

# **THE POLISH TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES**

**THE NATIONAL GEODETIC AND CARTOGRAPHIC SERVICE  
SURVEYOR GENERAL OF POLAND  
Warsaw 1993**

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## Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Introductory note .....  | 3  |
| I. Organizations dealing with standardization of geographical names .....      | 5  |
| II. Toponymic situation in Poland after World War II .....                     | 6  |
| III. The most important sets of geographical names of Poland ..                | 10 |
| IV. The principles applied at standardizing geographical names of Poland ..... | 15 |
| V. Geographical and settlement terms .....                                     | 19 |
| VI. The Polish alphabet .....  | 25 |
| VII. Polish geographical names pronunciation guide .....                       | 26 |

### ***Introductory note***

*Following the advice of the United Nations Organization the Polish toponymic guidelines for editors of maps and other publications in Poland and abroad have been worked out. They were prepared by professor Kazimierz Rymut from the Institute of the Polish Language of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Cracow, head of the Commission for Establishing Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects at the Council of Ministers' Office. The guidelines are meant to provide help for people and institutions dealing with the study of geographical names not professionally, but using them in their publishing and cartographic activities.*

*The issue has been approached on broad terms, the following having been touched upon: organizations and institutions dealing in Poland with geographical names - the history thereof having been presented, as well - types of geographical names, their sets and the fixing method, terms applied at toponymy, information on the specific character of the Polish alphabet, last but not least - information on the pronunciation of Polish geographical names for the speakers of English.*

*Surveyor General of Poland*



## **I. Organizations dealing with standardization of geographical names**

Deliberate action of Poland's state and administrative authorities in respect of arrangement and fixing of geographical names started immediately after Poland regained independence in 1918. In 1921 a general census took place. On that occasion many toponymic changes were introduced. On the basis of the materials of the census, the Head Statistical Office elaborated a 16-volume Index of localities of the Republic of Poland which was published in the years 1923-1926. In 1934 an order by the President of the Republic of Poland on establishing names of localities was issued. The Commission for Establishing Names of Localities was also created in that year. Its task was to put names of localities over the area of Poland in order. The works were interrupted by World War II. At the beginning of 1946 a new Commission for Establishing Place Names was created. It was the year that repolonization of geographical names over the area up to 1939 within the borders of Germany, taken over by Poland by force of the Potsdam Treaty, began. During five years over 30 thousand geographical names were fixed. They would be published in *Monitor Polski* (official gazette of the Council of Ministers' Office) in the years 1946-1950, next they were listed by S. Rospond in his "Słownik nazw geograficznych Polski Zachodniej i Północnej" (Dictionary of geographical names of Western and Northern Poland) (1951). In the 50s and 60s the Commission for Establishing Names of Localities was busy with arrangement of geographical terminology over the area of central and eastern Poland. It began with collecting geographical names right "on location". The obtained material was next elaborated by the Commission and published in the series "Urzędowe nazwy miejscowości i obiektów fizjograficznych" (Official names of localities and physiographic objects), starting with the year 1963. Geographical names of one powiat (county) made up a separate volume. Publication of the series was interrupted in 1975 when the administrative division of Poland was changed and poviats were got rid of. Next the Commission took part in the works on the "Wykaz urzędowych nazw miejscowości w Polsce" (List of

official names of localities in Poland), vol. I-III (1980-1982) and in elaboration of a gazetteer "Nazwy geograficzne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej" (Geographical names of the Republic of Poland) (1991). At present it is working on the second, verified issue of the List of official names of localities in Poland.

Another committee dealing with geographical names is the Commission for Standardization of Geographical Names Beyond the Boundaries of Poland, working at the Ministry of National Education. Its origins date back to 1951, when the Commission of Geographical Names was created at the Polish Geographical Society. In due time the Commission was affiliated to the Ministry of National Education. The Commission's task is to establish the language form of names of geographical objects situated beyond the boundaries of Poland, used in Polish publications, on maps in particular. The book "Polskie nazewnictwo geograficzne" (Polish geographical names), elaborated by the team L. Ratajski, J. Szewczyk, P. Zwoliński (1959) is connected with the activity of the Commission. Next the Commission got down to establishing Polish language forms of names of the countries of the world and names of capitals of those countries. The established forms were published in "Dziennik Urzędowy" by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education in the years 1975-1977 and 1986.

