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Architectural examinations of the parish church in Dobrzyki

Dobrzyki is a village situated in the Warmian-Masurian Voivodship on the territory of Iława Lakeland District. Not far from the village there are two small lakes Ewingi and Jeziorko. A bit farther to the south there is a big lake Płaskie. St. Apostles Peter and Paul Church is located not far from the fork of roads which go from Zalew to Susz (Fig. 1. a, b). The terrain, on which the church is situated, constitutes the local upland and it slopes from the east to the west. It is surrounded by a wall built of stones. At present, there are two functioning entrances in the southern part of the wall – the

first one from the east side and the other one from the west. Probably the terrain to the north of the church was originally a cemetery. Nowadays, there is park greenery at that place. A parish building with conference rooms also constitutes an important element of the land development.

Architectural examinations were carried out on the initiative of the Warmian-Masurian Voivodship Restoration Officer in Olsztyn and with the help of the priest Mariusz Pawlikowski as well as the Dobrzyki community, for which the author would like to express her most sincere gratitude.



Fig. 1. Church in Dobrzyki: a) village location b) view from the south, 2010 (photo by E. Łużyniecka)

Il. 1. Kościół w Dobrzykach: a) lokalizacja wsi b) widok od południa, 2010 (fot. E. Łużyniecka)

History of the village

The origins of the village go back to 1287 when the Dzierżoń komtur Sighad Schwarzburg granted 60 feuds to the sheriff of the village. The proof of this grant was a location document of Dobrzyki village on Chełmno law (which was called Weisdorf in the Prussian times)

issued in 1304 by the master Konrad Sack [8]. By the law of this document, the sheriff received six feuds free of rent along with one third of receipts from judiciary of lower instance. Four feuds were designated for building the church. Peasants were let off any services for ten years. Afterwards, they had to pay the tithes which were given to the church and the tax which was given to the state in the amount of 16 coops and two hens per one

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feud annually. They were also obliged to work in the castle press in Przezmark. All the inhabitants of the village got a privilege of fishing in the nearby lakes Ewingi and Jeziorko. At the beginning of the 15th century in the village there were windmills and two inns, about which there is a mention in the rent books from the years 1410–1411. In these years there were 36 settled and 12 free feuds in the village. Some time later, the pastures – located in the place of the lost Prussian village Kabity situated on the western Ewingi lakeshore – were included in the village terrains.

As a result of the Reformation the church became protestant and since the 16th century Polish service was celebrated there, in which plenty of inhabitants of the Polish nationality from the surrounding villages took part. In the 17th and 18th centuries the church in Dobrzyki was a branch of Zalew and Polish deacons looked after it. According to the register from 1818 the following villages belonged to the Dobrzyki parish:

Bukowiec, Czaplak, Jerzwałd, Jeziorce, Kiemiany, Kiemiańskie Nowiny, Likszany, Matyny, Najka, Polajny, Rucewo, Rudnia, Siemiany and Stare Swale – 1626 persons in total. All the time it was strongly connected with the Polish people. Around the year 1890 there were still circa one hundred Polish parishioners there.

A tax book from 1939 gives us information concerning sources of living of the village inhabitants. At that time Dobrzyki village along with Koziny village comprised 172 farms and 732 inhabitants; out of this number 467 earned a living by farming and forestry, 134 by working in industry and craftsmanship and 21 by working in trade and transport.

After 1945 the village was already within the limits of the Polish state and Catholics regained the church. The church architecture was appreciated and in 1968 it was entered in the monument register under the number A-1053. Four years later in 1972 a Roman Catholic parish was established.

State of examinations

The church in Dobrzyki was of great interest to researchers probably because of its interesting eastern façade. A. Boetticher [1] described it for the first time in 1893 and specified the time of its construction before the year 1320. Fifty years later B. Schmid [7] confirmed this date and he also presented the inventory of the eastern façade of the church.

A more detailed analysis of the building is in the monument catalogue of DEHIO-HANDBUCH series, which was published in 1952 and 1993. It was determined that the chancel was built in the years 1320–1330 and the nave was built in the years 1360–1380 [2]. It was also stated that the Gothic crucifix made of rood arch was made at the beginning of the 15th century. On the basis of historical sources it was ascertained that the church was renovated in the years 1776 and 1864. The time of the wooden tower construction was ascertained to be 1796. It was also assumed that at the turn of the 18th century the western wall of the church was rebuilt and stairs to the attic were placed there. It was connected with building the western and southern matroneum in 1776 which along with the patron's pew was made by Jan Marschall. The organ was built in 1776 by Obuch from Morąg and it was made bigger in 1910 during the repair works of the church.

