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Book review of Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia

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Drobnicki, John A. Book review of *Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia*, by Brian Lenius. Anola, Manitoba: The Author, 1993.

Anyone performing historical or genealogical research in Galicia knows that locating records can sometimes prove very difficult, since boundaries and jurisdictions shifted many times. What was once part of Poland became part of Ukraine, and vice versa. Thus, any tool that can make the researcher's life easier is most welcome. Brian J. Lenius has done just that.

Lenius, the President of the East European Branch of the Manitoba Genealogical Society, has consolidated data from Polish, Ukrainian, and German/Austrian sources to assemble a gazetteer of about 10,000 Galician communities. Section A consists of 6,241 political units (cities, towns, and villages), and for each is listed the administrative district, judicial district, current country, a reference number corresponding to a map location, the name of the Roman Catholic diocese and parish, the corresponding Greek Catholic diocese and parish, and any other parishes to which the village would have belonged. For 3,043 smaller communities (hamlets, suburbs, etc.), there is a Supplementary Place Names List which refers the user to the primary community to which the smaller place belonged. There are also appendices of both German and transliterated Ukrainian place names, with the Polish equivalents.

The gazetteer also reproduces twelve maps of Galicia from the 1:200,000 scale Austrian *Generalkarte von Mitteleuropa* map series. The black and white map reproductions, which include no physical details (such as rivers), are drawn on a scale of approximately 1:490,000 and show the location of the post office or telegraph station nearest to the town/village. Thus, the user would then be able to locate his/her community when using the very detailed full-sized map series, which is available both commercially and in many large libraries.

Those who pick up this gazetteer expecting to magically trace their family history or see a detailed illustration of their ancestral village will, of course, be disappointed. However, using this reference tool will enable researchers to determine where they should begin their search: which parish to contact, which map to use, etc. Prior to its publication, a genealogist would have had to consult a dozen different sources, most of which are not readily accessible and also are not in English. Although the *Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia* is by no means comprehensive, which is readily admitted in its introduction, Mr. Lenius has nevertheless accomplished quite a feat.

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