



# Gen Dobry!

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Volume VII, No. 2

28 February 2006

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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\\_VII\\_2.pdf](http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/PDF/GenDobry_VII_2.pdf)

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### \*\*\* YOU SAY SIKORSKY, I SAY SIKORSKI \*\*\*

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

First, I want to apologize, yet again, for the lateness of this issue. Last month's was late due to our move from Illinois to western Connecticut. This month's is late due to microbes. I've been taking care of my twin 6-year-old granddaughters a lot lately, and they're attending a marvelous school they really like. The only problem: they'd managed to meet and beat all the germs back in Illinois, but here they're running into some tough new Connecticut germs. As all parents know, kids are marvelously efficient conduits for conveying pathogens straight into the home environment. The girls are holding their own with these tough new Yankee microbes; so the little buggers (the germs, not the girls) decided to beat up on an easier target: me. A couple of them have knocked me for a loop the last three weeks.

So I haven't gotten much work done lately. Lying around and coughing does, however, give one time to read and think. I ran across a couple of items in the newspaper the other day that caught my attention and might be worth commenting on. One headline, on the front page, dealt with a Teamster strike against Sikorsky Aircraft. The other, on the international page, talked about some political fence-mending being done by the Polish Defense Minister, Radek Sikorski. The contrast, Sikorsky vs. Sikorski, struck me.

It brought to mind a question I've answered many times, but one that keeps coming up: why do surnames sometimes end with *-ski* and sometimes with *-sky*? Is there any significance to it? I thought it might not hurt to talk about this a little in *Gen Dobry!* I have already discussed the matter – you can read some remarks on this and other questions regarding surname endings here: [http://www.polishroots.org/surnames/surnames\\_endings.htm](http://www.polishroots.org/surnames/surnames_endings.htm). But since people keep asking about this, why not focus on this specific question and try to shed a little light?

#### \* Who Cares How You Spell Surnames? \*

Now the first thing you have to understand is, **surname spelling has never been very consistent!** In fact, I think our ancestors would be puzzled by our emphasis on something that seemed thoroughly trivial to them. That's true whether you're talking about Polish, German, English, you name it. William Shakespeare has always been a figure of some importance to people who read and wrote quite well; yet documents created during his lifetime spell his name more than a dozen different ways! (For an interesting article on this, see <http://shakespeareauthorship.com/name1.html>). This is not an exceptional case: until pretty recently people seldom made a big deal out of surname spellings, whether their own or someone else's.

And really, why should they? Most folks couldn't read; if they could write anything at all, their penmanship seldom amounted to more than a halfhearted stab at their own names. In this modern world of computer databases and national security and credit card applications it's hard to relate, but our ancestors didn't know or care how their names were spelled. They were practical people, and in everyday life in some small village, it didn't make one damned bit of difference whether you spelled a name *Shakespeare* or *Shakspere*, *Sikorsky* or *Sikorski*, *Hoffman* or *Hofman*. People usually wrote a name down the way it sounded to them, and didn't lose any sleep over whether it was "correct." On most people's list of priorities "correct spelling" rated right up there with "How much wood can a woodchuck chuck?"

In fact, I've often wondered if some Poles felt it was downright patriotic to make their names as confusing as possible. Emphasis on consistent spellings was not the Poles' idea—the partitioners, German, Russia, and Austria, started demanding the use of consistent, unvarying surnames. Why? It made people easier to keep track of. The Germans, Russians, and Austrians wanted to make Poles pay taxes and serve in their armies; and Poles were not terribly anxious to do either of these things. It's a lot easier to cram unpopular measures down people's throats if you know where they live, so to speak. And how do you know that if you're unsure whether you're looking for Bukowski or Bukowiec or Bukowicz? All three empires enacted regulations designed to make Poles easier to identify, including emphasis on surnames that never varied (except as dictated by grammar).

I don't know if Poles confused things on purpose. I just know, if I were a Pole living back then, I'd figure what's good for the Prussians or Russkies can't be good for me. Maybe I wouldn't misspell my name on purpose; but I'd have no incentive to make things easier for my oppressors!

Whether that was a factor or not, researchers soon recognize one truth: if a name can plausibly be spelled more than one way, it will be. In older records, especially, *-i* and *-y* were often treated as interchangeable. So even in Polish records you'll see *Sikorski* one time, *Sikorsky* another.

**\* Always *-ski*, Never *-sky* \***

As compulsory education began to increase literacy and create in people's minds an awareness that there was a right and wrong way to spell words, a consensus began to develop as to how names should be spelled. Gradually most Poles learned that in their language, *y* can never follow *k* or *g*; the vowel must be *i*. In other words, always *-ski*, never *-sky*.