A good point of W. Hubatsch's [4] study is the presentation of the church with the emphasis on the post-Refor-

mation times. In his book there is a photograph from the 1960s, which shows the church interior before the repair works. At that time the arrangement of the pulpit stairs was different. There was also a different arrangement of the chancel and nave niches. At the end of the last century a short description of the church appeared in the work concerning brick architecture by D. Loyal [6].

A good compendium of knowledge from the beginning of our century constitutes the evidence card of architecture and construction monuments prepared by D. Chodakowski [5] in 2002. A location plan of the building, a draft of the basement projection, a description of the structure and dating the church for the years 1320–1330 were presented in it.

The church in Dobrzyki was also mentioned in the catalogue concerning the mediaeval architecture in the territory of old Prussia. Ch. Herrmann [3] is the author of the catalogue and it was published in 2007. Herman dated the construction of the building for the years 1320–1340. He described sizes of bricks, presented technological features of the building, placed an archival drawing of the eastern façade from 1941 and two photographs from 1999. He paid attention to the western wall which was rebuilt as well as the chapel and the porch which he dated for the 19th century.

Description of examinations

The team working on the subject headed by Professor Ewa Łuzyniecka consisted of students of The Faculty of Architecture of Wrocław University of Technology: Katarzyna Dorosz, Karolina Cichoń, Natalia Jagielska and Agnieszka Rabęda (Polish acronym ZWAPWr).

Several research methods were used during the preparation of the topic. The search of literature, written sources, iconographic and cartographic sources was car-

ried out on the basis of a classical method of the historical examinations. Field architectural examinations in situ consisted in the measurement of the building material (see table), analysis of the wall and detail structure, comparison of stratigraphic and technological measurements as well as functional and constructional analysis of the building. In two cases some measurements were made by means of a simplified analogue photogrammetry correlated with computer graphic programmes, including

mainly applications of AutoCad interface. The final stage of analytical examinations is an attempt to date a building, to undertake architectural reconstructions of particular structures and whole complexes. In this case, a method

of relative dating was employed, which allowed putting a given artifact in a certain time period by means of comparison as well as typological, synchronic and historical methods.

Table 1. Brick sizes in various parts of church walls

No	Location	Arrangement	Size	Type
1	Western façade	block block	28.0 × 14.2 × 6.8	machine
2	Western façade	block	28.5 × 12.0 × 8.8	finger
3	South-west buttress	block	29.3 × 14.1 × 6.5	machine
4	Southern façade of nave (by buttress)		28.8 × 14.5 × 6.1	machine
5	Southern façade of nave	mixed*		
6	Southern façade of nave	mixed	28.5 × 14.0 × 9.1	finger
7	Southern porch	block	28.4 × 13.5 × 9.3	finger
8	Southern porch	block	30.1 × 13.5 × 6.5	machine
9	Southern facade presbytery	Vedic	31.3 × 14.0 × 6.8	machine
10	Vestry	block	28.7 × 13.6 × 9.2	finger
11	Vestry vestibule	block	28.6 × 13.0 × 6.5	machine
12	South-east buttress	Vedic	29.0 × 13.8 × 6.2	machine
13	South-east buttress	block	29.4 × 8.6 × 13.2	finger
14	Eastern façade presbytery	Vedic	25.2 × 15.4 × 6.2	machine
15	Eastern façade presbytery	Vedic	29.0 × 14.6 × 9.0	finger
16	North-east buttress	block	29.5 × 13.8 × 9.5	finger
17	Western extension	block	26.5 × 12.2 × 6.1	machine
18	Western extension	block	29.5 × 13.2 × 9.5	finger
19	Northern façade of nave	block	26.5 × 12.2 × 6.0	machine
20	Northern façade of nave	mixed	28.5 × 13.2 × 9.0	finger
21	Northern façade of nave	mixed	28.4 × 13.5 × 9.2	finger
21	North-west buttress	block	29.5 × 14.0 × 6.6	machine

*irregular and Vedic arrangement

Architectural transformations

The church in Dobrzyki is now a building 29.90 m long, which consists of the chancel with the dimensions 11.90 × 7.0 m and by the name with the projection dimensions 18.0 m × 13.70 m. An additional element of the building is its northern extension as well as the porch built in the south and the sacristy. The church is not built homogeneously and formal and technological differences of particular parts of the construction allowed us to distinguish five main building phases (Fig. 2).

