



# Gen Dobry!

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\*\*\* WELCOME! \*\*\*

to the latest issue of *Gen Dobry!*, the e-zine of PolishRoots®. If you missed previous issues, you can find them here:

[http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/gendobry\\_index.htm](http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/gendobry_index.htm)

If you'd like *Gen Dobry!* in PDF form, this issue is available for downloading here:

[http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/PDF/GenDobry\\_VIII\\_10.pdf](http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/PDF/GenDobry_VIII_10.pdf)

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### \*\*\* CAST YOUR BREAD UPON THE WATERS \*\*\*

by Fred Hoffman <[wfh@langline.com](mailto:wfh@langline.com)>

This article's title may have you wondering "Why would anyone want wet bread?" But perhaps you recognize it as a quotation from the Bible, specifically Ecclesiastes 11:1: "Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again." I never really thought about it before, but this saying doesn't make a lot of sense, does it? Maybe the author, known as Koheleth (Hebrew, "the Preacher"), was having a bad day when he wrote this. It isn't nearly as good as his most famous verses (3:1-8), beginning "To everything there is a season," from which Pete Seeger created the wonderful song "Turn! Turn! Turn!"

In any case, people usually interpret this saying to mean you shouldn't hoard what you have; invest it wisely, and it will come back around to you. In this case, I'm thinking of how a project undertaken some years ago — one that probably seemed a little quixotic at the time — has produced all kinds of good results. I'm talking about Rafał Prinke's proposal to scan all 14,785 pages of the late 19th century Polish-language gazetteer *Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich* [Geographical Dictionary of the Kingdom of Poland and Other Slavic Countries, which I henceforth refer to as SGKP].

You see, back in 2000, Rafał had this great idea. He realized technological advances had made it feasible to scan the SGKP and, using the DjVu browser plug-in, compress the files so that the whole thing would fit on one CD-ROM. When he first told me this, it knocked me out! It may seem commonplace today, but back then it was a revelation ... Still, he needed funding to pay for the actual work of scanning. He asked me if I had any ideas how to raise the money, and I suggested he submit a proposal to the Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA).

I'm not sure whether all the directors of PGSA thought this was a great idea at the time. In all honesty, it required a leap of faith: confidence that money spent putting this massive Polish-language work on a CD would not be wasted. Eventually PGSA agreed to provide funding, in return for the rights to sell the CD-ROM in English-speaking countries; Rafał, in turn, was free to distribute the CD in Poland any way he wished.

PGSA cast their bread upon the waters, and it did return to them. PGSA has been selling the CD-ROM since 2002 (<http://www.pgsa.org/Books/books.htm>), and while I'm not sure, I suspect the Society has recovered most of its investment. What is certain is that PGSA members have the satisfaction of knowing they helped produce a wonderful item that has aided a lot of people. The CD has been, and remains, a valuable resource for English-speaking researchers. I'm rather proud of the fact that Rafał and I invested a lot of effort into preparing documentation that explains many things about the SGKP that baffle non-Poles, including files explaining abbreviations, units of weight and measure, and some rather nice maps illustrating Poland's borders and administrative subdivisions over the centuries.

But what we didn't know back then was that the CD was just the beginning. Not that long ago, the entire SGKP became accessible online on the Website of the University of Warsaw's Department of Mathematics, Informatics, and Mechanics:

<http://www.mimuw.edu.pl/polszczyzna/SGKPi/>

This version was prepared by Janusz S. Bień and Katarzyna Poleszak from a digital reproduction done by the Section of Secondary Documents of the University of Warsaw Library in October 2003. I'm not sure why they didn't use the scans Rafał produced; perhaps they felt technological advances allowed them to do scans of better quality. In any case, I strongly suspect Rafał's work opened their eyes to the fact that this was feasible in the first case!