The National Geodetic and Cartographic Service is of great importance at collecting and fixing Poland's geographical names. At present it works on the basis of the Geodetic and Cartographic Law of May 17, 1989. The National Geodetic and Cartographic Service at present is made up by the Minister of Physical Planning and Construction and the local organs of the state administration. The Service's tasks are being accomplished by Surveyor General of Poland. The Service makes topographic maps at different scales. Names on those maps have been collected by topographers "on location". There are plans to set up a computer data base on geographical names of Poland at the Department of Surveyor General.

## **II. Toponymic situation in Poland after World War II**

Due to World War II Poland was shifted from the East to the West. At the Yalta Conference it was decided that Poland's eastern border would run along Curzon's line.

During the Potsdam Conference Poland's western border was fixed on the Oder and Nysa Łużycka Rivers. Territories which up to 1939 belonged to the German Reich were included into the Polish boundaries. Partakers of the Potsdam Conference took also the decision to move the Germans from Poland west to Germany. Due to territorial changes and displacement of population Poland is at present inhabited chiefly by people of Polish nationality. Other nationalities are not that numerous. In the north-eastern part of Poland there is a group of Lithuanian people, in the Białystok voivodship quite numerous are concentrations of Byelorussian people, the south-eastern part of the country being inhabited by the Ukrainian minority. In the South of Poland scarce groups of inhabitants of Polish Spisz and Orawa regard themselves as Slovaks. By force of the Potsdam Treaty the Germans were moved from the western and northern areas of Poland behind the border on the Oder and Nysa, at present, however, part of the unmoved inhabitants of Silesia admit they are German. The territories left by the Germans in 1945 were settled by people of central and eastern Poland, as well as Polish repatriates from behind the Bug River. This led to the appearance of a considerably differentiated language milieu in the west of Poland.

Polish literary language, formed as early as the 16th century, is in general use and serves the needs of elementary social groups, it is a means of communication in different circles of social, political, cultural and scientific life of the Polish people, as well as members of national minorities. Alongside Polish literary language, there are a number of dialects spoken by people living in the country and in small towns. In Poland there are many dialects different from one another in respect of phonetics, inflection, word-formation and particularly vocabulary. Dialectal differences appear also in the sphere of geographical names. Language differences within grammatical structure between Polish dialects are not that distinct, they do not cause language barriers. It is only the dialect of the Kaszuby region in Pomerania that stands out clearly with its phonetics and grammatical structure at the background of Polish literary language and dialects of central Poland.

A special problem is the geographical names of Polish eastern frontier. For centuries those were territories of mixed population. Two languages existed side by side over the same area. A peculiar overlapping of language influences would take place. Elements of the Polish language, as the one that enjoyed greater prestige, would generally prevail. Within the present Polish State there are few localities inhabited

only by the Lithuanian, Byelorussian or Ukrainian people. Quite often these are villages of mixed population. In dialectal pronunciation the same name may have a language form typical of the Polish language, as well as of Lithuanian, Byelorussian or Ukrainian. A Polish speaker will use the name in the Polish form, a Lithuanian speaker will say it in the Lithuanian form. In a Lithuanian text we will come across Bubeliai, Bubele in a Polish one; Ramonai in Lithuanian - Romaniuki in Polish; Vidugirai in Lithuanian - Widugiery in Polish. Names genetically Polish or Lithuanian may be pronounced in the Lithuanian or Polish way. For it happens so that in the Suwałki region there are names genetically Polish and names genetically Lithuanian, e.g. Węgielnia (Lith. Vengelnia) is genetically Polish, while Budwieć (Lith. Budviecis) is of Lithuanian origin. Genetically Lithuanian names would be polonized, whereas genetically Polish ones would undergo Lithuanization. Whether a given name should be regarded as genetically Polish or genetically Lithuanian is determined by the base of the name. It is so that the stem of the name is Polish or Lithuanian.

Rather complicated relations in the sphere of geographical names prevail over Polish-Byelorussian and Polish-Ukrainian frontier. Quite often it is not possible to decide whether a genetically Polish or east-Slavonic (Byelorussian, Ukrainian) name is to be dealt with, for it may derive from the Slavonic stem known both from the Polish language and east-Slavonic languages. While pronouncing a given name, a Pole will say it in the Polish way, a Byelorussian will give to it the Byelorussian form. The long-lasting co-existence of Polish forms of geographical names with their Byelorussian or Ukrainian equivalents would bring about intermediate structures, partially Polish, partially Byelorussian or Ukrainian. In the name Dołhołęka the first part is Byelorussian (in Polish it would be Długo-), the other part being Polish (in Byelorussian it would be -huka). A similarly contaminated name is Drohiczyn. In this name -h- is Ukrainian, Dro- being Polish (in Ukrainian it would be Doro-).