Probably at the beginning of the church building process the chancel was erected (Phase I – Gothic). Its walls were built of bricks mainly in a Vedic arrangement and founded on the wall base made of cobble stones. Façades are arranged according to one principle. A high pedestal part, which formed the plinth, was made separate. The central part of the façade is the wall deprived of articulation with ogival windows surmounted by the belting frieze. Two massive buttresses, which support pinnacles, were placed in the eastern corners of the chancel. The chancel's eastern façade with three-axis panel gable is the most decorative (Fig. 3a). The panels in the lower part of the gable are filled with tracery decorations. In the upper part there is a panel in the form of an oculus.

As opposed to the flat external fronts, the internal chancel walls are divided into bays by means of arcade blind windows. Passages of vaults were situated between arcades. In the corners of the chancel they have a form of straight cantilevers but they were destroyed between bays. Massive ribs of the cross and ribbed vault are based on the cantilevers. The rib section is not complicated – it reminds a belt rib with slanting corners.

Probably at the same time a sacristy was converted from the chancel also in the north. Its northern façade was completely rebuilt.

The construction of the northern wall of the chancel proves that originally it was the sacristy. In the basement of the northern front, in the eastern bay there is still a semicircular arcade blind window. In the chancel interior we can see an ogival blind window situated higher. These elements show that the sacristy was planned. We cannot exclude the fact that originally it was two-storey with a small choir matroneum. Perhaps, the tunnel barrel vault along with polychrome relicts discovered recently is also original.

Probably, it was destroyed during fires and changed during later repair works. And perhaps at that time inter-bays buttresses at the southern and northern façades were also eliminated.