More recently, an even more impressive site offers access to the SGKPi. We mentioned it in the June issue of *Gen Dobry!*, but I was reminded of it recently by translator Ola Heska ([ola@hwwd.com](mailto:ola@hwwd.com)):

[http://www.dir.icm.edu.pl/dirop/index.php/Sloownik\\_geograficzny/Tom\\_I/1](http://www.dir.icm.edu.pl/dirop/index.php/Sloownik_geograficzny/Tom_I/1)

The wonderful thing about this site is that you can not only view scans of the pages; you can search the text itself for specific names! Ola described the procedure:

There are two search options under *Wyszukiwanie* at the top left side of the screen: the upper box, *w hasłach*, will find entries on a village, and the lower box, *w tekście*, will find all entries that mention a particular village. One can also browse individual volumes or go to a specific page or another volume by typing in page number in the *idź do* box at the bottom of the screen. The pages that have been found can be saved by clicking on *pobierz skan* or right-clicking on the page and saving it ...

Last night as I taught a class at my local FHC about Polish gazetteers and the use of the *Sloownik*, I discovered (as you might have done earlier) that it is possible to use a wild card in searching for town names with Polish characters. I tried several different town names and it works great. If you are looking for Borzęcin and simply type "Borzecin" without the Polish *ę*, the dictionary will not find your town; but if you type "Borz\*cin", it will do just great.

Obviously this search relies on an OCR'ed version of the text (that is, a text generated by using Optical Character Recognition software to turn the graphic scan into a text file). So it will stand or fall depending on the quality of the scan and the OCR. I have had some trouble finding specific items on this site; and of course if you search for a the name of a major town such as Suwałki, or a name shared by many places such as Nowa Wieś, you run the risk of drowning in jillions of results. So a search for a comparatively rare name will generally be more productive than one for a common name, one that will appear repeatedly in the text.

Also, it helps a lot if you keep Polish grammar in mind. If you search for "Suwa?ki," you'll find only entries that match that form of the name, such as *Suwałki*, but miss mention of other grammatical forms such as *Suwałkach* or *Suwałkom*. You'll get better results if you fine-tune the search with wild cards, and search for "Suwa?k\*", which will match any form of *Suwałk-*, whatever the grammatical ending.

But there's more to the story. Not long ago a gentleman named Robert Birnbach mentioned he'd found the SGKP entry for a village called Lipnica by searching through Google books! I can't quite figure out whether all the SGKP volumes are available there, but some of them are; so far I've found volumes 1, 3, and 5.

You can go here: <http://books.google.com/>. A search for "Słownik geograficzny" will find several matches, some of which are volumes from the SGKP. In some cases you can try searching for the name of a specific place, and it will find SGKP entries mentioning it. It's kind of hit-or-miss so far; maybe as time goes by the search will become more reliable. For now, the site Ola described above is the more reliable and effective way to search for names of specific places—for surnames, too, for that matter. For instance, search for "Ob\*dzi?s\*" to find every mention of a family called *Obiedziński* or *Obidziński*; you may also get a few irrelevant matches (such as *obsadzwiszy*, in this particular case), but you can ignore those and focus on the useful ones.

An interesting sidelight is that the volumes available on Google Books were apparently scanned independently, from a copy in the Harvard library! People sure have been busy scanning the SGKP the last few years—first Rafał, then the University of Warsaw, then Google Books.

There's one more fascinating development. A German group, Hic Leones, [www.hicleones.com/](http://www.hicleones.com/), is translating the whole SGKP into German! You can read about the project here:

<http://wiki-en.genealogy.net/wiki/SłownikGeo>

As you'll see, they contacted PGSA and arranged to use the scans done by Rafał Prinke. They performed OCR on the scans to create text, and are working on the process of using computers to translate that Polish text into German. I am fascinated by this, professionally speaking, and can't wait to see how it turns out. I really can't imagine how computer translation of text as complicated as the SGKP can possibly produce acceptable results. Computer translations don't handle basic Polish all that well; the complex, archaic Polish of the SGKP is much tougher. It would seem to me they'll have to devote years to having qualified translators check and correct the translations meticulously before they come up with a final version worth publishing.

Still, I may be wrong. Let's face it, when German scholars undertake a project, it's not wise to bet against them. They may find a way to make this work!

I have to admit, I wish there was some way I could undertake doing an English translation of the SGKP! It would be a monstrous project, and even if I could start it, who knows if I'd live long enough to finish it? But it's a moot point, unless I win the lottery and become independently wealthy. Fascinating as this work would be, it won't pay the bills. (Still, I can dream, can't I?)

