

1877 Gazetteer for the Kingdom of Poland

Poland “How to” Guide, Beginner Level: Instruction

April 2020

GOAL

This guide will teach you how to identify the spelling of a Polish locality as of 1877, determine the proper jurisdictions, and identify the parish.

INTRODUCTION

There are several gazetteers used for Polish research. Certain gazetteers may be more appropriate for your research than others. The gazetteer you use is determined by the region in which the town lies and the time period in Polish history due to several political partitions which took place. This lesson discusses how to use the 1877 *Skorowidz Królestwa Polskiego* [Directory of the Kingdom of Poland].

HOW TO

The 1877 *Skorowidz Królestwa Polskiego* can be viewed online via the Silesian Digital Library website. These directions were written using the web browser Google Chrome; if you use another browser, such as Firefox or Explorer, some features may be different.

1. This gazetteer is split into two volumes:

Volume 1 (A-N)

<https://www.sbc.org.pl/dlibra/publication/11404/edition/10794/content?ref=desc>

Volume 2 (O-Ż)

<https://www.sbc.org.pl/dlibra/show-content/publication/edition/10795?id=10795>

2. Both volumes of the gazetteer will appear with the title page first. You will need to advance several pages in order to get to the list of places.
3. To flip through the pages, hover your mouse over the page. A toolbar will drop-down from the top of the page. You can advance one page at a time by clicking the right arrow. To skip multiple pages, click the down arrow and a drop-down box will appear. You can scroll down to choose the image number of your choice. The first volume has 431 images, while volume two has 406.
4. To zoom in or out on the image, either click on the drop-down box at the top of the screen which is automatically set to start at 100% and select your desired magnification level from the list, or click on the magnifying glass symbols with the plus or minus signs to the right and left of the 100% to zoom in or out.

Keep in mind that the **image number** will be different than the **page number**.

Using the 1877 *Skorowidz Królestwa Polskiego*

This gazetteer is arranged alphabetically by location, found under the first heading on the left side of the page. The Polish language has several diacritical marks, alphabetized after the same letter without the marks (i.e. ć follows c). The letters using diacritical marks in Polish are: ą, ć, ę, ł, ń, ó, ś, ź, ż. To learn how to type these letters, click [here](#).

Below is a chart showing the most important column headings in Polish and English. Please note that in the book the headings appear in both Russian and Polish.

Polish	English
Wymienienie miejscowości	List of localities
Gubernia	Province
Powiat	District
Gmina	Municipality
Parafia	Parish [usually referring to the Roman Catholic Parish]

PRACTICE

Let's look for information regarding the town Smiły.

1. Use the links provided above to access the 1877 *Skorowidz Królestwa Polskiego*. Since the town we are interested in starts with "S", we will need to search volume 2 which covers locations starting with "O" through the end of the alphabet.
2. Since the book starts with the letter "O", we know we need to skip ahead in the book to find places starting with "S". Choose image 150. Use the toolbar at the top of the page and click the down arrow to select the desired image number. This brings us to a list of places starting with "Si" and "Sk". We need to go further in the book to find places starting with "Sm".
3. Skip forward to image 160. We now see places starting with "Si". As mentioned earlier, the letters with diacritical marks are found after the regular letters.
4. Advance forward one image at a time until you get to image 163. Notice that the localities at the top of the page begin with "Sm". Smiły is the fifth place listed on this image.
5. Now, look at the jurisdictions for this locality. Use the translated headings chart listed above. Find the location for each of the jurisdictional headings shown below for the city of Smiły.

Gubernia	Powiat	Gmina	Parafia
Kaliska	Kolski	Izbica	Błenna

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this “How to” Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you’ve mastered the Guide! Click [here](#) to try out the Activity.

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