. The bracelet was semi-circular in section, and was probably decorated with crossing wavy lines made from glass of another colour. The glass lines themselves have not survived, but they left clearly visible negatives. The bracelet fragment in question should be assigned to group 5a in T. E. Haevernick's classification (1960). Made from light-green or green-blue glass, bracelets of group 5a, as well as very similar forms belonging to group 5b, are most likely the earliest examples of such ornaments in the La Tène culture, and can quite precisely be dated to LT C1a (Karwowski 2004, 65–69, figs 17, 25; Venclová 2016, 63–64, fig. 50). Bracelets from both the discussed groups occur in nearly all areas covered by La Tène culture settlement (Haevernick 1960, map 7; Venclová 1990, fig. 22), although they are relatively rare as compared with other bracelet variants (Fig. 38). Until now, the only example of this type in the territory of present-day Poland was known from old, pre-WW2 research at site 11 at Roszowicki Las in Upper Silesia.⁸ A specimen from Nowa Cerekwia, Dist. Głubczyce (Germ. *Bieskau*, Kr. *Leobschütz*), mentioned by T. H. Haevernick (1960, 120), should rather be seen as representing group 3b (Jahn 1931, 153, pl. 11: 5; Karwowski 1997, 38, footnote 4). Examples of analogical bracelets⁹

⁸ Archives of the Museum of Opole Silesia, file *Eichrode*, Kr. *Kosel*.

⁹ The publication cited here uses a different typological division, in which analogical bracelets were assigned to order (Germ. *Reihe*) 23.

Fig. 35. Wrocław-Partynice 6. Feat. 26: 1–12 – hand-made pottery. Drawn by P. Dulęba

come from the thus far largest collection of Celtic glass discovered at Manching in Bavaria (Gebhard 1989, 19, pl. 29: 379–380), and from the great emporium at Nēmčice nad Hanou, Dist. Prostějov in Moravia (Venclová 2016, 44). The latter site also yielded lumps of raw glass of light-green colour (Venclová 2016, 61, fig. 45), which means one should consider a possibility that the ornaments in question were manufactured in this vast complex.

Fig. 36. Wrocław-Partynice 6. Surfaces of hand-made and made on a wheel pottery. Photos P. Dulęba

In feature 10 (Late Medieval ditch) on site 12, in a secondary context, a badly corroded artefact was found, which can be interpreted as a foot fragment from an iron brooch (Fig. 39). It most likely belonged to a brooch of Early La Tène construction, with a so-called large globule on the foot. Such brooches, highly diversified in terms of shape and size, are main indicators of phase LT B2. Unfortunately, the specimen from Ślęza has survived as a small fragment, which does not allow for a more detailed typological analysis or a more detailed chronological determination.

Fig. 37. Ślęza 11–12. Feat. 155: 1 – glass; 2 – clay; 3–10 – iron. Drawn by N. Lenkow and K. Świątek; photos D. Łaciak

Fig. 38. Distribution of glass bracelets representing group 5a (acc. to Haevernick 1960; Venclová 1990, with additions). Developed by P. Dułęba

7. Economic issues

In general, the economic model observed in the course of the analysis of both the sites presented here does not diverge from what has been observed in other, unfortunately still very few, settlements of this type in present-day Poland. As suggested by the location in river valleys, in immediate vicinity to lands covered with fertile soils, farming was most likely the basis of the economy. A very low frequency of workshop pottery in settlement features may indicate that specialised pottery workshops operated neither at Ślęza nor at Wrocław-Partynice, and that such pottery was rather brought from one of neighbouring settlements. Pottery of local, household manufacture obviously satisfied the needs, and this pottery included first of all hand-made vessels, sometimes very carelessly executed. The finds of storage vessels within a feature interpreted as a dwelling point to the need to store supplies of various foodstuffs, perhaps also of plant origin.

The analysis of the zoological material¹⁰ has shown that cattle herding was probably the second most important (after farming) economic activity for local Celtic settlers, which is evidenced by a clear predominance of cattle remains in both sites (Fig. 40). This is a picture known from other Celtic settlements in Silesia and Lesser Poland (Makowicz-Poliszot 2012, 15;

¹⁰ Bone materials from Ślęza were examined by Dr W. Chrzanowska and Dr A. Krupska (Department of Anatomy and Histology of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences), and those from Wrocław-Partynice by Dr R. Ablamowicz (Silesian Museum in Katowice).