In the meantime, I still think PGSA's CD version is the most valuable one for English-speaking genealogical researchers. Even educated Poles have trouble understanding some of the material in SGKP, and the documentation that comes with the CD helps out with a lot of the problems you encounter. But it is nice to know that you can go online to see and copy scans of the original Polish, and even search for specific words and names. I often find I do a search online first to locate specific entries, then look them up and print them out from the CD files (which I've copied to my hard drive for faster access).

But it is fascinating to see how this amazing resource, once hard to locate and even harder to use, is becoming more and more accessible all the time. Rafał Prinke started it ... and I can't wait to see what's coming next! I think it's a good example of why organizations, and individuals, should not be afraid to "cast their bread upon the waters."

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**\*\*\* LETTERS TO THE EDITOR \*\*\***

Subject: Bonnie Prince Charlie

The recent article in *Gen Dobry!* about the close ties of the Scots and Poles mentioned Bonnie Prince Charlie's mother as being Polish. I wanted to know if there was something else to be learned about her besides her name, Clementina Sobieska, and that she was the granddaughter of Jan Sobieski, the King of Poland. I googled Bonnie Prince Charlie's name, and of the first four websites to visit, Wikipedia was the only one to mention Clementina. In fact, Wikipedia had a pedigree chart shown. The next two only mentioned the Prince's father's name, no mention of a mother whatsoever. I thought this strange. The fourth website was a very interesting animated version of Prince Charlie's attempt to restore the British throne for his father. I didn't look any further under Bonnie Prince Charlie.

Then I googled Clementina Sobieska Stuart and Wikipedia had more information on Clementina. She had been one of Europe's wealthiest heiresses. While on her way to Italy to marry James, she was arrested by the Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI and was confined in Innsbruck Castle, from which she eventually escaped. After Clementina and James were married, they were invited to live in Rome by Pope Clement XI, under his protection. And the most interesting part — Clementina is buried in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and a picture was shown of her beautiful tomb. All of this curiosity was aroused by just one sentence saying that Bonnie Prince Charlie was half Polish!

Armela Hammes <[armelahammes@att.net](mailto:armelahammes@att.net)>

*Editor—Very interesting! Thank you for sharing this with us. Incidentally, you may find more by searching for the Polish spelling of her name, Klementyna Sobieska.*

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Subject: Millennium Medallion

*Editor—The last couple of issues included questions about a medallion commemorating the millennium of Poland's conversion to Christianity. We still haven't learned anything specific about the medallion, but here's a note that might provide a little background info:*

This might clarify the subject of the medallion.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stefan\\_Cardinal\\_Wyszy%C5%84ski](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stefan_Cardinal_Wyszy%C5%84ski)

<http://www.uwm.edu/Libraries/arch/findaids/mss064.htm>

<http://www.uwm.edu/Libraries/arch/findaids/uwmms45.htm>

**ABSTRACT:** Records, largely consisting of correspondence, of a Polish American group which promoted the celebration of Poland's Millennium of Christianity (966-1966).

This Ebay item appears to show the medallion on a postcard:

<http://tinyurl.com/33mytf>

Thomas <[genealogy@fastwebnet.it](mailto:genealogy@fastwebnet.it)>

*Editor—Thanks! You never know what bit of info might help solve the riddle.*

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Subject: Photo Finding Aid, and UPGS 2008

Finally got a spiffy blog online for the Photo Finding Aid. Please take a look!

<http://pol-amstudio.blogspot.com/>

Also, online registration is open for the 2008 UPGS seminar:

<http://upgs.wordpress.com/>

Jann Soltis made the masthead.

Ceil Jensen <[cjensen@mipolonia.net](mailto:cjensen@mipolonia.net)>

*Editor—Thanks for passing this along, Ceil.*

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**\*\*\* CONDOLENCES TO ROSEMARY CHORZEMPA \*\*\***

*Editor—Ceil Jensen posted this note on the Poland-Roots mailing list. Many of you, perhaps most, have used Rosemary's book Polish Roots, so you might want to know of her recent loss.*

Readers who have learned from Rosemary Chorzempa's *Polish Roots* genealogy book might like to send condolences. This info comes from the *Monroe Evening News* (Monroe County MI) website [www.monroenews.com](http://www.monroenews.com). Click on Obituaries, and select Oct. 22, 2007 as the date. This is the first listing.