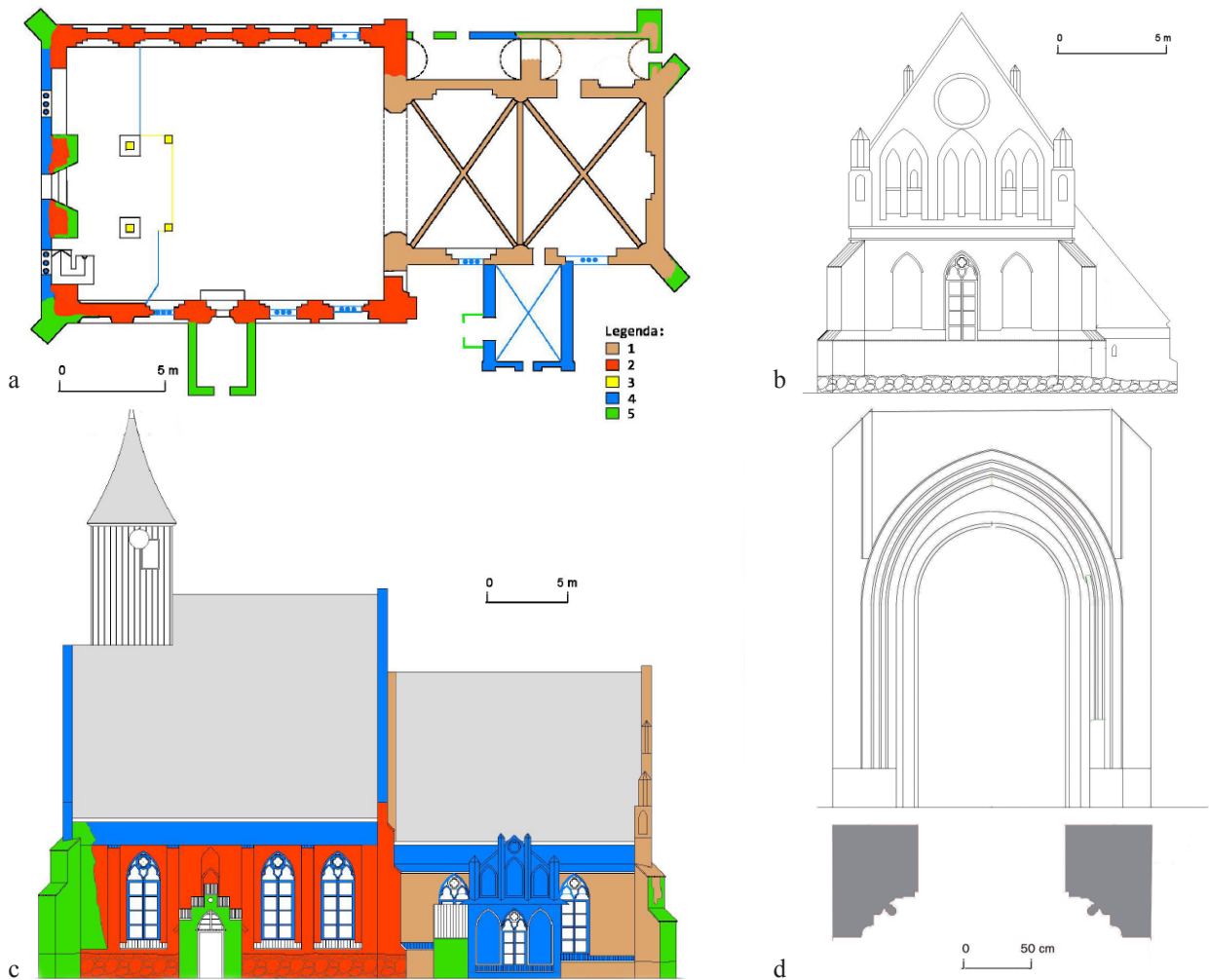


Fig. 2. Dating suggestions and measurements of the particular parts of the church: a) projection; b) eastern façade; c) southern façade; d) southern portal; 1. beginning of the 14th century; 2. first part of the 14th century; 3. circa 1776; 4. circa 1864; 5. circa 1910 (by ZWAPWr)

II. 2. Propozycja datowania i pomiary poszczególnych części kościoła: a) rzut; b- elewacja wschodnia; c) elewacja południowa; d) portal południowy; 1. pocz. XIV w.; 2. 1. poł. XIV w.; 3. ok. 1776; 4. ok. 1864; 5. ok. 1910 (oprac. ZWAPWr)

At the beginning of the chancel construction the nave was probably taken into account in the design (Phase II – Gothic), since the nave was added on the line of the rood arch. If the chancel had functioned independently for some time, diagonal buttresses would have probably survived – similarly to Mariane.

The southern and northern walls as well as eastern corners of the nave have been preserved in their original forms until today. Their walls are different from the chancel walls. The arrangement of ogival constructions can be seen both outside as well as on the interior of the structure. These are ogival windows in the southern façade,



Fig. 3. Church façades; a) eastern of the presbytery; b) northern of the nave, 2010 (photo: E. Łuzyniecka)