Perhaps that's because the vowel represented by *y* in Polish is a tense little "short i" sound, while the *i* is a nice, open "ee". (Compare the Polish verb for "to beat," *bić*, which sounds kind of like our word "beach," with the word for "to be," *być*, which sounds more like our word for a female dog.)

For whatever reason, Poles don't like to combine the guttural *k* or *g* with the sound they write as *y*. For them it's much more natural to pronounce *ki* than *ky*, *gi* than *gy*. So they turned this preference into a spelling rule. Actually there are a number of rules regarding use of certain consonants with *i* or *y* in native Polish words (words borrowed from other languages may violate these rules). Here are the ones I can remember offhand:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| * never <i>ćy</i> , only <i>ci</i> or <i>cy</i>                           | * never <i>ńi</i> or <i>ńy</i> , only <i>ni</i> or <i>ny</i>    |
| * never <i>cz</i> <i>i</i> , only <i>czy</i>                              | * never <i>ri</i> , only <i>ry</i>                              |
| * never <i>d</i> <i>i</i> , only <i>dy</i> , <i>dzy</i> , or <i>dzi</i> ; | * never <i>rzi</i> , only <i>rzy</i>                            |
| * never <i>g</i> <i>e</i> , only <i>gie</i> ;                             | * never <i>śi</i> or <i>śy</i> , only <i>si</i> or <i>sy</i>    |
| * never <i>g</i> <i>y</i> , only <i>gi</i> ;                              | * never <i>szi</i> , only <i>szy</i>                            |
| * never <i>k</i> <i>e</i> , only <i>kie</i> ;                             | * never <i>ti</i> , only <i>ty</i> ( <i>t + i</i> → <i>ci</i> ) |
| * never <i>k</i> <i>y</i> , only <i>ki</i> ;                              | * never <i>źi</i> , only <i>źy</i>                              |
| * never <i>li</i> , only <i>li</i> ;                                      | * never <i>źi</i> or <i>źy</i> , only <i>zi</i> or <i>zy</i>    |
| * never <i>l</i> <i>y</i> , only <i>ły</i>                                |   |

It's not that the human mouth can't form these sound combinations; *li*, for instance, would sound a lot like our word *we*, and pronouncing that word causes us no trouble at all. But all languages have their quirks, and Poles, for some reason, avoid these particular combinations.

In case you think we're immune to such whims, English doesn't start words with the "ts" sound that Poles write as *c*, as in *córka* (daughter), and Germans write as *z*, as in *Zeitung* (newspaper). English doesn't start words with the "shch" combination Poles write *szcz*, as in *Szczepan* (Stephen). In modern English we drop the initial "k" sound in *knee*, but the German word meaning the same thing, *Knie*, is pronounced with that *k* loud and clear. There are jillions of examples that you only become aware of once you start studying other languages.

Now we finally have an answer to our Sikorski/Sikorsky question. Radek Sikorski is a Pole, his name must end in *-ski*. The Sikorsky Aircraft company is named for Igor Ivanovich Sikorsky, a Russian-born aviation pioneer. When Russian names are written in our alphabet, it's OK to spell them *-sky*. In fact, that's the way we usually render the ending for Russian names.

Permit me to skip blithely over complications, such as the fact that Sikorsky actually was born in Kyiv, Ukraine, and the Ukrainians claim he's one of them, not a Russian at all (see, for instance, <http://www2.uwindsor.ca/~hlynka/ukfam.html>). Or the fact that *Sikorskiy* is actually a more accurate phonetic rendering in our alphabet of the Russian Cyrillic version, **Сикорский**. And that you may even see the Ukrainian version of the surname, **Сикорський**, rendered as *Sykorskyj* in our alphabet; spellings with *-skyj* show up especially often in the surnames of Ukrainian immigrants to Canada. (Obviously that final *j* is not meant to be pronounced as in English, but rather as in German or Polish, as a consonantal *y* sound. Are you sufficiently confused yet?)

If you're philosophically-minded, these facts can be relevant when you ponder the question "What is the correct spelling of this name, anyway?" The answer: spelling is always a consensus among the speakers of a given language. As such it is subject to change; at any given time there can be popular variants that become more common than the "correct" spelling. Ponder this as you drink your Lite Beer or listen to Prince's "I Would Die 4 U" or let your kids watch Nick at Nite.

(Along these same lines, read Paul Valasek's "Olny Srmat Poelpe Can" below.)

Anyway, as practical researchers, we can't get too carried away with philosophical conundrums. For our purposes, if we need a rule of thumb it's best to go with this equation: Sikorski = Pole, Sikorsky = Russian (or Czech, Slovak, Ukrainian, etc.)