**Irene Rose Dembinski**  
**Sept. 7, 1916 - Oct. 21, 2007**

“Busia” Irene Dembinski, age 91, of Toledo, Ohio died Sunday, October 21, 2007, at St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center. She has relatives in Monroe County.

Irene was born September 7, 1916, in Toledo to Frank and Rose (Rutkowski) Boczkowski. She was a life member of St. Hedwig Parish, where she married David Dembinski on May 28, 1946. Busia Irene was very active in church activities and also was a member of the L.C.B.A. and St. Francis Guild. She worked at the Lion Store in the 1950s, and then for the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library for 15 years.

Surviving are her loving children: Mark Dembinski (fiancee Carol Johnson) both of Ida, and Rosemary (Lawrence) Chorzempa of Temperance.

Spending time with her children and grandchildren was her favorite pastime.

Grandchildren are: Rebecca (Scott) Stacy of Royal Oak, Nancy (Daniel) Dezess of Tucson, Arizona, Timothy Chorzempa (fiancee Shannon Nugent) both of Flat Rock, Andrew and David Chorzempa of Temperance, Victoria (Andrew) Charter of Ida, Peter Dembinski (Stephanie Nutt) of Ida, and Richard Dickerson of Ida.

Busia Irene was preceded in death by her parents in 1962, husband David in 1986, sister Anastasia Boczkowski in 1917, daughter-in-law Bobby Jill Dembinski in 2000, and granddaughter, Anastasia Chorzempa in 1991.

Friends and relatives may call at the Urbanski Funeral Home, 2907 Lagrange Street at Dexter in Toledo (419-244-4611) on Monday and Tuesday, October 22 and 23, from 4 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. Rosary services will be held on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Funeral services will begin Wednesday, October 24, 2007, at 12:30 p.m. in the funeral home with the Funeral Mass at 1:00 p.m. in St. Hedwig Catholic Church with Father Marek Ciesla officiating. Interment will follow in Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery, Toledo.

Memorials may be made to St. Hedwig Preservation Society or Holiday Camp of Monroe, 1101 S. Raisinville Rd., Monroe 48161.

*Editor—Cześć jej pamięci! (All honor to her memory!)*

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**\*\*\* FINDING “LOST” GRAVES \*\*\***

by Debbie Greenlee <[daveg@airmail.net](mailto:daveg@airmail.net)>

*Editor—Debbie posted this note on the Poland-Roots mailing list, and I thought it was definitely worth revisiting, for anyone who might have missed it.*



While in Chicago this past weekend I stopped by St. Adalbert's cemetery in Niles, Illinois to "visit" my great-grandparents' graves. Finding them proved to be a bit difficult. Evidently none of my cousins visit the cemetery. Ever. I had to do a lot of grass pulling in order to see my great-grandparents' names and the dates.

I stopped in the office at the cemetery just for the heck of it. St. Adalbert's now uses a computer to locate graves. Guests can type in names at a kiosk and receive a printout listing the grave location along with a map. There is no charge for the use of the database, which is not yet finished. The printouts are also free.

The names registered with the cemetery and hence in the computer database, may not be what is listed on the headstones themselves though. Below is an example using my family. All surnames are spelled correctly.

Cemetery database shows:

Szymon Chojnacki died in 1928  
Sophia Hojnacki died in 1951 (wife)  
Frank Hoyne died in 1947 (son)  
Joseph Jaworski died in 1929  
Margaret Jaworski died in 1924

However, the headstones show:

Szymon Hojnacki  
Zofia Hojnacki  
Frank Hojnacki  
Joseph Jayes  
Magdalen Jayes

Searching the database using the headstone spellings of the surnames did not bring any results.

Now for some interesting news. "Margaret" Jaworski was originally buried in a term grave. Five years later she was moved and buried next to her husband in a perpetual grave. All this I knew. Years ago (pre-computers) I had asked the cemetery personnel if their records indicated the term grave number for "Margaret." No, they didn't have that information. It was gone forever.

When I printed out the grave location this past week however, it listed "Margaret's" term grave number and section. It doesn't say "term grave" but I immediately knew that's what it was. I went to the office and told them about this and my assumption was confirmed as being correct. The gentleman made note of the information so it could be put into the database as well and "Margaret" would be shown as being buried next to her husband.

