POLISH PHONE BOOKS
by Keith Kaszubowski

Most Americans doing genealogical research in Poland are aware of the *Słownik nazwisk współcześnie w Polsce używanych* [the Directory of Surnames in Current Use in Poland]. This 10 volume set of reference books lists 607,178 surnames in Poland and gives the total number of people bearing those surnames among the 49 provinces as of 1990. However it does not list a given name or address for any individual.

The next logical step in locating living relatives in Poland may be to obtain a province phone book and with any luck establish a correspondence with a distant cousin or perhaps even a long lost great aunt or uncle. A half ounce letter can be mailed to Poland at a cost of sixty cents. Each phone book lists all locations alphabetically. Also included is a listing for all the province churches. One fact to consider is that as of 1995 there was only 1 phone for every 6.6 people in Poland. Just over 15% of the people are recorded as compared to the United States where over 50% of the people have phones.

Currently NYNEX has the following listings for Polish province phone books: Bielsko Biała (1994), Gdańsk, Katowice, Radom, and Warszawa (all from 1995). However their inventory is constantly changing and they suggest to call every two months or so to check on future availability of other province books. Their toll free number is 1-800-544-4988. Cost is $40.00 per book. Shipping and tax is $5.00 or $7.00 for orders of multiple books. Allow 10 days for delivery by UPS. The PGSA and the Library of Congress also have several Polish phone books in their possession.

The least you will obtain from your Polish phone book is the names of the people descended from those who once walked with your ancestors. I feel a sense of belonging in making myself acquainted with those same names. Good luck with your research!

This article originally appeared in the October 1995 issue of the Polish American Journal. I have the 1995 phone book for the province of Gdańsk. I will look up individual surnames for a fee of $5.00 to cover the cost of photocopies and postage. Mail all requests to Keith Kaszubowski, 57 Crescent Ave., Hamburg, New York 14075-6501.

EXCERPTS FROM THE SŁOWNIK GEOGRAFICZNA
translated by Joseph F. Kryniski

Lipusz (German Lippusch), manorial and parish village in the powiat (county) of Kościerzyna on the Czarna Woda (Black Waters) which allows there the operation of a sawmill and a mill (grinding), situated one quarter mile from the Kościerzyna - Chojnice highway near the boundary between Pomerania and the powiat of Kartuzy. It includes the manoral village, Lipusz Manor and neighboring settlements: Karpno, Konitop, Krugliniec, Lubiszewo, Mechowo, Wallachei; an area of 8334 morg (acres), including 12 morg of waste and 16 morg of garden; 557 Catholics, 107 Evangelical Lutherans, 55 homes. Located there is a Catholic Parish Church with filial Lutheran parish in Kościerzyna; a sawmill, mill (grinding), 3 taverns; markets are held twice anually for sale of items and livesock. There is a Catholic school, a Lutheran school, and post office in Kalisz.

Przyjaźń (German Rheinfeld), dating from 1349, a knightly estate in the powiat of Kartuzy. Post Office and Catholic parish are located in Żukowo (4.5 km). It lies 16 km. from Gdańsk, 2 km. from Kartuzy. It is the site of an Evangelical parish with a 2 classroom school. Together with large manors Lichtenfeld, Ellerfeld, Kołem (Neufeld), pertynencya in Skrzeszewie it counts for 1914.13 hectares, in 1868 there were 658 residents, 305 Catholic, 349 Evangelical, 4 Jews, 53 dwellings.

Rucewo, or **Rzucewo** (German Rutzau) a knightly estate with a beautiful castle, in Kaszuby, on the Puck peninsula, close by Puck bay, adjoining the fishing town of Wik in the powiat of Puck. the post office and Roman Catholic parish are in Puck (5 km.) the railroad station in Reda (12 km.).

Together with the fishing town of Lachwehr, the estate (in 1869) has 206 residents, including 168 Catholic, 38 Evangelical, 12 residences. Within the Domainal District, besides Rucewo, there are Nowe Błądzikowo (in 1885, 1 residence, 10 residents), Osłanin (9 residences, 214 residents), and Żelistrzewo (4 residences, 92 residents). The entire district contains 1470 hectares (104 forest, 225 meadow, 897 farm).

"For some time Rucewo belonged to the Sobieski family, who likewise established a beautiful park here."

On July 28, 1851, King Frederick William IV paid a sailing and sightseeing visit here and was much impressed with the park and the singing of Polish church hymns, walking among the people thanking them.



THE GRIFFIN
by Rev. Al Rekowski

The Griffin is a legendary monster of old Greek mythology portraying the combined features of a creature with the head and wings of an eagle and the lower body half of a lion. The animal-like ears are usually shown in the forward position denoting alertness and acute hearing. The creature is an art form derived from animism and had its origins in southwest Asia before 1000 B.C. The griffin was generally believed to be a ferocious monster of enormous size - so large that drinking cups could be made from its claws. Since the days of the Crusades (11th to 13th centuries), griffins could be found in the early heraldry of many western nations as a symbol of eternal vigilance. Its use was usually associated with acting as a guardian of treasure or of something to be valued.

The Kashubian author Ceynowa writes that the white griffin of the early Pomeranian people was used as a Kashubian emblem. When the medieval east Pomeranian Duke Swietopelk (1200-1266) established the capital of his embryonic Kashub nation at Gdańsk (Danzig), the griffin was displayed over the main gate of the city. This symbol was viewed as a guarantee that the Slavic character of the city and region would be protected against the Germanic aggression of the Teutonic Knights, and later, the increasing power of the State of Brandenburg-Prussia. The griffin was unable to stay the subsequent rising tide of Germanization in the region which spelled doom for the Kashubs and their dreams of a nation state.