Was religion a factor? Not usually. People often have the impression that Jews' surnames end in *-sky*. In general, however, the spelling of Jews' names was influenced by the same factors that influenced their Christian neighbors' names. Polish Jews tend to prefer *-ski*, Czech Jews prefer *-sky*, and so on. As best I can tell, the determining factors were linguistic and cultural, not religious.

**\* And Yet ... \***

So why do we often see the names of Polish Christians and Jews spelled with *-sky* in our records? If you do much research you're going to find plenty of people who were unquestionably from Poland, yet they show up as *Gorsky* or *Dombrowsky* or *Piontkowsky*. There must be some reason they kept getting stuck with a misspelling. And why would English-speakers prefer *-sky* over *-ski* anyway? It's not as if our language tends to use either combination very much.

I've never seen an authoritative explanation of this, and if someone can point me toward one, I'd be grateful. But I do have a theory: the Czechs did it.

Czechs use a modified version of the Roman alphabet, and render the standard Slavic adjectival ending as *-sky*. When Czechs emigrated, their names didn't have to be transliterated from the Cyrillic alphabet, as was necessary with Belarusians, Russians, and Ukrainians; they were written in letters reasonably familiar to western Europeans. I think Germans, in particular, got used to seeing *-sky* (ignoring the accent over the *y*) whenever they encountered that ending, and tended to use it as well when dealing with Poles, Russians, and other Slavs. Since many emigrants' papers were filled out by Germans, the German preference for *-sky* affected the spelling in them.

What's more, the Czechs were the first Slavs to immigrate to America in large numbers. When Poles started crossing the Atlantic, they found sizable and well-established Czech settlements in many areas. In fact Poles often went to Czech churches until they got enough numbers and money to start their own parishes. So in North America, too, the Czech spelling *-sky* probably imprinted itself on English-speakers as the standard version for all Slavs.

Now Poles' names are, of course, also written in the Roman alphabet, with modifications. Some people noticed they spelled their names with *-ski* and went along with it. I imagine that's why we see a respectable number of Polish surnames spelled correctly in the U. S. and Canada. But let's face it, most non-Slavs can't tell a Pole from a Czech from a Ukrainian. The Czech version's greater familiarity often won out, and a lot of Poles ended up as *-sky* whether they liked it or not.

**\* Conclusion \***

So what conclusion should we draw? Well, as usual with surnames, you can't trust generalizations. By and large, Polish names are more likely to be spelled *-ski*, while *-sky* more likely shows up in the names of Czechs, Russians, Ukrainians, etc. But that's just a rule of thumb; there are plenty of exceptions. Often the only way you can tell ethnic origin for sure is to trace the family history. The way people spell their names *may* give you a useful clue; but you can't really count on it. If you see one fellow called Sikorski and another called Sikorsky, odds are the first is a Pole, the second a Russian. Still, do yourself a favor and dig a little before you jump to any conclusions.

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

Subject: Search engines and Polish

*Editor—Roman Kaluzniacki contributed a very interesting letter to the last issue. Unfortunately I “corrected” something that was perfectly fine just as he wrote it:*

Appreciate your publishing the letter. Let's see if there is any further interest. Just one small note: I really did intend to spell “spelled” as “spelt”, a correct spelling. Thought you would catch the topical humor.

Roman <[romanka@comcast.net](mailto:romanka@comcast.net)>

*Editor—I should have. All I can do is beg for mercy. Considering the chaos that has been my life for the last 5 weeks, it was a miracle I got that issue done at all! Not that that's any excuse....*

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Subject: Search engines and Polish

Good discussion concerning the Google Search Engine in the last *Gen Dobry!* In carrying this subject further, it should be noted that Google is also available in Polish: <http://www.google.com/pl> will permit fully accented research using our beautiful Polish language. Expanding a bit, the Google Search Engine is also available in several other languages, plus it has a magnificent translation system. At <http://www.google.com> simply click the “Language Tools” link located to the right of the Google Search Block for user access to their language preference/translation system.

Thomas E. Lassek <[lucytom@davis.com](mailto:lucytom@davis.com)>

*Editor—Using the Polish version of Google is, indeed, a good option. If you know some Polish it can produce better results than the English-language version.*

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Subject: Polish keyboard

*Editor—I was also sloppy in dealing with the letter in the last issue that described how to install the Polish keyboard in Windows. I should have double-checked the info given, but I got in a hurry and failed to do so. Fortunately a couple of readers did my job for me:*

The procedure defined in the subject letter does not work for Windows XP. Use these steps instead:

- 1) Select “Control panel” from “Start” or “My Computer”
- 2) Select “Regional & Language Options”
- 3) Select “Languages “ and then “Details”
- 4) Select Polish (programmer) for “Default input language”
- 5) Add “Polish (programmer)” for keyboard in “Installed services”
- 6) Select “Language bar” and then check “Show the language bar on the desktop”
- 7) Select “Advanced” on “Regional & Language options” menu
- 8) Select “Polish.” Leave 10000 (latin) checked.