I don't know what possessed me to even go into the cemetery office. All of my Chicago research was finished years ago; or so I thought. I guess it pays to keep tabs on those old resources.



This link shows a typical print out from St. Adalbert's. "Margaret's" Grave was 4395 in Section WD.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~rydzkowski/buriedlostforgotten.htm>

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**\*\*\* J. WILLIAM GORSKI GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL COLLECTION \*\*\***

Not long ago, Bill Gorski was so kind as to send me a copy of the catalog of the J. William Gorski Historical and Genealogical Collection, which is housed at the State Library and Archives in Lansing, Michigan. I had known Bill is a long-time active member of PGS-Michigan; in fact, he is currently serving as the editor of that Society's journal, *Polish Eaglet*. I had no idea he had put together an extensive collection of materials on history and genealogy. The catalog is divided into four parts: Ontario, Canada; Books on Poles; Michigan Counties from Alcona to Wexford; and Wayne County, Michigan (Southeastern Michigan). It's an impressive list of works, and I think a lot of people who don't know about it would benefit from it.

If you'd like to read an online site with some information, I found one at [http://www.zoominfo.com/people/Gorski\\_J.\\_158055376.aspx](http://www.zoominfo.com/people/Gorski_J._158055376.aspx). I imagine there's a lot more to learn, but the way to do that is to visit the Library in Lansing. If you have Michigan roots, or roots in Ontario, you really ought to look into this!

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**\*\*\* UPCOMING EVENTS \*\*\***

**Monday, November 5, 2007**

**POLISH GENEALOGY WORKSHOP  
Corbin Public Library, Webster, Massachusetts**

The Friends of the Chester C. Corbin Public Library will sponsor a free workshop on Polish genealogy on Monday, November 5th. It is scheduled for 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. The event, which is open to the public, will outline methods and strategies helpful to beginners and longtime researchers alike.

Presenting the workshop will be genealogist Barbara Proko, lead co-author of *Worcester County's Polish Community* and founder of PolishMass, a Yahoo! group dedicated to Polish family research based in Massachusetts.

This session will focus on post-immigration records created in the United States. Using selected families as case studies, Proko will offer examples of the resources available both locally and online for tracing Polish roots.

Pre-registration is requested by calling (508) 949-3880. Corbin Public Library is located at 2 Lake Street, next to the Webster Town Hall.

[Posted by Barbara Proko to the Poland-Roots mailing list on 31 Oct 2007]

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**Saturday, November 10, 2007**  
**2:00 p.m.**

National Archives Mid Atlantic Region  
900 Market Street (Enter from Chestnut Street between 9th and 10th)  
Philadelphia, PA

Dr. Paul S. Valasek lectures on Haller's Polish Army in France and Philadelphia's Recruits.  
Free.

*also*

**Sunday, November 11, Veterans Day**  
**12:00 noon**

A Moment of Reflection "Lest We Forget"  
led by Dr. Paul S. Valasek  
By the World War I Monument at 2nd and Spring Garden (Northern Liberties)  
Philadelphia, PA

With support of Polski Uniwerstet Ludowy. Free.

Both of these are in connection with the American Friendship: Hoover in Poland Exhibit at the  
Arch Street Friends (Quaker) Meeting House

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**Tuesday, November 13, 2007**

**POLISH GENEALOGY WORKSHOP**  
**Corbin Public Library, Webster, Massachusetts**

The Friends of the Chester C. Corbin Public Library will sponsor a free workshop on Polish genealogy on Tuesday, November 13th. The event, which is open to the public, will outline methods and strategies helpful to beginners and longtime researchers alike. It is scheduled for 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Presenting the workshop will be genealogist Barbara Proko, lead co-author of *Worcester County's Polish Community* and founder of PolishMass, a Yahoo! group dedicated to Polish family research based in Massachusetts.

The workshop will demonstrate how to "cross the pond" from America to Europe and use immigration records, maps, and gazetteers to identify ancestral villages in Poland. Finding and

translating records created in Europe will follow, with an overview of organizations and print/online resources helpful to this process.