Quite a different toponymic situation occurred in Silesia, on Polish-German frontier. Genetically German names were numerous here. They would stratify upon the older level of Polish toponymy. The older level of Polish names would be germanized, e.g. the name Opole was germanized as Oppeln, Wrocław (Czech Vratislav) as Breslau, Gliwice as Gleiwitz. New German names would come into being, too, presumably together with new settlements. Genetically German are Grünberg (now Zielona Góra), Waldenburg, former

Waldenberg (now Wałbrzych). During the Nazi times an administrative Germanization campaign was carried out in Silesia aimed at genetically Slavonic names to be removed. Many genetically Slavonic names that had been germanized, were substituted by German names. For example the name Byczyna, germanized as Bitschin, in the Nazi times was changed into Fichtenrode (now Bycina). The name Buglevice, germanized as Buglowietz, in the Nazi times was changed into Bugelhäuser. After the fall of the German Reich, when the German population was displaced, it became necessary to carry out Polonization of geographical names, as the new inhabitants were not able and did not want to use the former German names. Polonization consisted in:

- a) restoration of Polish names which would be recorded in historical sources, e.g. the name Brzeg, recorded in such form already in the 12th century, was germanized as Brieg, after 1945 it was given the form Brzeg;
- b) polonizing the genetically German names, e.g. Waldenburg was polonized as Wałbrzych (form recorded in the 19th century);
- c) introducing new Polish names in place of older German ones, e.g. the name Świeradów was formed, the name Flinsberg having been removed.

Historical documentation for the area of Silesia is very rich and old. This made it possible to restore a large number of historical names and restrict introduction of artificial names.

Toponymic relations over the area of Ermland and Masuria, i.e. in north-eastern Poland, took a different form. The oldest toponymic stratum is of old-Prussian origin. The old-Prussian language belonged to the Baltic language group, it was related to Lithuanian and Lettish. In the time between the 13th and 17th centuries the old-Prussian people were ousted by the inflowing Germans. From the South Polish colonization would move on. Old-Prussian toponymy had been germanized; old-Prussian names would be given German language forms. New German names - over the area of Ermland and southern Masuria also Polish ones - would be formed, too. The complicated ups and downs of names over this area can be depicted upon the example of the name Olsztyn. The city was established in the middle of the 14th century and was given the name Allenstein. The name derives from the Alna River (now Łyna) on which the city had been located. The name of the river is of old-Prussian origin. Chronologically the oldest is the old-Prussian name Alna, taken over by the Germans

as Alle. From the name of the river, in its germanized form already, derives the German name of the city with the segment -stein added to the name of the river. The German name Allenstein was in turn adopted by Polish settlers as early as in the 15th century as Olszten, Holszten. The name was secondarily transformed into Olsztyn. Polish settlement over the area of Ermland and Masuria is old, reaching back to the Middle Ages. Since that time Polish geographical names have been appearing. Genetically Polish names would undergo Germanization. At the same time there would also occur the process of Polonization of genetically old-Prussian and German names. In the 19th century most of local names of Ermland and Masuria, alongside German forms, would also have a Polish or polonized form. After 1945 the Commission for Establishing Place Names, while putting to order the toponymy of Ermland and Masuria, took into account the forms that had been used by the Poles earlier and introduced a few new names of towns, e.g. Kętrzyn, Giżycko, Mrągowo, Pieniężno.

Geographical names introduced over the area of western and northern Poland after 1945 were accepted by the people and are in general use. New Polish names are being formed, too. Legal regulations in force at present do not allow application of double names. For a single geographical object, particularly a locality (town, village) only one form is in use. Double names are not applied, e.g. Polish and German, or Polish and Byelorussian, at the same locality. The official lists of localities include only names in their Polish form, albeit they may contain non-Polish linguistic features.

### **III. The most important sets of geographical names of Poland**

Before the most important contemporary sets of geographical names of Poland are enumerated, it is worthwhile to draw the reader's attention to those of older epochs. They may be of some use while studying older Polish maps, as well as older geographical works.