II. 3. Elewacje kościoła; a) wschodnia prezbiterium; b) północna nawy, 2010 (fot. E. Łuzyniecka)

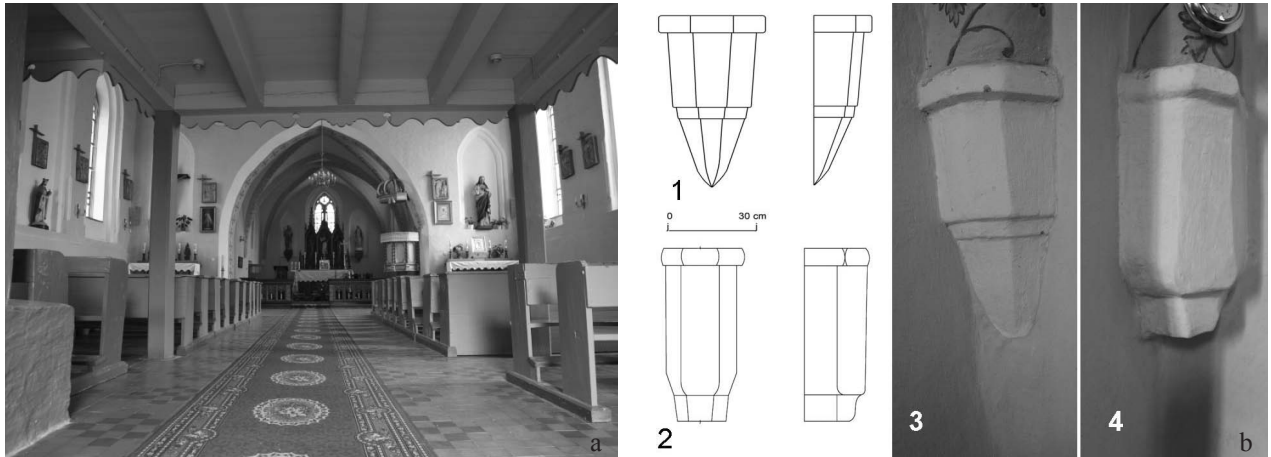


Fig. 4. Church interior: a) nave and presbytery ; b) cantilevers in the presbytery: 1, 3 north-east; 2, 4 north-west, 2010 (photo: E. Łuzyniecka)
 Il. 4. Wnętrze kościoła: a) nawa i prezbiterium; b) wsporniki w prezbiterium: 1, 3 północno-wschodni; 2, 4 północno-zachodni, 2010 (fot. E. Łuzyniecka)

while in the northern façade there are arcade blind windows of the same size. Façades were additionally segmented – between gothic arches vertical ledges (German: *lisene*) were placed and along with cornices they form a frame system (Fig. 3b)

The decision to build such diversified walls of the nave had an influence on the arrangement of the building material. It is irregular in many places but at the flat places it often has the Vedic arrangement. We can also state that the nave walls were built in two stages. Initially, the wall was built up to the height of four meters. At that time, profiled corners were made in the arcades. In the later period, higher parts of the walls were without these profiles. A really interesting technological aspect is the construction of the top part which separates the nave attics from the chancel. The eastern front of the gable was built of bricks with the gothic arrangement, while the western front – with the Vedic arrangement.

The nave interior was covered by the ceiling from the beginning but we are not sure whether the present ceiling, which is painted from the bottom, is also original. We do not know whether the present form of the rood arch is authentic and if it was not changed during further repair works (Fig. 4).

The main entrance to the church was situated in the southern façade, while nowadays it is covered with a later porch. It is decorated with a perspective portal with a separated pedestal part. Its reveal consists of hollows and a roll moulding. Sides of the portal are arranged in vertical ledges (German: *lisene*) among which two ogival panels are situated above the portal. They correspond to the internal ogival slender arcade blind window. In its interior there is an entrance hole which is surmounted by a section arch. Above there is a bricked-up arcade – perhaps the remnant of the window.

At the moment, it is difficult to describe the appearance of the western part of the church. The present façade was built later. The entrance to the attics was probably situated in another place than it is today. Perhaps, its remnants constitute two levels of arcade blind windows and a bricked-up window which is preserved in the western bay of the northern wall.

Construction changes in the baroque times were connected with the interior reorganization and adaptation to the requirements of the Protestant church (Phase III – Baroque). All this was connected with building a wooden western matroneum and the organ in 1776. The matroneum, which is protruding towards the nave, is sup-