Pre-registration is requested by calling (508) 949-3880. Corbin Public Library is located at 2 Lake Street, next to the Webster Town Hall.

[Posted by Barbara Proko to the Poland-Roots mailing list on 31 Oct 2007]

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**Saturday, 24 November 2007**

**Polish Museum & Archives in Australia Invites You to a Practical and Interactive Polish Genealogy Workshop**

***Z pokolenia na pokolenie***

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Elwood Neighbourhood Learning Centre, 87 Tennyson Street Elwood.

**Aims:**

- \* To provide practical skills and knowledge for people exploring their family histories.
- \* To share the experiences of experienced historians and family historians.
- \* To provide practical assistance to help you discover your family history.
- \* To enrich your understanding of the cultural and historical issues of migrants from Poland and Polish territories.

**Topics to be covered:**

- \* Exploring family Military History
- \* Oral histories-how to document histories of loved ones
- \* Dealing with Archives in Poland and former Polish territories
- \* Issues relating to Poland's multicultural past
- \* Australian Archival sources
- \* Poland's former eastern provinces (*Kresy*)
- \* Interactive exercises in Computer lab

COST \$ 15 (Morning tea, Lunch and Afternoon tea included)

Organiser - Polish Museum & Archives in Australia.

For further information: Helen Evert- 9699 6322, <[everth@netspace.net.au](mailto:everth@netspace.net.au)>

Lucyna Artymiuk-0403 655 044 <[lucyna.artymiuk@bigpond.com](mailto:lucyna.artymiuk@bigpond.com)>

Registration forms available via Email. Registrations until 17 November 2007

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**July 17-28, 2008**

## **POLAND IN THE ROCKIES**

*Poland in the Rockies (PitR)*, the biennial international student conference launched in Canada in 2004, is now accepting applications for 2008.

Speakers confirmed to date include major figures from politics, television, film, the press and academe. Among them will be former Polish Minister of Defense, Senator **Radek Sikorski**; Washington Post columnist **Anne Applebaum**; BBC documentary maker **Wanda Koscia**; former advisor to Leszek Balcerowicz, Professor **Jacek Rostowski** of the Central European University in Budapest; the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's "most influential" producer, **Mark Starowicz**; and Director of the Polish Studies Center at Indiana University in Bloomington, **Bill Johnston**. History, an important element of PitR, is presented in many voices. **Timothy Snyder**'s (Yale) incisive view of Poland's past within Poland's present; **Piotr Wrobel**'s (University of Toronto) analysis of a century of challenges including a culture under siege; **Lynn Lubamersky** (Boise State University) on social and family history; and **John Bukowczyk** (Wayne State University), a foremost authority on the history of Polonia.

"*Poland in the Rockies* is not 'a course' in Polish history," says director Tony Muszynski. "There is no long lecture in one voice. On the contrary. It is a fast-paced, intensive, wide-ranging discussion of 'things Polish,' and ultimately an exploration of the many facets of the Polish identity."

Launched by the Polish Canadian Association of Calgary and the Canadian Foundation for Polish Studies in Montreal, PitR's aim is to stimulate an interest among English-speaking Americans and Canadians in Polish history and culture; to create a network of well-informed and dynamic friends of Poland; and to encourage Polish Americans and Canadians to integrate their identity into the mainstream of North American life—but not to lose it.

Funded entirely by Polish organizations and individuals in the United States and Canada, *PitR* is not designed for specialists in Polish studies but is intended for students from a wide variety of disciplines. Full scholarships are granted on the basis of a student's curriculum vitae, letters of reference, and an essay explaining their motivation for attending. Geographical diversity is also taken into consideration.

For complete information, prospective sponsors and candidates should refer to the website:

<http://www.polandintherockies.com>

Media relations contact: Marek Domaradzki, tel. 403-262-7141

[From a press release sent by Maureen Mroczek Morris <[maureenm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maureenm@sbcglobal.net)>]

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**Friday and Saturday, October 3 – 4, 2008 [note the date: 2008]**

## PGSCTNE 2008 POLISH GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, Connecticut

Sponsored by the Polish and Polish American Studies Program, Central Connecticut State University. We will be featuring **Dr. Stephen Morse**, who will be lecturing on “Searching the Ellis Island Database on the One-Step Website.”