The oldest Polish geographical names - coming from the time between the 10th and 16th centuries - have been listed by a historical-geographical dictionary of the Polish lands in the Middle Ages, being developed at present and successively published by the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Comprehensive indexes of names of localities have been printed in Poland since the end of the 18th century. Worth mentioning are "Index locorum omnium Galiciae, Lodomeriae" (Lvov 1794) or a little later "Tabella miast, wsi, osad Królestwa Polskiego" (Table of towns, villages, settlements of the Polish Kingdom) (Warsaw 1828). The largest collection of geographical names drawn in the 19th century is "Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego" (Geographical dictionary of the Polish Kingdom), vol. I-XV, published in the years 1880-1902. It covers the entire territory of the former Poland. It describes all towns, villages, larger settlements, as well as major rivers, lakes, mountains. Entries devoted to a town or a village give information not only on the object (administrative and ecclesiastical status, number of inhabitants, characteristics, brief history), but also names of quarters of the villages, names of streams, hills. Rich toponymy is comprised by Polish maps made since the turn of the 18th century. Particularly interesting are maps of separate voivodeships drawn towards the end of the 18th century by Karol Perthées. Very good, also in respect of plausibility of names, is "Topograficzna karta Królestwa Polskiego" (Topographic Map of the Polish Kingdom) at the scale of 1:126,000 (1839) and a little later map by Chrzanowski entitled "Karta dawnej Polski z przyległymi okolicami krajów sąsiednich" (Map of ancient Poland together with adjoining areas of adjacent countries) scale of 1:300,000 published in Paris, 1859.

In the time between the wars a dozen or so indexes of localities were printed. Two of them are of particular importance. First of them is "Skorowidz miejscowości Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej" (Index of localities of the Republic of Poland) published by the Head Statistical Office in the years 1923-1926. In sixteen volumes, arranged according to voivodeships, names of villages, towns, quarters of villages, city quarters, colonies, hamlets were listed. Localities which before World War I belonged to the Prussian or Austrian occupation zone and bore German names, in the Index have an agreed Polish name with the former or variant German name being additionally quoted, as well. The other significant index of localities from the time between the two World Wars is "Skorowidz miejscowości Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej" (Index of localities of the Republic of Poland) edited by T. Bystrzycki, published in two large volumes in 1933. Appendixes to the Index in the form of five fascicles were published in the years 1934-1938.

Worth mentioning are toponymic sets by S. Kozierowski. He would collect all geographical names of the area of Great Poland. He

would rewrite them from historical sources, from older and contemporary lists of localities. In the years 1914-1939 his eight volumes of "Badania nazw topograficznych Wielkopolski" (Studies of topographic names of Great Poland) were printed. For Western Pomerania S. Kozierowski made "Atlas nazw geograficznych Słowiańszczyzny Zachodniej" (Atlas of geographical names of Western Slavonic regions), published in the years 1934-1937.

After World War II, alongside the arrangement of geographical names, toponymic indexes would be published. As early as 1951 was published "Słownik nazw geograficznych Polski Zachodniej i Północnej" (Dictionary of geographical names of Western and Northern Poland) by S. Rospond, listing names of localities and major physiographic objects fixed by the Commission for Establishing Place Names. The Dictionary consists of two parts: Polish-German and German-Polish. Approx. 30 th. names have been included in it.

Another important publication under the auspices of the Commission for Establishing Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects is "Urzędowe nazwy miejscowości i obiektów fizjograficznych" (The official names of localities and physiographic objects) edited by W. Taszycki. In the years 1963-1974 the total of 192 fascicles were published. Geographical names of 192 poviats (counties) and city voivodeships were collected in them. The most important thing in the publication is the names of physiographic objects, for they had been collected immediately "on location". Unfortunately only half of the collected material was published in "The official names ...", because editing was stopped in 1975.

Another index of geographical names is "Nazwy geograficzne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej" (Geographical names of the Republic of Poland) (1991) by the Commission for Establishing Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects, drawn by order of Surveyor General of Poland. This is the only Polish index of geographical names of the gazetteer type, made according to the UNO guidelines, i.e. including geographical coordinates.

Apart from those indexes of geographical names covering entire Poland there are a number of regional issues which complete the former ones. The series "Pomorskie Monografie Toponomastyczne" (Pomeranian Toponomastic Monographies) published in Gdańsk collects the geographical names of the area of Gdańsk Pomerania. The authors of particular volumes collected dialectal forms of names right "on location". They made their best to collect all possible names. That material was completed

with historical extracts. Origins of names and the linguistic changes that occurred within them were accounted for. By 1992 seven volumes in the series were published.