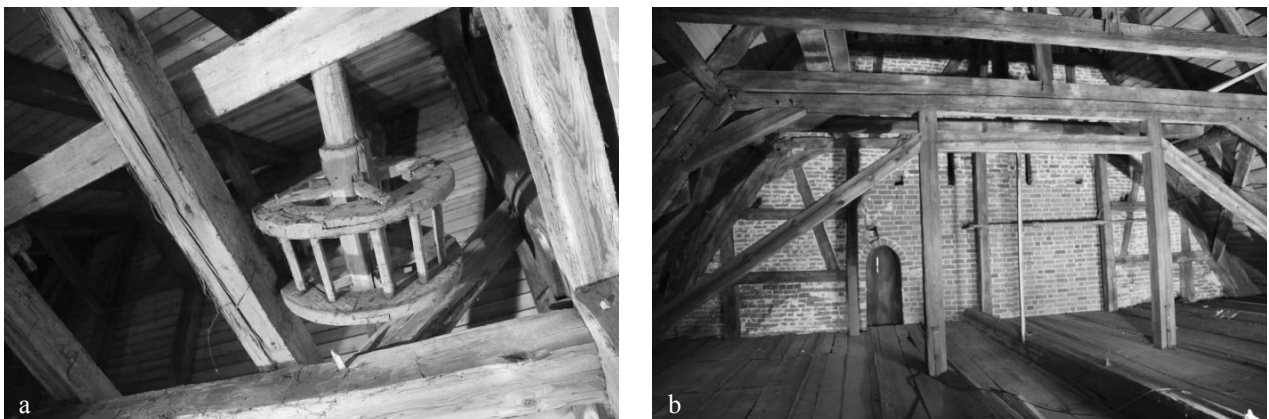


Fig. 5. Church attics: a) near the construction crane in presbytery; b) nave, 2010 (photo: E. Łuzyniecka)
 Il. 5. Strychy kościoła: a) koło dźwigu budowlanego w prezbiterium; b) nawa, 2010 (fot. E. Łuzyniecka)

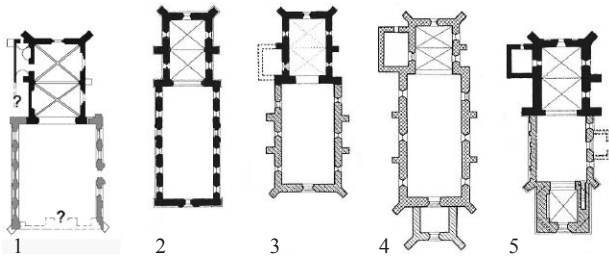


Fig. 6. Churches with similarly planned presbyteries: 1) Dobrzyki; 2) Grutta; 3) Papowo; 4) Grzywno; 5) Niedzwiedź (by ZWAPWr)

Il. 6. Kościoły o podobnie rozplanowanych prezbiteriach: 1) Dobrzyki; 2) Grutta; 3) Papowo; 4) Grzywno; 5) Niedzwiedź (oprac. ZWAPWr)

ported by four columns which reach the ceiling. It is possible that in this period the wooden roof framing of the nave was built, which was based on the built up eastern top with timber framing (Fig. 5). Probably the pulpit also dates from the Baroque times. We can also assume that at that time the sacristy interior was extended to the west direction. However, in order to confirm this thesis some additional examinations are necessary.

We do not know the reasons behind such extensive repair works of the church, which probably took place in 1864 (Phase IV – neo-Gothic). The repair consisted in changing or building from scratch the whole western wall and making new window tracery. This part was built of machine bricks with a block arrangement. Concurrently, a new main entrance was built which led under the choir matroneum.

At the same time a new sacristy in the south was built, which had the form of a house extension and was covered with a gable roof. Its southern wall corresponded to the arrangements of the gothic façades of the church. In the lower part three ogivals were placed, the middle of which was a window, while the side ogivals were blind windows.

Higher, there is a top which is separated with a cornice and divided into three parts by means of pilasters changing into pinnacles. Between pilasters there are arcade blind windows. The sacristy interior is covered with a cross vault and in its corner there is a relict of the heating stove. The chimney of this stove is visible outside at the chancel wall until today.



Fig. 7. Brick arrangement in gable between nave and presbytery; fronts: a) eastern, b) western, 2010 (photo: E. Łużyniecka)

Il. 7. Układ cegieł w szczycie między nawą a prezbiterium; lica: a) wschodnie, b) zachodnie, 2010 (fot. E. Łużyniecka)

The recent most important building works in the church are connected with the repair works in 1910 (Phase V – neo-Gothic). Then the walls were built of bricks in the block arrangement. Probably at that time the southern porch was built obscuring in this way the gothic portal. It has the form of an extension with a gable roof. Its southern wall along with the portal does not have a separate top as it was in the case of the sacristy. Also the top has a different form and it consists of pinnacles arranged in a stepped way which are covered with small gable roofs.

Probably the wall of the northern extension was renovated simultaneously with the porch. The church buttresses were reinforced and the sacristy vestibule was built. In the walls of these parts of the church the building material is identical and with the same arrangement. Moreover, the porch portal has similar proportions and it is built in the same way as the entrance to the vestibule.