There will also be a Polish history lecture by **Dr. Mieczysław Biskupski** and a Beginner’s Workshop.

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### \*\*\* MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES \*\*\*

<http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/intl/POL/GALICIA.html>

On the Poland-Roots list, Marie <[rwlistsboards@comcast.net](mailto:rwlistsboards@comcast.net)> mentioned that RootsWeb had created a new mailing list at this address for researchers interested in Galicia.

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<http://www.jewishgen.org/Galicia/html/FourteenYears.html>

The October 28, 2007 issue of *Nu? What’s New?* mentioned that all back issues of *The Galitzianer*, the newsletter of Gesher Galicia SIG, are available on CD with a full-word search engine. The CD contains complete PDF files for all issues published between February 2001 and August 2007 and PDF files with material from most of the issues since *The Galitzianer* was first published in 1993. If you’re interested, you can get more information at the URL above.

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<http://tinyurl.com/2qjow2>

On the Polish Genius mailing list, Ray Marshall <[raymarsh@mninter.net](mailto:raymarsh@mninter.net)> posted a link to a very interesting article on the results of the recent election in Poland. Written by Neal Ascherson, it’s entitled “Poland after PiS: Handle with care,” and the URL given above should take you to it. You might want to take a look, if only to learn the new word *depisacja*, the process of “taking the PiS out of everything.” That might look obscene, but it’s a reference to the name of the Kaczyński brothers’ party, Prawo i Sprawiedliwość [Law and Justice].

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<http://kdkv.narod.ru/1864/Ssilka-ZapSib.html#12>

Przemek Mierzejewski <[przemek.mierzejewski@onet.pl](mailto:przemek.mierzejewski@onet.pl)> sent me this link, which gives information on participants in the 1863-1864 rebellion who were exiled to West Siberia. Przemek thought some of our readers might find it interesting, and I agree. The names and information are all in Russian, but if you can figure out the names, the information is not too difficult to figure out. If you need a little help dealing with the Russian versions of names, try this page on Steve Morse’s Website: <http://www.stevemorse.org/russian/rus2eng.html>.

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<http://www.stevemorse.org/russian/cyrprintcurs.html?font=cursive>

While we’re talking about Steve Morse and the problems of dealing with Russian, Tom Sadauskas pointed out a note posted on the LitvakSIG mailing list by Diane Jacobs. She

mentioned that Morse has added new tools to his features helping with foreign alphabets, including tools that convert between the Russian printed alphabet and the Russian cursive alphabet. The one shown above turns cursive to print; if you want to convert print to cursive, use <http://www.stevemorse.org/russian/cyrprintcurs.html?font=print>. As a language geek, I find this sort of this absolutely fascinating—but it can be a real huge to researchers who don't have time to sit down one weekend and learn Russian!

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<http://www.poisk.vid.ru/?l=1>

A friend of *Gen Dobry!* sent along this link, for people in Russian searching for relatives who “disappeared.”

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<http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/read/polandbordersurnames/2007-10/1191917060>

In this note posted on the PolandBorderSurnames list, Zbigniew Głowka <[zg@skg.pl](mailto:zg@skg.pl)> explains that he possesses the complete set of parish registers for Straconka near Bielsko-Biała. The records includes these surnames: Pisch/Piesch/Pysz, Santorossa, Horecki, Przybyła, Klimczok, Gasiński, Głowka, Krywult, and Dudziak. He says he also has good connections with the parishes near Andrychow (surnames Kudłacik, Walusiak, Panek, Potempa, Gasiński). He would be glad to help with genealogical research in western Galicia and Great Poland (the vicinities of Gniezno, Żerków, Jarocin, and Ostrów Wielkopolski). Don't let the fact that he writes in Polish scare you; if you have roots in these areas, surely you can find a way to communicate with him!

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<http://www.introibo.net/download/lateinbuch.pdf>

On the Posen mailing list, Gerd Müllenheim mentioned this site, a PDF file that provides a handbook to Church Latin. It's in German, so the grammar lessons may be a challenge if you don't speak that language. But some researchers may find it useful, especially the list of terms beginning on page 302. It's easier to find good German dictionaries than to find dictionaries for Church Latin; you can look up a term in Latin, note the German equivalent, then consult a German dictionary to get the meaning in English.