"Słownik etymologiczny nazw geograficznych Śląska" (Etymologic dictionary of geographical names of Silesia) is being elaborated at present for the area of historical Silesia; its six volumes comprising material within letters A-Li were published in the years 1970-1990. The Dictionary is chiefly based upon historical materials, its editors, however, took into account also geographical names collected immediately "on location" in the 50s. Rich files of geographical names compiled by German scientists in the 1930s have been used, too.

After the war two large indexes of names of localities have been published. First of them is "Spis miejscowości Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej" (Index of localities of the Polish People's Republic), published by Wydawnictwa Komunikacji i Łączności (Communications Publishers) in 1967, the other - "Wykaz urzędowych nazw miejscowości w Polsce" (Index of official names of localities in Poland), vol. I-III, published in the years 1980-1982 by the Head Statistical Office. Both indexes include names of towns and cities, villages, city quarters, quarters of villages, hamlets, colonies. Alongside every name, the kind of the objects, its administrative status, the post office and railway station have been included, too.

Water names have been devoted two indexes in a hydrographic arrangement. First of those publications, "Hydronimia Wisły" (The Hydronymy of the Vistula), edited by P. Zwoliński, was published in 1965, the other - "Hydronimia Odry" (The Hydronymy of the Oder), edited by H. Borek, was published in 1983. Both books have been worked out according to uniform methodological principles. They include names of rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, bogs. The names have been arranged in a hydrographic arrangement, from the sources of the river down to its mouth on the Baltic. The books also include names of hydrological objects in the adjacent countries (Ukraine, Slovakia, Bohemia, Germany) on whose territories lie segments of those two river basins. Forms of names in other languages have been quoted. Names are given in their modern forms, records from the 19th century - every now and then even of older epochs - having been made auxiliary use of, as well. The Hydronymy of the Vistula and the Hydronymy of the Oder do not cover the entire area of Poland, as on the territory of our country

there are also other, considerably small, river basins. These are: the Pregel basin in north-eastern Poland and the Orawa basin on Polish-Slovak frontier. Water names of the southern part of the Pregel basin, lying within the borders of Poland have been listed by Ms M. Biolik in her book "Hydronimia dorzecza Pregoty z terenu Polski" (The hydronymy of the Pregel basin of the area of Poland) - 1987, water names of the entire Orawa basin - both the northern part, lying in Poland, and the southern, Slovakian part - having been discussed by M. Majtan and K. Rymut in "Hydronimia dorzecza Orawy (The hydronymy of the Orawa River basin) - 1985. Between the lower Vistula and the lower Oder there are rivers which empty immediately into the Baltic Sea. Their names have been worked out by Ms E. Rzetelska-Feleszko and J. Duma in the book "Nazwy rzeczne Pomorza między dolną Wisłą a dolną Odrą" (River names of Pomerania between the lower Vistula and the lower Oder) - 1977. Those three books comprise not merely modern water names, but also a rich historical material. Rich water toponymy has been included in the hydrographic maps of the second part of "Podział hydrograficzny Polski" (The hydrographic division of Poland) - 1980. A large set of names of lakes is comprised by "Katalog jezior polskich" (Catalogue of the Polish lakes) by A. Coiński, vol. I-III (1991-1992). It includes an index of over 7000 lakes larger than 1 hectare with their names in accordance with 1:50,000 scale maps, published in the 70s.

Worth emphasizing is also the Polish section of the publishing series "Hydronymia Europea", published by the Academy of Science and Literature in Mainz. In particular volumes all names within a given river basin are listed. The modern form of a name is the entry. Accurate hydrographic position of a water object is included. A possibly complete historical material is provided. The origin of all names is explained. So far eight monographies have been published within the series.

Maps are peculiar sets of geographic names. After the war the civil geodetic and cartographic service has published maps at the scales of: 1:10,000, 1:25,000, 1:50,000 and 1:100,000, the Polish Army Topographic Service having published maps at the scales of 1:50,000 and 1:100,000. In 1992 under the auspices of Surveyor General of Poland a six-sheet map of Poland, scale 1:500,000, was published. The names provided on it comply with the official gazetteer "Nazwy geograficzne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej" (The geographical names of the Republic of Poland). On older maps geographical names, those of physiographic objects in particular, would not be standardized.

