

# Polonus PURLS - Maps of Poland

By: Sam Ginsburg

This column may provide you with a few helpful website sources if you are looking for maps of Polish cities, towns, etc., for a particular time period. Some of these sites are in Polish, but if you have Google Toolbar installed, it may provide usable English translations. The sites are not in any special order because I don't have any particular way of organizing them.

**Historyczne mapy Polski** (<http://polmap.republika.pl/>) has a fabulous set of historical atlases, all to the same scale. It appears to start with the first immigrations of the Slavs from farther east, and has a nice way of using the Flash player to fade from one map to the next when you click the button. For example, it traces the early migrations into the area. It has a 7-minute video of maps tracing Polish boundaries from about 960 A.D. to the present, a chronology of events throughout Polish history, and a list of rulers. Thanks to Tom Malicki and Bob Ogrodnik for independently suggesting this site.

Among Tom's other map suggestions are

- 1) <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~polwgv/maps.html>, the PolishGen section on maps, has a large annotated list of links to modern and old maps plus some for purchase.
- 2) <http://katalog.onet.pl/6934,mapy-historyczne,k.html>, the [onet.pl](http://onet.pl) section on maps, also has an extensive list of maps. The site is in Polish but translates well with Google Toolbar.

One link from this website is to <http://english.mapywig.org/news.php>, the online Map Archive of Wojskowy Instytut Geograficzny (WIG), which frequently adds new scans to the website. It has hundreds of scans from a variety of sources – Russian, German, Brigham Young, etc., in scales ranging from 1:750,000 down to 1:25,000. There are old city maps for perhaps 80 cities, and a list of abbreviations commonly found on Polish maps. There are good indices for some of the 1:100,000 and 1:300,000 maps. Unfortunately, I couldn't find a usable index for the many other maps.

**The Polish Genealogical Society of America's** (PSGA) section of maps, <http://pgsa.org/geomaps.php>, includes cross-references of Polish-German town names, as well as a ever-expanding set of English translations of town listings from Słownik Geograficzny

Królestwa Polskiego, the 16-volume Polish Geographical Dictionary, written in the late 1800's, and available (in Polish) on CD from the PSGA store. And, of course, there are many scans of maps.

**The 3rd Military Mapping Survey of Austria-Hungary**, <http://lazarus.elte.hu/hun/digkonyv/topo/3felmeres.htm>, has about 267 maps of Central Europe, as far north as Szczecin. The ones I looked at were dated 1890 to 1910. The scale is 1:200,000. The most fascinating aspect of these maps is that they are based on the Ferro Meridian, 20° west of the Paris Meridian, which in turn is 2° 20' 14.025" east of the almost universal Greenwich Meridian. Read more about meridians in Wikipedia.

It's interesting to browse the eBay store of seller Euriskodata, who puts all sorts of public-domain material on CD. Their list may change if they run out of a particular CD and don't make new ones right away. But when I checked recently, they had CDs with Polish maps and Russian maps.

**Info-Poland** (<http://info-poland.buffalo.edu/>, reviewed in Bulletin #543) also has a variety of links, under Poland on the web > geography > maps and geography > mapserver. But other Info-Poland pages also have map links. Searching for maps on this website (some pages have a slightly different name) resulted in over 250 matches, including some listed above.

**Other listings:** a web search for maps of Poland, or Polish maps will uncover many more options. Google Earth can show you pictures of any place in Poland, sometimes even individual buildings. Google Maps now covers streets in many (perhaps all) towns and cities.

This column discusses some issues, tips, and sites to help with maps of Poland. Please send your favorites as well as corrections, additions, and other suggestions to me at [samgins1730@yahoo.com](mailto:samgins1730@yahoo.com).

## Polonus Members Featured in the 2011 Congress Book

*Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski and Jacek Kosmala have been honored by the 77th American Philatelic Congress by having their collaborative paper, "The Development of Airmail Services in Poland (1918 – 1923)", published in the 2011 Congress Book.*