

ANNA ZAPOLSKA

The coins from the goldsmith hoard of Frombork reconsidered

It was during the Migration Period, at the time of the mostly untraceable transmigrations of the Germanic and Baltic tribes across the territory of the northern Barbaricum, that hoards of Roman coins along with various bronze artefacts, such as half-finished products and damaged pieces of jewellery or household objects, began to appear. In a large number of cases, chronological boundaries of the deposited objects are very broad: from the early phase of the period of Roman influence until as late as the mid-5th century AD. Moreover, the hoards in question tend to share the feature of the interregional character of the objects' forms. This leads to a number of difficulties as to their interpretation, particularly in view of the absence of archaeological sources that would facilitate clear cultural attribution of the area under consideration. The article presents a new interpretation of the hoard of Frombork (formerly, Frauenburg), a town situated on the Vistula Lagoon of the Baltic Sea. It discusses the nature of cultural transformations in the Baltic region, the role of late Roman coinage in Late Antiquity and during the Migration Period over the territory of the northern Barbaricum, as well as the question of interregional relations between the Germanic and Baltic tribes.