It is better to select “Polish (programmer)” than “Polish (214).” The latter gives you a changed keyboard, where, for example, the *y* and *z* are exchanged. With the former, the keyboard changes only if Alt is pressed, followed by pressing the letter for which you want the diacritical added.

Henry Szot <[hojoso@hotmail.com](mailto:hojoso@hotmail.com)>

*Editor—Maybe my version of XP is different; or maybe the procedure was different because I already had several languages installed. In any case, I found it necessary to vary at step 4. Before I could select either Polish as a “Default input language,” I had to click on the “Add” button, then select “Polish” in the “Input language” window. That’s where the Keyboard layout/IME box let me choose between “Polish (214)” or Polish (Programmers).” I just thought I should mention this in case some readers find Henry’s instructions don’t work with their particular setup.*



*Here's another note on the same subject:*

I was reading the discussion in the January 2006 edition of *Gen Dobry!* on Polish keyboards and thought I would pass along this tip. When you are adding the Polish keyboard in Windows' Control Panel, there is more than one to select from. Choose the keyboard labeled "Polish Programmers" rather than the one labeled "Polish." When you switch to this keyboard (be sure also to check the option to have the language appear on your Windows task bar so you can switch between them with a mouse click—useful for Google searches), the keyboard is not remapped (e.g., the letter *y* does not become *z*).

Now you access all the special Polish characters by holding down the Control and Alt keys along with the letter. The only special case is the *ź*, which is obtained by holding down the Control and Alt keys with the letter *x*. As the letter *x* is right next to the letter *z* on a typical QWERTY keyboard, this is easy to remember. You can also get capital letters for all the special Polish characters by holding down the Shift key while choosing the Control, Alt plus letter combination. This can be a bit challenging on the hands, so you can turn on and off the Caps lock key instead if you prefer to get the capital letters.

I wish I can say that I discovered this tip myself, but I found it in a list of FAQ on a Polish language course at the following web site: <http://golem.umcs.lublin.pl/users/ppikuta/lessons/faq.htm>

Mark Kaszniak <[MKaszniak@compuserve.com](mailto:MKaszniak@compuserve.com)>

*Editor—When I first enabled the Polish keyboard on my computer, I experimented with the Polish Programmers' keyboard and found that the other one, Polish 214, worked better for my specific needs. But I have a lot of key combinations customized for specific macros I run frequently; and some of those shortcuts conflicted with the default settings for the Programmers' keyboard. No doubt many of our readers will have no such conflicts, and thus may have better results with the latter. So I'm glad Henry and Mark took the time to share info on that option.*

*Incidentally, Mark Kaszniak has contributed a number of translations from the Słownik geograficzny to the PolishRoots' site, and I just wanted to take this opportunity to give him a little recognition! These translations are hard to do, and Mark tackled some of the longest and toughest ones; he deserves a public "Dziękujemy."*

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**\*\*\* DZIENNIK CHICAGOSKI HEADLINES \*\*\***

*Editor—As explained in previous issues, we'd like to show you selected headlines from Dziennik Chicagoski issues of a century ago. This month's headlines are from 10 and 23 March 1906, and are (or soon will be) available for viewing at:*

[http://www.polishroots.org/newspapers/dzchig\\_headlines.htm](http://www.polishroots.org/newspapers/dzchig_headlines.htm)

March 10, 1906 :

Z Petersburga. Nowe rozruchy przeciw żydom grożą w całej Rosyi – From St. Petersburg.

New Riots Against Jews Threaten All Over Russia

Koalicja węgierska kruszy się coraz bardziej – The Hungarian Coalition Crumbles More and More

600 Morosów na Filipinach zabito – 600 Moros Killed in the Philippines  
Oklahoma, wraz z terytoryum Indyan przez senat przyjęta w poczet stanów – Oklahoma and  
the Indian Territory Added to the List of States by the Senate

March 23, 1906:

Rosya i Stany Zjednoczone. Mają wspólne interesa w Azji – Russia and the United States.