#### IV. The principles applied at standardizing geographical names of Poland

The purpose of standardization, establishing geographical names is to make them univocal and complying with correct linguistic standards. A name should possibly explicitly and clearly define the object. In Poland standardization of geographical names is dealt with by the Commission for Establishing Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects at the Council of Ministers' Office. The forms of names suggested by the Commission and approved by the Head of the Office take effect and become valid.

The basis for establishing the official form of a name is its current pronunciation. The official form of a name should comply with its pronunciation in the milieu it is most often used. The pronunciation of a geographical name may correspond to the standards of the general language or may comply with the dialectal pronunciation of a given region.

The criteria applied at establishing the linguistic form of geographical names depend on the kind of objects they define. Slightly different principles are applied while establishing the names of localities well-known in the country than those used while establishing the names of fields or forests that are in use within a single village. In case of names of localities, i.e. names of towns (cities) and villages, the guidelines are the current pronunciation and the historical form of a name. If at present there are variant forms of the local pronunciation, the chosen form is the one that continues the historical version. A similar principle is applied while establishing other geographical names of historical tradition, e.g. names of major rivers, lakes, mountains.

The official form of the name of a locality should comply with the pronunciation standards of the general, literary language. This is why traits of definitely dialectal character are eliminated from names. However, there are many exceptions to this rule. For inst. in Silesia there is the locality Żory, although it should rather be Zary. Pronunciation of many local names had been fixed centuries ago, therefore the development rights of the general language do not apply in such cases. The accepted form is Żory, because in Silesia they say Żory, pronunciation with -o- being old, which is proved even by the mere fact that the germanized form was Sohrau. The historically formed phonetic regionalisms are preserved in names, e.g. Pomeranian Karwina (south-Polish Krowina), Dabrówno of the Kujawy region (south-Polish Dabrowno).

Spelling is closely connected with pronunciation of names. Names of localities are spelled according to the orthography of the Polish general, literary language. However, there are numerous exceptions to the rule. Both pronunciation and spelling fixed centuries ago remain in use today. For example - the spelling of Sandomierz (it should be Sedomierz), Wawel (rather Wawel) dates back to the Middle Ages. In the name Wawel the influence of the traditional, medieval spelling of the nasal consonant with -a- was so big that it affected pronunciation. Even if now pronunciation Sedomierz can be heard (rarely and over a small area, though), nobody any more (since the 17th century) says Wawel. Shorter history (reaching back to the 16th century, anyway) is that of the spelling of the names Zembrzyce, Zemborzyce in Little Poland. The spelling of the nasal consonant with -em- recorded in documents, has been preserved by now. Different spellings may provide a differentiating factor of a name. Sedek, a village in the voivodeship of Płock and Sendek, a village in the voivodeship of Kielce - these are two different names, although their origin may be the same. If a name of a locality has a historically recorded spelling which does not comply with the rules of current Polish orthography, the traditional spelling will be observed in the form of the official name.

Slightly different principles are applied at establishing local names. Names of fields, forests, meadows, etc. on the whole do not have any historical documentation. The basis for establishing the official names of physiographic objects (terrain, water, mountain names) is provided by the contemporary dialectal records. In order to establish a correct form of the name of a physiographic object what is necessary is its plausible record obtained from a good informer. The official form of a terrain (local) name is established in accord with the standards of the general language, i.e. instead of a definitely dialectal pronunciation the general one is introduced, which is followed by the spelling being compliant with the requirements of Polish orthography.

In the sphere of formative structure of names, both names of localities and physiographic objects, no changes in relation to dialectal records are being done. Names of physiographic objects, sometimes also names of parts of villages, hamlets, colonies, have their word-formative variants. The same field may be called Podleskie, Podlas, Pod Lasem. While choosing one form, quite helpful may be the inflexional oblique cases (byłem na Podlesiu, or: byłem Pod Lasem, wracam z Podlesia, or: z Pod Lasu, etc., in English: I've been to Podlesie, I've been to Pod

Lasem, I'm coming back from Podlesie, from Pod Las respectively). The chosen variant is the one that has the most complete inflection.

The inflection of geographical names will be also established. The official indexes of geographical names, those of localities in particular, include the ending of the second case (genitive). In relation to the dialectal variant of geographical names changes are being avoided. The approved inflectional endings of names are those that are used by the inhabitants of villages or towns who use the names. The rule has also its negative sides. It may happen that the same geographical name may have different endings of the genitive case. For example Bugaj, -ja, village in the Częstochowa voivodeship, but Bugaj, -ju, village in the Konin voivodeship, or Czekaj, -ja, village in the Kielce voivodeship, but Czekaj, -ju, village in the Skierniewice voivodeship. In names of localities the historically fixed inflectional forms will be generally approved, although they may be incompilant with the inflectional forms of the literary language, e.g. we write do Częstochowy (to Częstochowa), w Częstochowie (in Częstochowa), although the rules of the Polish language say that the locative case of local names ending with -owa sounds -owej, e.g. Limanowej (in Limanowa), Kolbuszowej (in Kolbuszowa).

