Introduction

Equipping the deceased with ‘the obol of Charon’ or the ‘obol of the dead’ was a widespread custom from Antiquity until modern times. In the Middle Ages this custom was popular in the area around the Baltic. It has been frequently noted at 10th and 11th century cemeteries in Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Latvia, northern Russia, Pomerania, Great Poland and Kuyavia. The earliest traces of this custom in medieval times were found in the Vikings’ cremation burials from the 8th century. In the area of modern Poland the custom became widespread later on, in the late 10th century.² The burial ground at Bodzia provides an early example of this custom, with 24 graves containing coins or fragments. These are listed below:

Coins in Burials [Numbers x+y are the Numbers of Whole Coins and Fragments]

1. Feature (grave) D149, Inv. no. D76  
   Bavaria, Salzburg, Henry IV (995–1002), Hahn 87a1, weight: 1.12 g. On the forearm; 1+0 (Fig. 16.1)

2. Feature (grave) D157, Inv. no. D41  
   Saxony, so-called cross denier (Sachsenpfennig), late variant Type VII (CNP 990) or Type V (CNP 626), weight: 0.36 g, diam.: 12 mm. Dating: fourth quarter of the 11th century. On the chest; 1+0 (Fig. 16.2)

3. Feature (grave) D162  
   - Inv. no. D130  
     Saxony, so-called cross denier (Sachsenpfennig), Type I, cf.: CNP 315–317 var., weight: 0.08 g. Dating: second half of the 10th century. Near the skull on the right; 0+1 (Fig. 16.3)  
   - Inv. no. D131

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² Suchodolski 1984; 1993; 1998; 2012, with further literature on the subject and general issues; see also Wachowski 1992.
Bohemia, Boleslav II (972–999), Cach 89, weight: 1.09 g. Dating: ca 985–995. On the right side of the chest; 1+0 (Fig. 16.4)

4. **Feature (grave) D164**, Inv. no. D126
   - Saxony?, Otto III and Adelaide, weight: 0.08 g. Dating: after 983?. Near the head (found under the skull); 0+1 (Fig. 16.5)
   - Undetermined coin, fragmented during the exploration. In the mouth; 1+0 (?)

5. **Feature (grave) D171**
   - Inv. no. D101
     - non-monetary doubly bent silver plate, weight: 0.07 g. In the burial pit, near the right hand
   - Inv. no. D147
     - Bohemia, Boleslav II (972–999), Type?, Cach 105, 121, or 138; weight: 0.07 g. Dating: 980–995. In the skull; 0+1
     - Inv. no. D148
       - broken gold leaf; weight: 0.02 g. In the skull. (Fig. 16.6)

6. **Feature (grave) E27**, Inv. no. E23
   - Würzburg, Otto III, emperor (996–1002), Dbg 856, Kellner 12; weight: 0.23 g. In the mouth; 0+1 (Fig. 16.7)

7. **Feature (grave) E28**, Inv. no. E26
   - small undetermined fragment, possibly so-called cross denier (*Sachsenpfennig*) from the first quarter of the 11th century ?, see e.g., CNP 480; weight: 0.08 g. Near the skull; 0+1 (Fig. 16.8)

8. **Feature (grave) E33** (2 coins)
   - Inv. no. E38, on the right side of the chest
     - A – Würzburg, Otto III, king (983–996), Dbg 855, Kellner 6; weight: 0.73 g; 1+0 (Fig. 16.9)
     - B – the coin was fragmented during exploration, 0+1

9. **Feature (grave) E34** (3 coins)
   - Inv. no. E34, near the jaw
     - A – Speyer?, Otto III, emperor (996–1002)?, cf. Dbg 826/7, Corcelles 737, weight: 0.16 g; 0+1 (Fig. 16.10)
     - B – so-called cross denier (*Sachsenpfennig*) Type I, CNP 315, 322, weight: 0.12 g. Dating: second half of the 10th century; 0+1 (Fig. 16.11)
     - Inv. no. E35
       - Regensburg, Henry II, king (1002–1014), Hahn 27fi.1, weight: 0.48 g. Dating: 1007–1009 (see money trend 12/2007, p. 132, Av. 6). Near the head; 0+1 (Fig. 16.12)

10. **Feature (grave) E35**, Inv. no. E4