They Have Common Interests in Asia

Generałowie przed sądem wojennym – Generals Court-Martialed

Ludność miasta East Rochester, O., teroryzowana pryey rabusiów – Population of East  
Rochester, O[hio] Terrorized by Robbers

Rząd związkowy przegrywa sprawę w sądzie związkowym – Federal Administration Loses  
Case in Federal Court [*Apparently this has to do with one of the so-called “Beef  
Trust” cases that ended up before the Supreme Court.*]

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\*\*\* POLAND IN THE OLYMPICS \*\*\*

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

*Editor—Long-time reader Armela Hammes offered this brief article, feeling that it might interest some of our readers, though it doesn't deal with genealogy. The Olympics are over, but it's interesting reading, and her remarks on possible winners proved reasonably accurate.*

### Olympic Tradition

One of 12 countries to have participated in every Winter Games, Poland owns six medals (one gold, two silver, three bronze). Ski jumper **Wojciech Fortuna** is the country's lone Winter Olympic champion, using a spectacular first jump to clinch the large hill title in Sapporo. **Franciszek Gąsienica-Groń** won Poland's first winter medal, claiming the bronze in Nordic combined in 1956. The introduction of women's speed skating in 1960 allowed 1500m competitors **Elwira Seroczyńska** (silver) and **Helena Pilejczyk** (bronze) to become the first and only Polish women to stand on a Winter Games podium. Ski jumper **Adam Małysz** won both of Poland's medals in 2002 (one silver, one bronze).

### Torino Outlook

Once the top ski jumper in the world, **Adam Małysz** has struggled since an outstanding 2002-03 season in which he was the overall World Cup champion and double world champion. He rebounded somewhat in 2004-05, placing fourth in the World Cup standings, and could add to his silver and bronze medals from 2002. Veteran pairs figure skaters **Dorota Zagorska** and **Mariusz Siudek** took bronze at the 2004 European Championships and have an outside shot at a medal. Biathlete **Tomasz Sikora** was a world champion in 1995 and has remained a consistent top-10 finisher. Poland also could contend in cross-country skiing and possibly snowboard cross.

*Editor—In fact, the official site <http://www.torino2006.org> shows Poland won two medals in the Torino games. **Tomasz Sikora** took silver in the men's 15 km. biathlon freestyle; and **Justyna***



*Kowalczyk unexpectedly won bronze in the ladies' 30 km. cross-country skiing freestyle. I happened to catch the latter event, and Kowalczyk almost won. She hung back till near the end, then challenged Russian Yuliya Tchepalova, who had led almost all the way, till a last-minute burst by Czech Katerina Neumannova took her past them both to win.*

*As for the others mentioned, Zagorska and Siudek took 8th in the pairs figure skating. Adam Malysz placed 7th in the normal hill individual ski jumping, and 14th in large hill. He also helped Poland finish 5th in the team large hill competition.*

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\*\*\* THE LATEST ON THE POZNAŃ PROJECT \*\*\*

Dear Poznań Project Volunteers and Friends,

A month ago in my previous newsletter I announced the fully operational search engine for the marriages database of the Project. Since then it has been further developed, e. g., help pages were added, and an option to comment on individual entries in order to let others know your interest in them. (You can also use the comment option to rectify possible spelling mistakes).

The main entry page of the Project has also been updated. It is located under:

[http://www.polishroots.org/posen\\_indexing.htm](http://www.polishroots.org/posen_indexing.htm).

From there you can access the database search facility.

I appreciate the fact that many of you have sent me the transcribed records recently; others have submitted or renewed their declarations of volunteering for transcribing marriage records.

At the moment, ca. 40,000 records are already in the database, and a few thousand more will be added within a few weeks. We will probably soon reach the estimated 10% of the whole Province's number of marriages for the period used in the database.

As usual, I am encouraging you to disseminate the information about the Project wherever it seems to attract possible new participants.

And a special request for our German friends: I am receiving complaints that there is no German language version of the search engine. Why not? German is as good as English—but I don't feel my German good enough. So if a German-speaking person would be willing to translate the search engine interface into German, and add a short summary of the Project's idea and basic details on how to search (something like this is already available in Polish), I would add it to the site and German users would benefit from it. It is possible to automatically recognize the area from where a user accesses the database and change the language accordingly.

Best regards and thank you for your help.