Among geographical names quite numerous are compounds. A compound is composed of two words, each of them being inflectionally independent. Names of the type Stalowa Wola, Mała Panew, as well as structures of the type Bielsko-Biała, Woźniki-Paklewy, Busko-Zdrój are called combinations.

Combined names consisting of the basic name and adjectival differentiating segment, the type Mszana Dolna, Sędziszów Małopolski, Góra Ropczycka will be spelled without a hyphen, the word order complying with the one used by the inhabitants of a given locality. Differentiating adjectival segments derived from other geographical names or names of regions (e.g. Góra Ropczycka, Sędziszów Małopolski) as a rule stand in the second place. Quite numerous are compounds with adjectival segments arranged in pairs: Nowy - Stary, (New - Old), Górny - Dolny (Upper - Lower), Wysoki - Niski (Tall - Low), Blizszy - Dalszy (Closer-Farther), Pierwszy - Drugi (First - Second), Kościelny - Szlachecki (belonging to the Church, belonging to the landed gentry). The word order in such compounds considerably differs geographically and chronologically. The orders Koniec Dolny and Dolny Koniec are both possible. While fixing the official names of such compounds the rule is to observe the order used by the local inhabitants. The only

exception is the pair Nowy - Stary (New, Old). After World War II the Commission for Establishing Names of Localities took it for granted that segments Nowy, Stary should always go first. Adjectival differentiating segments are not always used locally. Some of them have been introduced through the official channels in order to differentiate two identical names of localities.

Compounds of a different type are represented by formations Bielsko-Biała, Woźniki-Paklewy. The names Bielsko-Biała, Skarżysko-Kamienna, Czechowice-Dziedzice resulted from combination of two localities into one. Inhabitants of both parts of the new locality wanted to preserve the former names. The new name should be spelled with a hyphen. Hyphenated are also names of the type Bronaki-Olki, Bronaki-Pietrasze, Woźniki-Paklewy occurring most often in the area of northern Mazovia and Podlasie. Such names reflect the former settlement status. Within a nobility's property or a large village (first part of the name) there used to be sections, properties of landed gentry (second part of the name).

Compounds Busko-Zdrój, Kurowo-Kolonia, Kurowo-Parcele belong to a new type of local names. The differentiating segment here is a noun defining the kind of settlement, town, or the way a new village has been set up. Busko-Zdrój is a spa, which is emphasized by the segment Zdrój (Spring). Kurowo-Kolonia is a village which came into being out of a colony of the village Kurowo, while Kurowo-Parcele is a village which came into being on the grounds divided due to the parcelling out of an estate. Names of the type Kurowo-Kolonia, Kurowo-Parcele or Busko-Zdrój should be hyphenated.

Names of towns and villages generate adjectives. The official form of an adjective should comply with the word-forming structure of the adjective in the dialect of a given locality. The word-forming structure will be preserved, the pronunciation (phonetics) being adapted to the standards of the general language. Just like while establishing a name, also while establishing an adjective, distinct dialectal features will be got rid of. So far that principle has not been consistently observed. For example - forms of adjectives derived from local names ending with -owice are formed with the suffix -owicki, albeit in dialect it most often is -owski, cf. dialectal proszowski, official proszowicki (derived from the town Proszowice), dialectal bolechowski, official bolechowicki (from the town Bolechowice). Such type of the official forms of adjectives, applied inter alia in the years 1946-1952 while establishing the names of localities in western and northern Poland, stirs up opposition on the part

of some towns and villages. It also brings about unnecessary variant forms, e.g. there is the official adjective bolechowicki alongside the local name Dolinki Bolechowskie.