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<http://www.polish-translators.com/deklinacja.html>

On the Poland-Roots mailing list, Danusia Morsley <[danusia@morsley.me.uk](mailto:danusia@morsley.me.uk)> responded to a request for online sites that help with Polish grammar. She mentioned this site, which has a fairly compact summary of the endings Polish nouns take. It may not terribly easy to use if you're not grammatically inclined, but I thought it was worth mentioning. She mentioned another site, <http://free.of.pl/g/grzegorzj/gram/gram00.html>, which is a work in progress. The English section is largely computer translated, i. e., is sometimes incomprehensible—but there's a lot of good info there on Polish, as well as Kashubian and other topics.

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<http://www.geopatronymie.com/>

While discussing an article he's preparing for PGSA's Journal *Rodziny*, Robert Sliwinski

<[robert\\_sliwinski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:robert_sliwinski@sbcglobal.net)> added that he'd mentioned a French Website during his talks at PGSA's recent Fall Conference, and it had attracted a fair amount of attention. The URL above takes you to that site. If you type in your surname, it generates a map of France by province, and shows the distribution and frequency of that name in France as of different time periods; it also has links to other sources. He noticed that Polish surnames are not at all uncommon—no great surprise, as many Poles emigrated to France over the centuries. He thought this might provide an interesting starting point for some researchers. It's all in French, but not terribly hard to figure out.

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<http://genoroots.com/eng/genoroots.htm>

Several people recently posted positive notes on the Poland-Roots mailing list about the research services of a young Polish lady named Aleksandra "Alex" Kacprzak <[alex@genoroots.com](mailto:alex@genoroots.com)>. I recognized her name because she contributes a regular column to *Pathways & Passages*, the journal of PGSCtNE ([www.pgscctne.org](http://www.pgscctne.org)). I did a little searching and found this Website, which features the work of Alex and of Bryan Walsch. Since people are always looking for Poles who can help with on-site research, I thought I should pass this URL along.

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<http://www.wrotapodlasia.pl/en/region/history/>

On the Herbarz mailing list, Kaj Malachowski mentioned this page, which has a short English-language history of the region of northeastern Poland traditionally called Podlasie, now covered by the province of Podlaskie. If you have roots in this area, you might find this interesting.

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[http://ecollections.crl.edu/cdm4/index\\_dz.php?CISOROOT=/dz](http://ecollections.crl.edu/cdm4/index_dz.php?CISOROOT=/dz)

Paul Valasek forwarded a note posted by Mary to the Chicago-Polish Rootsweb mailing list. She said "The Newberry Library genealogy blog posted an announcement that the Center for Research Libraries has digitized the first 10 years (1908-1917) of the *Dziennik Związkowy*, a newspaper founded by the Polish National Alliance. I'm not sure how much genealogical information is there, but here's the link if anyone is interested."

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[http://mapywig.org/viewpage.php?page\\_id=11](http://mapywig.org/viewpage.php?page_id=11)

On the Polish Genius list, Roman <[romanka@comcast.net](mailto:romanka@comcast.net)> mentioned this site, which gives access to "topographic maps produced between World War I and World War II and ... just as useful in finding older places as the Austro-Hungarian ME-200 series. In fact, they cover those northern portions of Poland that are not available on the ME-200 maps. A graphical index of the maps available can be viewed at <http://igrek.amzp.pl/mapindex.php?cat=WIG100>."

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<http://warszawa.getto.pl/index.php?temp=temp&lang=en>

On the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup, Josh Backon mentioned this English-language site dealing with the Warsaw Ghetto.



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[http://www.polonica.net/Lista\\_Polskich\\_Dzieci\\_deportowanych\\_3.htm](http://www.polonica.net/Lista_Polskich_Dzieci_deportowanych_3.htm)

Also on that newsgroup, Gayle Schlissel Riley <[keys2pst@yahoo.com](mailto:keys2pst@yahoo.com)> mentioned this list of Polish children deported from the *Kresy* (Eastern Borderlands) deep into the Soviet Union, and later to Africa. She noted that if you change the 3 in the URL to other numbers, you get other lists—children who ended up in Iran, India, Mexico and the United States (substitute 5 for 3 in the URL), etc.

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