Lukasz Bielecki <[bielecki@rose.man.poznan.pl](mailto:bielecki@rose.man.poznan.pl)>

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**\*\*\* DETROIT'S POLONIA PUBLISHED \*\*\***

On 15 February 2006 Arcadia Publishing released *Detroit's Polonia* by Cecile (Ceil) Wendt Jensen. The ISBN is 0738539996; it's paperback and runs 128 pages. If you go to the publisher's Website at <http://www.arcadiapublishing.com>, click on "Bookstore," on the next page click on "New Books," and in the list that comes up scroll down to "Detroit's Polonia." Here's the description:

"More than a century has passed since the first Poles settled in Detroit. The first communities were established on the east side of Detroit, but the colony expanded rapidly to the west neighborhoods, and Poles in Detroit still identify themselves as East- or Westsiders. The pioneers left Poland for freedom of language and religion, and to own property. They replicated village life in the big city, living in close-knit neighborhoods anchored by the parish church. Polish immigrants made cigars, built railroad cars, molded stoves, established businesses and breweries, and moved into the political arena. The struggles and triumphs of these early settlers are on display in the pages of *Detroit's Polonia*, a photographic history that links future generations with their Polish heritage."

[Here's the "Author Bio"]: "Cecile Wendt Jensen is a native Detroiter. Her grandparents arrived in Detroit in the 1880s and 1890s from Russian Poland, West Prussia, Posen, and Galicia. Cecile has taught in public schools for 30 years in traditional and electronic art, art history, and social studies. She is a certified genealogist and develops Web sites, videos, CDs, DVDs, and databases for genealogists of all ages."

The book lists for \$19.99, but Amazon.com offers it for \$13.59. Amazon includes a highly favorable review from an enthusiastic reader; you can see it, and more info, at <http://www.mipolonia.net/polonia/>. There you can also order an autographed copy via PayPal for \$23.00. I understand a review copy is on its way to me, and until I've received it I can't say anything specific about this book. But I know the other titles I've seen in Arcadia's "Images of America" have been excellent: attractive, well designed, and rich with visual detail. I fully expect Ceil's book will live up the series' high standards.

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**\*\*\* OLNYSRMAT POELPE CAN \*\*\***

*submitted by Paul S. Valasek <[paval56@aol.com](mailto:paval56@aol.com)>*

*Editor—Paul sent me this, thinking our readers might enjoy it. It has nothing to do with genealogy, but I think it's fascinating info for anyone who can read! And, well, yes, it may have some connection with the spelling issues I discussed in the lead article....*

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacilty uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy: it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be ! in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.

Amzanig huh? yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot slpeling was ipmorantt!

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**\*\*\* POLISH TRIVIA QUESTIONS \*\*\***

*Editor: In the last issue we gave 5 questions from a Polish trivia game PolishRoots Vice President Paul Valasek <[paval56@aol.com](mailto:paval56@aol.com)> came across. The answers to those questions appear below, followed by this month's questions, the answers to which will appear in the next issue. We want to thank Tom Bratkowski for permission to reprint these.*

**Answers to the Questions in the January Issue:**

Category: Geography

— Q. Through which Polish seaport does most of Czechoslovakia's (1985) oceangoing trade move?

— A. Szczecin

— Q. Which former Polish city was a leading center for Jewish culture? (excluding Warsaw and Kraków)

— A. Wilno

— Q. What is the peninsula at the entrance to Gdańsk harbor?

— A. Westerplatte

— Q. What river in southern Poland is popular for raft excursions?

— A. The Dunajec

— Q. Name Poland's principle coal mining district.

— A. Śląsk (English name *Silesia*, in German *Schlesien*)

**New Questions for the February Issue**

Category: People

1. Who produced the first Polish book printed in the U.S. in 1834?

2. What was Ralph Modjeski's claim to fame?

3. Who founded Mrs. Paul's Kitchens?

4. What originator of our thermometer scale was born in Poland?

5. Who with others planned the John Hancock building in Chicago?

Reprinted with permission from Polish American Trivia & Quadrivia, Powstan, Inc. If interested in learning more, contact Paul Valasek <[paval56@aol.com](mailto:paval56@aol.com)>.

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

*Note: the PolishRoots Events Calendar at [http://www.polishroots.org/coming\\_events.htm](http://www.polishroots.org/coming_events.htm) usually has more info than we have room for here. If you have an event coming up you want Polish genealogical researchers to know about, send as much info as possible to <[Events@PolishRoot.org](mailto:Events@PolishRoot.org)>.*

**April 21 – 24, 2006**

**UPGS 2006**

*Paul Lipinski, President of PGS-California and Chairman of UPGS 2006, sent this announcement:*

On April 21-24, 2006 the United Polish Genealogical Societies [UPGS] will hold its biennial conference “**UPGS 2006**” in Salt Lake City, Utah. This conference will host the best and most knowledgeable speakers on Polish research from across the U.S. It offers a unique opportunity to use the world’s largest collection of genealogical material and have access to expert Polish genealogical researchers. The speaker’s presentations are of proven research techniques.