Fig. 39. Ślęza 11–12. Fragment of the iron brooch dated to the La Tène culture found in a secondary context in feature 37. Drawn by K. Świątek; photo D. Łaciak

Chrószcz *et al.* 2014, 76), as well as Moravia (Čižmářová, Roblíčková 2014, table 2; Čižmář I. 2015, table 1) and Slovakia (Fabiš 2000, table 1), where cattle remains often constituted at least half of the analysed bone material. As for Celtic settlements in Lower Austria, such a species structure among domesticated animals was only observed in the Early La Tène period. In later periods, the proportions of bones of cattle, pigs, and small ruminants are nearly equal, or even – as in the central settlement at Roseldorf, Dist. Hollabrunn in Lower Austria – completely opposite (Trebsche 2014, 354–355, table 2). Cattle was the main provider of meat, but was also kept for other purposes, mainly for milk and dairy products. The zoological materials from both sites are hardly comparable, since at Wrocław-Partynice small series of animal bones were only found in features 23 and 26. Apart from cattle, there were only remains of pig and dog. The dog remains were unfortunately poorly preserved, so it could not be unequivocally determined whether they actually represented typical consumption remains.

At 12.3% of the total, the proportion of horse bones at the Ślęza settlement seems quite high, which is a rare phenomenon – in open settlements analysed thus far the percentage of horse remains usually does not exceed 5%, and the bones typically belong to mature individuals, at post-production age (Pieta 2008, 236). Horse bones and various elements of equestrian equipment become

distinctly more frequent in the Late La Tène period, and primarily in oppida (Waldhauser, Krásný 2006, table 3; Pieta 2008, 236; Čižmář I. 2015, 446, table 1). The settlement at Ślęza appears considerably earlier, which may be another argument indicating that horse breeding and horse transport was always quite important in Celtic communities.

The presence of deer bones indicates that the residents of the Ślęza settlement sometimes supplemented their diet by means of hunting, although it is difficult to determine whether this implied any further cultural meaning. In the case of some villages distinguished by a broadly understood “richness” of material culture it has been proposed to interpret them as seats of local Celtic aristocracy, with the over-standard amount of bones of wild animals used as one of the arguments in favour of this interpretation (Waldhauser, Krásný 2006, 114–116). In this approach it was suggested that among the Celts, as in medieval Europe, hunting was an occupation restricted to the privileged classes. In the case of Ślęza this hypothesis seems little likely.

Fig. 40. Proportional summary of the particular species based on zoological material from La Tène culture assemblages: 1. Ślęza 11–12 (examined by W. Chrzanowska i A. Krupska); 2. Wrocław-Partynice 6 (examined by R. Abłamowicz). Developed by P. Dulęba

The higher share of bones of wild animals, as demonstrated by analyses from Lower Austria, is also characteristic of sites dated to the Early La Tène period (Trebsche 2014, fig. 13), which suggests that in that period hunting may have compensated for food shortages stemming from poorly developed herding.

8. Settlements at Ślęza and Wrocław-Partynice against the background of Lower Silesia

The sites presented in this paper are situated roughly in the centre of the northern part of the Lower Silesian cluster of Celtic occupation. Both sites lie on the high terrace of the Ślęza River, which most likely marked the main axis of internal communication within the region (Fig. 1). Site 6 at Wrocław-Partynice is neighboured to the south-east by site 1, renowned in the subject

literature for its unique finds of amber deposits associated with the Przeworsk culture occupation from the Younger Pre-Roman period (Godłowski 1978).¹¹ From site 1 a fully reconstructable La Tène culture vessel is known, discovered in 1936 (Demidziuk 1998, 199). It is a vase made on a wheel, preserved in several fragments, fired in reducing atmosphere, with a broad, bulbous body (diameter of 19 cm), a separated, flat base (diameter of 9 cm), and a clearly separated neck (Fig. 41). The vessel is 16 cm high, has a rim diameter of 15 cm, and represents technological traits of group K1. Its outer walls bear traces of secondary burning, which makes it difficult to determine whether the vessel comes from a settlement context or from a damaged cremation burial. Presented in this text site 11-12 it's not the only one with La Tène culture occupation within the limits of Ślęza locality. From nearby site 19 (AZP 81-28/51), an accidental find of a partly preserved Celtic brooch is known.¹² This is a brooch of Early La Tène construction, made of bronze, distinguished by its considerable size and by its so-called "caterpillar" bow, which allows the artefact to be dated to LT B2.