Summary

The church in Dobrzyki is a structure which reflects the history of the terrain on which it was built. The idea of its construction should be connected with the times of the village location in about 1304. However, it is difficult to define unambiguously when building of the chancel started. Its simple forms may indicate that it might have started soon after the village had been settled. Analogously arranged chancels also appear in four earlier village churches in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodship (Fig.6). The church in Grutta has no tower and it has a two-bay chancel closed straight and dates from the years 1290–1295. The church chancel in Papów is also closed straight and dates from the years 1295–1298. It is thought that the church chancel in Niedzwiedź

and the church in Grzywno were built some time later, i.e. at the turn of the 14th century.

Therefore, the chancel might have been built at the beginning of the 14th century. We can also assume that the break between building the chancel and the nave was not long. The eastern part was erected while designing the western part. Approximately, the time of building the nave dates from the first half of the 14th century. Perhaps, it will possible to specify this date more accurately in the future by using absolute dating methods, e.g. by means of a still improved method of dating mortar by a C¹⁴ carbon dating method.

An interesting technological feature is worth noticing as well. The Vedic arrangement of bricks, which in par-

ticular often appears in southern Poland, is considered to be earlier than the gothic one. In the case of the church in Dobrzyki both techniques of placing the building material were used at the same time. The top, which separates the nave attics from the chancel, constitutes the proof of this. The eastern face of the top was built of bricks with the gothic arrangement, while the western front – with the Vedic arrangement (Fig. 7).

During the architectural research in 2010 it was possible to reconstruct partially the stages of building the church. However, we still do not know the original

appearance of the western part of the church and whether there was a brick tower at that time. The question whether the sacristy had one floor and if there were stairs inside is still waiting for an answer. We do not know the original colour of the interior and recently discovered polychromy may indicate the existence of preserved painting.

All these issues can be addressed during future exploration and research to be carried out, for example, along with future reconstruction works and maintenance of the church.

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Badania architektoniczne kościoła parafialnego w Dobrzykach

Badania architektoniczne prowadzono w 2010 r. w Dobrzykach, wsi położonej w województwie warmińsko-mazurskim, na terenie Pojezierza Iławskiego. Zespół opracowujący ten temat, kierowany przez prof. Ewę Łużyniecką, składał się ze studentów Wydziału Architektury Politechniki Wrocławskiej (Katarzyna Dorosz, Karolina Cichoń, Natalia Jagielska, Agnieszka Rabęda). Badania zostały przeprowadzone z inicjatywy Warmińsko-Mazurskiego Wojewódzkiego Konserwatora Zabytków w Olsztynie i dzięki pomocy księdza proboszcza Mariusza Pawlikowskiego oraz mieszkańców Dobrzyk, za co autorka składa serdeczne podziękowania.

Na podstawie badań stwierdzono, że kościół nie jest zbudowany jednorodnie, a różnice formalne i technologiczne poszczególnych części budowli pozwoliły na wydzielenie pięciu głównych faz budowlanych. Zamyśl jego budowy należy zapewne wiązać z czasami lokacji wsi około 1304 r. Trudno jednak jednoznacznie określić, kiedy zaczęto wznoszenie prezbiterium. Jego proste

formy mogą wskazywać na to, że mogło to być wkrótce po zasiedleniu osady, czyli na początku XIV w. Można także przypuszczać, że przerwa między budową prezbiterium i nawy nie była długa. Przypuszczalnie nawę wzniesiono w 1. poł. XIV w. Kolejne przebudowy miały miejsce ok. 1776, 1864 i 1910 r.

W czasie prowadzonych w 2010 r. badań architektonicznych udało się częściowo odtworzyć etapy budowy kościoła. Nadal jednak nie wiadomo jak wyglądała pierwotnie część zachodnia kościoła i czy istniała w tym czasie murowana wieża. Na odpowiedź czeka także pytanie, czy zakrystia była piętrowa i czy w jej wnętrzu były schody. Nie jest także znana pierwotna kolorystyka wnętrza, a odkryte ostatnio polichromie mogą wskazywać na istnienie zachowanych malatur. Na wszystkie te pytania można będzie odpowiedzieć podczas przyszłych badań i obserwacji, prowadzonych być może podczas kolejnych remontów oraz napraw kościoła.

Key words: architektura, church, community, Dobrzyki

Słowa kluczowe: architektura, kościół, parafia, Dobrzyki

Translated by B. Setkovicz