FHL (Family History Library) records include U.S. ship passenger lists, naturalization, census, World War I and II draft registration records. The FHL also has birth, marriage, and death civil records for many U.S. cities and U.S. Polish Catholic parishes. They also have the largest collection of microfilm of Poland’s church and civil records available to researchers in one location. New features at the FHL include many computer systems that allow researchers to access valuable online resources such as Ancestry.com, HeritageQuest.com, etc.

Following is the proposed schedule of events.

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Friday, April 21   | Arrival, registration, and individual research at the FHL                              |
| Saturday, April 22 | Welcome, FHL Orientation, lectures, individual research, and Question & Answer session |
| Sunday, April 23   | Attend church, optional sightseeing, lunch, and lectures                               |
| Monday, April 24   | Individual research, Conference banquet and keynote address                            |

Additional conference particulars will be available in the coming months. Check <http://PGSCA.org>, <http://PGSA.org>, <http://mipolonia.net>, <http://PolishRoots.org>, and other PGS websites.

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**July 8 – August 14, 2006**

## SUMMER STUDY IN POLAND

As in past years, Prof. Michael Mikoś of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is leading a summer study-tour at the Catholic University of Lublin. For more information:

Call Prof. Michael Mikoś at 414-229-4313, or write:  
Dept. of Foreign Languages & Linguistics  
University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee  
P.O. Box 413  
Milwaukee, WI 53201

e-mail: <[mikos@uwm.edu](mailto:mikos@uwm.edu)>  
<http://www.lrc.uwm.edu/tour/>

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**July 20 — 31, 2006**

### **POLAND IN THE ROCKIES, 2006**

Maureen Mroczek Morris <[maureenm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maureenm@sbcglobal.net)> sent me this information:

“An intensive, 11-day program set in the magnificent Canadian Rockies—the Tatras of the West—in Polish history, culture and contemporary issues designed specifically for North American youth of Polish background. **Poland in the Rockies** will bring together 40 bright young people from across the continent to meet outstanding scholars and other public figures, forge new friendships, and foster pride in their identity and links to the world-wide Polish community. The program will provide information, perspective and skills for future leaders.”

For more, visit the Website: <http://www.PolandInTheRockies.com>

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**August 6 – 6, 2006**

### **EEGS/FEEFHS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “DISCOVERING OUR ROOTS: FROM EAST EUROPE TO THE NEW WORLD”**

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

The East European Genealogical Society (EEGS) and the Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS) will hold a conference to explore East European ancestry on August 4 to 6, 2006 at the Victoria Inn, 1808 Wellington Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

The conference will feature presentations by renowned specialists from the U.S.A. and Canada focusing on areas in present day Poland and Ukraine as well as the Russian, Austro-Hungarian, and German Empires. Presentations will cover research procedures, records, sources, language, and scripts and many other topics. There will also be a generic track for beginners to genealogy with general research topics including computer and others.

Winnipeg is the “gateway to the west” for East European settlement in Canada. It has many Ukrainian, Mennonite, Jewish, Polish, and other ethnic museums and research centres as well as institutions of genealogical importance such as the provincial archives, provincial genealogical society, two universities with Slavic and German studies and others. Winnipeg hosts the Folklorama Festival, a two week event that begins on the last day of the conference and features over 40 pavilions with ethnic food, entertainment, and cultural displays for many areas of east and central Europe. Pavilions include Warsaw-Poland, Krakow-Poland, Ukraine-Lviv, Ukraine-Kyiv, Russian, Czech and Slovak, German, Hungarian, and others. (see: <http://www.folklorama.ca> for more info).

EEGS website: <http://www.eegsociety.org>

FEEFHS website: <http://www.feefhs.org>

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

<http://www.stalus.iq.pl/show.php/idc/1>

Paul S. Valasek sent me this link to “Przewodnik po Warszawie (do 1944 roku),” a directory to pre-1944 Warsaw. It’s in Polish, but if you’re not intimidated by that and feel adventurous you can see some nice images of Warsaw’s streets, buildings, etc.

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<http://www.yes.net.ua/tel/>

On the Galicia\_Poland-Ukraine mailing list <[wojtekbalos@yahoo.com](mailto:wojtekbalos@yahoo.com)> gave this address for a Ukrainian phonebook on the Web. It’s not much help if you’re unfamiliar with the Ukrainian language; but if the language barrier doesn’t scare you and you’re looking for specific people or names, it might be worth a try.