Apart from Ślęza and Partynice, remains of settlement features attributable to the La Tène culture have been found in the vicinity of Wrocław only in Mokronos Dolny, Dist. Wrocław where rescue excavations revealed post-built structures and relics of a pottery kiln (Kamyszek, Żygadło 2013). Unfortunately, these features contained only trace amounts of La Tène culture pottery, hence this research does not contribute much to the issues analysed in this paper. As bizarre as it may seem, the best-studied Celtic settlement in Lower Silesia is thus far site 1 at Kurzątkowice, Dist. Oława, where merely 5 (!) features were discovered (Dulęba, Kosicki 2017). Other sites with at least one feature attributable to the La Tène culture have been discovered at Górzec, Dist. Strzelin (Gralak 2012), site 12 at Pożarzyce, Dist. Wrocław, and site 4 at Radzików, Dist. Dzierżoniów (Domański *et al.* 1998). Contrary to widespread opinion, the settlement at Radłowice, Dist. Oława (Pazda 1992) cannot be included in this group, since in the light of currently available data the Celtic artefacts discovered there originate from accumulation layers or were found redeposited in chronologically younger features. The sites mentioned above constitute merely 5.6% of the total number of 124 (as of 2017) La Tène culture sites known from Lower Silesia. The total number of Celtic sites in Lower Silesia should be regarded as highly underestimated, which stems from a number of objective reasons that hamper effective identification of Celtic settlements in this region (cf. Dulęba 2019).

9. Recapitulation

The data presented above show that the remains of Celtic occupation uncovered at Ślęza and Wrocław-Partynice should be dated to the close of the Early La Tène period and the beginning of the Middle La Tène period (phases LT B2-C1), which fits the general chronological

¹¹ During the pre-WW2 excavations at site 1 at Wrocław-Partynice (former *Breslau-Hartlieb*), three large storage pits were found: I/1906 (pit B), I/1936, and II/1936, filled with unworked lumps of raw amber totaling approx. 1.5 tone in weight (Seger 1931, Nowothnig 1936). The pits in question were ascribed to the Przeworsk culture and dated to phase A3, roughly corresponding with the 2nd half of the 1st century BC (Godłowski 1978). The bulk of the materials from this site (Demidziuk 1998, 198–200), currently in the collection of the Archaeological Museum in Wrocław, has never been analysed. Therefore, the information provided in the literature concerning the chronology of these finds should be regarded with great caution, especially in the context of the long noticed depopulation of Lower Silesia in phase A3 (Godłowski 1985, 3637).

¹² Personal information from Andrzej Kosicki.

Fig. 41. Wrocław-Partynice 1. Made on a wheel vessel. Photos and drawings by P. Dulęba

frameworks of Celtic settlement in the region. Feature 155 at Ślęza **most likely ceased to function** in LT C1a, as suggested by a glass bracelet of Haevernick group 5a, which probably is the youngest artefact in the assemblage predominated by pottery typical of Early La Tène period settlements. A similar, though not that precise, chronological position can be assigned to pit 150 with the accompanying structure A, and features 23 and 26 from Wrocław-Partynice. In the case of the last two features one can consider an earlier chronology as well, since the pits contained vessels finding precise analogies in sepulchral assemblages dated to LT B2a. Taking into account that the presented settlements have been only partly explored, one can conclude that they most likely were typical La Tène culture villages, distinguished by highly dispersed housing. Celtic populations inhabiting these settlements probably based their subsistence on farming and cattle herding. Based on currently available data it is difficult to determine which of the two occupations played the predominant role. Archaeological sources, as well as historical accounts, indicate that in some regions inhabited by the Celts (e.g. Languedoc, north-eastern Brittany, Ireland) it was animal husbandry, cattle herding in particular, that provided the subsistence basis for local country populations (Powell 1983, 91–98). Hunting probably played a subsidiary role, supplementing the diet.

The atypical set of vessels recovered from feature 150 at Ślęza is indicative not only of a unique function of the feature, but also of contacts with the Carpathian Basin, maintained by the local Celtic population during phases LT B2 and LT C1. This is highly surprising given that the prevailing view posited that the local La Tène culture population had close connections with their kinsmen inhabiting what is now the Bohemia. Perhaps, cultural connections in that period, when the development of Celtic communities in Central Europe reached its peak, were multi-directional. It is difficult to verify at the present stage of research, but with the growing number of settlement finds there is an increase in the body of evidence suggesting an exceptional nature of connections linking the Celts from Lower Silesia with those from Moravia (cf. Dulęba, Kosicki 2017, 114). In this context, the Celtic communities from the Głubczyce Plateau most likely played the intermediary role. To answer this question conclusively it is necessary to acquire new data from settlement sites representing the earliest horizon of local

