

Abstract

The present work was written following a master thesis on the settlement and the shape of the early mediaeval agglomeration of Žatec in the 9th century. Subject of this dissertation is the processing of pottery from settlement features and from the 10th-century fortification. This enabled to study the development of the fortification system and changes of the settlement structure within individual settlement components. On the basis of excavations a relative chronology of the pottery and in accordance with the dendrochronological data a hypothesis on absolute dating has been presented. In view of this new chronology a new quantitative and qualitative analysis of information on the early mediaeval strongholds and hill-top settlements of the 9th and 10th century in the central and lower Ohře Region and in the Ore Mountain foothills was undertaken. A processing of the research on Drahůš stronghold has contributed substantially to this new perspective. The 1960s opinion on the affiliation of early mediaeval strongholds on the territory in question to the tribal territory of the Lučans, which should have been opposed to the Central Bohemian Přemyslid patrimony, based on the gathered information and its analysis could have been rejected. It was possible to comprise the evaluation of the excavation at Libušín near Kladno and the local finds of pottery imported from the central Ohře Region in the chronological and typological pottery scheme developed from the excavation at Žatec. Eventually a new hypothesis on the submission of the territory on the Ohře River and the Ore Mountain foothills to the sovereignty of the Přemyslids is being brought forward.

Keywords

Early Middle Ages, agglomeration of Žatec, excavations, processing, pottery, chronology, fortification, dendrochronology, 10th century, North-Western Bohemia, early mediaeval strongholds, Přemyslids