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<http://www.stevemorse.org>

Seems like every issue we have some new feature to report on at Steve Morse’s “One-step” site. Recent additions are searches of Ancestry.com’s Boston Passenger Lists, “Searching for Ships in the Boston Microfilms in One Step”; a form for searching [zabasearch.com](http://zabasearch.com); a form for “Converting Address to/from Latitude/Longitude in One Step”; etc., etc. Let’s make it simple: if you’re serious about your research, check this site every couple of weeks. It’s got to be one of the most useful tools on the Internet.

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<http://www.pbi.edu.pl/index.html>

Siegfried Rambaum <[siram@lightlink.com](mailto:siram@lightlink.com)> posted a note to the Posen mailing list with URL’s for a number of digital libraries that may interest Posen researchers. The one above is for Polska Biblioteka Internetowa [The Polish Internet Library], but he also listed 8 others. I’m pretty sure Edward Luft and Logan Kleinwaks have mentioned all of these in past articles; but a reminder can’t hurt, and it may be handy to have a listing of them all together in one place:



Akademicka Biblioteka Internetowa (ABI)  
<http://abi.amu.edu.pl/aktualnosci.php>

Biblioteka Cyfrowa Politechniki Łódzkiej  
<http://ebipol.p.lodz.pl/dlibra/>

Biblioteka Cyfrowa Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego  
<http://www.bu.uni.wroc.pl/dlibra/dlibra>

Cieszyńska Biblioteka Wirtualna (CBW)  
<http://www.kc-cieszyn.pl/biblioteka/>

Dolnośląska Biblioteka Cyfrowa  
<http://dlib.bg.pwr.wroc.pl/dlibra>

Kujawsko-Pomorska Biblioteka Cyfrowa  
<http://kpbc.umk.pl/dlibra>

Wielkopolska Biblioteka Cyfrowa  
<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra.html>

Zielonogórska Biblioteka Cyfrowa (ZBC)  
<http://zbc.uz.zgora.pl/dlibra>

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<http://kpbc.umk.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=1610&dirids=1>

Logan Kleinwaks <[kleinwaks@alumni.princeton.edu](mailto:kleinwaks@alumni.princeton.edu)> posted a note to the newsgroup soc.genealogy.jewish providing this link to an 1855 address directory for Bydgoszcz/Bromberg. He added, "Others (e.g., 1888) can be found by clicking the Resource type 'Księga adresowa' in the middle of the screen ... The directories appear to be alphabetized, so I am not adding them to my directory search engine (<http://www.kalter.org/search>) at present. However, if there is sufficient need for soundex or full-text (e.g., by address) searching of these directories, I might do so.

"Instructions for viewing the directories: After following the link above (or landing on the corresponding page for any other publication at the Digital Library), if you are a Windows or Linux user, click on 'Content' on the left, under 'Publication.' Download the DjVu plugin (if you do not have it) by clicking on the appropriate link on the resulting page. When you revisit this page, click on 'Browse publication' to open the publication. You can then use the pull-down menu near the top to jump to a particular image. If you are a Macintosh OS X (or higher) user, first download the DjVu plugin from

[http://www.lizardtech.com/download/dl\\_download.php?detail=doc\\_djvu\\_plugin&platform=macx](http://www.lizardtech.com/download/dl_download.php?detail=doc_djvu_plugin&platform=macx), then follow the other instructions above. Note: Firefox users may experience difficulties with the DjVu plugin. Internet Explorer is recommended."

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<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/s/l/o/Jerzy-Slominski/>

Jerry Slominski <[jerryslominski@yahoo.com](mailto:jerryslominski@yahoo.com)> sent out a note announcing his new Slominski-Ciesielski Polish family history Website at this address. Take a look, enjoy the photos, and if you have some Slominskis or Ciesielskis in your family tree, be sure to check with Jerry.

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<http://www.genebase.com/user/nowaczyk>

Roman Kaluzniacki sent me this link to Marg Nowaczyk's blog. He wrote, "Here is an item that might be of use in *Gen Dobry!* Marg has a blog page and in it she describes finding a marriage record for the parents of a child in the parish of the godparents of that child, not in their own parish. That's a direction that I wouldn't normally think of pursuing. Kind of reminds me that one never knows how some linkage will show up. I was simply copying down some birth records of a brother and sister 'Czarnecki' (a fairly common name, my grandmother's maiden name) from Czerniowce. Six months later, I found my father's birth certificate—they were his god-parents and gmother's siblings. And that identified two generations of data on that line of the family.

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[http://www.schiffslisten.de/index\\_en.html](http://www.schiffslisten.de/index_en.html)

The 5 February 2006 issue of *Nu? What's New?* included an update on the Bremen lists at this site, reporting that "they have now completed 1920-1934, representing nearly 620,000 entries." You can read the article here: <http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/v06n21.htm>.

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