occupation (LT B1a) that would correspond with the few, long known sepulchral finds (Seger 1896, 404–409; Jahn 1934, 116–119, figs 8–13, pl. IX: 2). This is a difficult task, given the noticeable restriction of planned research on prehistoric occupation in Lower Silesia and the predominance of rescue archaeology. The greatest difficulty, however, is the problem of the scale. The La Tène culture population was probably small, which becomes particularly evident in comparison to even most general estimations proposed for the populations of the Lusatian or Przeworsk cultures in this area. For this reason, full investigation of La Tène culture settlements, which are most often discovered on multicultural sites also inhabited by communities linked with the two cultural units mentioned above, still remains a challenging task.

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Nowe dane do badań nad osadnictwem i gospodarką kultury lateńskiej na Dolnym Śląsku

Prezentowany artykuł jest opracowaniem wyników badań przeprowadzonych na stanowiskach Ślęza 11–22 oraz Wrocław-Partynice 6, gdzie w trakcie badań ratowniczych zarejestrowano pozostałości obiektów osadniczych kultury lateńskiej. W Ślęzie natrafiono na dużych rozmiarów półziemiankę (ob. 155) oraz konstrukcję słupową A, której towarzyszyła jama (ob. 150), którą z kolei można interpretować jako rodzaj piwniczki. Powierzchnia użytkowa konstrukcji A wynosiła 28 m² przez co należy ją interpretować jako pozostałość budynku mieszkalnego. Powierzchnia ob. 155 wynosi aż 25,9 m², co czyni go największą do tej pory znaną półziemianką ze stanowisk kultury lateńskiej w Polsce. Od innych celtyckich półziemianek odkrytych na terenie południowej Polski odróżnia się również proporcjami, bardziej zbliżonymi do kwadratu niż do prostokąta. We Wrocławiu-Partynicach odsłonięto relikty kilku jam (ob. 1, 8, 23, 25) oraz jednej półziemianki (ob. 26). Wspomnianą półziemiankę należy zaliczyć do typu A-2b wg klasyfikacji J. Meduny (1980a). Relikty półziemianek o analogicznym kształcie zostały odsłonięte na kilku stanowiskach z obszaru Moraw. Poszerzenie znajdujące się w części zachodniej obiektu 26 z Partynic można interpretować jako relikw wejścia. Opisywane obiekty pełniły głównie funkcje gospodarcze. Wielokrotnie spotyka się w półziemiankach ślady praktykowania różnorodnej wytwórczości i rzemiosła. Najmniej prawdopodobna jest ich funkcja mieszkalna, albowiem celtyckie półziemianki bardzo rzadko zawierają relikty palenisk, które pozwalały na ogrzanie pomieszczeń w porze zimowej.

W prezentowanych obiektach natrafiono na liczne fragmenty naczyń ceramicznych kultury lateńskiej, które opracowano zgodnie z konwencją przyjętą dla opracowań ceramiki z terenu Śląska i Małopolski. Ceramikę wykonaną na kole podzielono na 6 grup technologicznych (K1-K6) w zależności od atmosfery w jakiej została wypalona oraz makroskopowo widocznej domieszki, którą zastosowano w masie garncarskiej. W przypadku ceramiki ręcznie lepionej, podzielonej na 5 grup technologicznych (R1-R5), jedynym kryterium podziału był rodzaj domieszki w masie garncarskiej. Opierając się na kryteriach

morfologicznych, metrycznych i funkcjonalnych w prezentowanym opracowaniu wydzielano sześć podstawowych typów naczyń: misa, garnek, waza, puchar, flaszka i naczynie zasobowe (dolium). Oprócz wyżej wymienionych zaznaczono również kategorię „inne”, przeznaczoną dla nielicznych, specyficznych naczyń, które wymykają się prezentowanemu podziałowi. W analizach ilościowych zastosowano podwójny system kwantyfikacji. Zbiór naczyń ze Ślęzy i Wrocławia-Partynic należy uznać za słabo zróżnicowany formalnie, albowiem nie zarejestrowano w nim naczyń określanych jako flaszki, puchary i naczynia „inne”. W analizie ogólnych cech warsztatu ceramicznego jako jednostkę obliczeniową przyjęto zarówno liczbę poszczególnych fragmentów naczyń, jak i tzw. minimalną liczbę naczyń (MLN), która obejmowała wszystkie naczynia dające się wydzielić na podstawie fragmentów diagnostycznych. Jedynie 12,9% (11,6% dla MLN) całego zbioru stanowią naczynia wykonane na kole, co jest liczbą zdecydowanie poniżej standardu dla znalezisk z terenu całego Śląska – 48,3% i 54,5 % dla MLN oraz zachodniej Małopolski – 35,4% i 52,8% dla MLN. Cechą, która wydaje się być bardzo charakterystyczna dla osadnictwa celtyckiego na Dolnym Śląsku jest bardzo mała liczba naczyń grafitowych (tabele 3–4), które stanowią zaledwie 2% zbioru (grupy technologiczne K2, K3 i R4). To jest także podstawowa różnica między ceramiką celtycką z Dolnego i Górnego Śląska, albowiem na drugim z wspomnianych obszarów stanowiska kultury lateńskiej obfitują w bardzo liczne znaleziska ceramiki grafitowej, które przekraczają niekiedy liczbę ponad 40% wszystkich znalezisk ceramicznych. Są to najczęściej egzemplarze grafitowych situl, ale także bardzo liczne misy, przeważnie ręcznie lepiące, wyróżniające się domieszką w postaci dużych, słabo rozmieszanych grudek grafitu w kompozycji z szamotem lub drobnym piaskiem. Cecha ta może mieć także pewien walor chronologiczny, albowiem niedawno odkryte, pierwsze z Górnego Śląska obiekty osadnicze pewnie datowane na okres wczesnolateński również zawierały znikomą liczbą naczyń grafitowych.

Poza ceramiką znaleziono jedynie niewielką liczbę zabytków z innych surowców. W półziemiance ze Ślęzy (ob. 155) znaleziono kilka mało charakterystycznych przedmiotów żelaznych, które można uznać z pozostałości różnego rodzaju gwoździ, nitów lub skobli. Przedmioty tego typu stanowią zazwyczaj bardzo częste znaleziska na osadach kultury lateńskiej. Jedynym przedmiotem o charakterze dokładnego datownika znalezionym w ob. 155 ze Ślęzy jest fragment szklanej bransolety, który należy przyporządkować do grupy 5a wg klasyfikacji Th. E. Haevernica (1960). Bransolety grupy 5a i bardzo zbliżonej do nich grupy 5b, wykonywane z jasnozielonego lub zielono-niebieskiego szkła, są najprawdopodobniej najwcześniejszymi egzemplarzami tego typu ozdób, które pojawiają się w środowisku kultury lateńskiej i możemy je dosyć precyzyjnie datować na stadium LT C1a.

Na obu stanowiskach pozyskano także serie kości zwierzęcych, które umożliwiły uzyskanie informacji dotyczących podstaw gospodarki celtyckich mieszkańców współczesnego Dolnego Śląska. Celtycka ludność zamieszkująca te osady utrzymywała się zapewne z rolnictwa oraz z hodowli bydła. Na podstawie dostępnych obecnie danych trudno także rozstrzygnąć, które z powyższych zajęć pełniło najważniejszą rolę.

Relikty osadnictwa celtyckiego odkryte w Ślęzy i we Wrocławiu-Partynicach należy datować na schyłek okresu wczesnolateńskiego i początek okresu środkowolateńskiego (fazy LT B2–C1), co mieści się w ogólnych ramach funkcjonowania miejscowego osadnictwa celtyckiego. Obiekt 155 ze Ślęzy przestał funkcjonować zapewne w stadium LT C1a, na co wskazuje znalezisko bransolety szklanej grupy 5a wg Haevernica, będącej zapewne najmłodszym artefaktem w jego wypełnisku, gdzie przeważała ceramika o cechach charakterystycznych dla obiektów osadniczych z okresu wczesnolateńskiego. Podobnie, aczkolwiek nie tak precyzyjnie, możemy datować jamę 150 wraz z towarzyszącą jej konstrukcją A oraz obiekty 23 i 26 z Wrocławia-Partynic. W tym wypadku możliwa jest także wcześniejsza chronologia wspomnianych obiektów, których wypełniska zawierały naczynia mające swoje dokładne odpowiedniki w zespołach grobowych datowanych na stadium LT B2a. Biorąc pod uwagę fakt, iż prezentowane osady przebadano jedynie częściowo, należy stwierdzić, że najprawdopodobniej są to typowe dla kultury lateńskiej wiejskie osiedla, charakteryzujące się bardzo rozproszoną zabudową.

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