Separate principles pertain to the establishing of geographical names of bilingual areas. In villages where live Polish and Byelorussian, Ukrainian, Slovak or Czech people very often names in two language versions are used. If in a given locality there live more Polish-speaking people than those that speak the language of a national minority, the geographical names should be established in Polish. Quite scarce are villages in which Byelorussians, Ukrainians or Slovaks are the majority. In such cases the chosen language version is that of the more numerous nation. The Byelorussian, Ukrainian or Slovak language features remain in the name, it is, however, spelled according to Polish orthography, e.g. Hrud, Niewistka, Sromowce. Polish legal regulations do not allow bilingual versions to be applied, or names to be spelled by means of the Byelorussian, Ukrainian or Slovak alphabet, if they appear in a Polish text or if they are displayed on tables defining localities. If in a certain area there is the form of a name that bears the features of the language of a national minority, the Polish form of the name being out of use, the name is established in the linguistic form used by the inhabitants. For example - Drohiczyn, although in this town live chiefly Poles. Polish language forms are not introduced if a name has traditional non-Polish linguistic features.

## **V. Geographical and settlement terms**

While defining the kind, character of areas or geographical objects, many geographical terms are used. They pertain to large natural regions, single geographical objects and settlement units.

While division of Poland into physico-geographical regions was being done, certain terms were accepted which may function as common words when defining the special character of an area, they may, however, be parts of regions' names. As common words they will be spelled with a small letter, as parts of names they should be capitalized. As a rule, names of regions consist of two words - a physico-geographical term (a noun) and an adjective which is a differentiating segment, e.g. Brama Krakowska (Cracow Gate), Wyżyna Małopolska (Little Poland Uplands). In English versions of Polish names of such type the word order is usually reversed.

Physico-geographical terms have been listed and defined by J. Kondracki in his book "Podstawy regionalizacji fizycznogeograficznej" (The essentials of physico-geographical regionalization) (1976). In Polish geographical studies the following physico-geographical terms are used (with their abbreviations applied in Polish maps given in brackets):

|                      |   |                                 |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| basen                | - | basin                           |
| brama                | - | gate                            |
| bruzda               | - | furrow                          |
| dolina (dol.)        | - | valley                          |
| dział                | - | interfluve                      |
| garb                 | - | hummock                         |
| góry (g-y)           | - | mountains                       |
| grzbiet              | - | ridge                           |
| grzęda               | - | ridge                           |
| kotlina (kott.)      | - | basin                           |
| kraina (kr.)         | - | region                          |
| łańcuch górski       | - | mountain range, mountain chain  |
| masyw                | - | massif                          |
| mierzeja (mierz.)    | - | spit                            |
| międzyrzecze         | - | interfluve                      |
| niecka               | - | basin                           |
| nizina (niz.)        | - | lowlands                        |
| niz                  | - | depression                      |
| obniżenie (obn.)     | - | depressed area, depression      |
| padół                | - | depressed area, depression      |
| pagóry               | - | hills                           |
| pasmo górskie        | - | mountain range                  |
| płaskowyż            | - | tableland                       |
| płyta                | - | slab, plateau                   |
| pobrzeże (pobrz.)    | - | littoral region                 |
| podgórze (podg.)     | - | foothill                        |
| pogórze (pog.)       | - | upland                          |
| pojezierze (poj.)    | - | lakeland, lake district         |
| pradolina (pradol.)  | - | pradoline, ice marginal channel |
| próg                 | - | sill                            |
| przedgórze (przedg.) | - | foreland                        |
| przełom (przeł.)     | - | defile                          |

|                    |   |                     |
|--------------------|---|---------------------|
| rów tektoniczny    | - | rift valley         |
| równina (równ.)    | - | plain               |
| średniogórze       | - | intermontane region |
| wał                | - | hill                |
| wybrzeże (wyb.)    | - | coast               |
| wyniosłość (wyn.)  | - | elevation           |
| wysoczyzna (wys.)  | - | high plain          |
| wyżyna (wyż.)      | - | highlands, uplands  |
| wzgórza (wzg.)     | - | hills               |
| wzniesienia (wzn.) | - | heights             |
| zakłęśłość         | - | hollow              |

Slightly different character is that of the topographic terms that are used while describing physiographic objects. They usually define single geographical objects. Topographic terms applied at defining the kind of physiographic objects may appear as basic words, but as diminutives, as well. Thus: "góra" and "górką" ("mountain" and "little mountain"), "las" and "lasek" ("forest" and "little forest"), "strumień" and "strumyk" ("stream" and "streamlet"). Polish topographic terminology is quite immense. Every now and then there is a very vague semantic difference between certain terms. Two terms may mean the same. In "Urzędowe nazwy miejscowości i obiektów fizjograficznych" (The official names of localities and physiographic objects), the largest existing set of names of physiographic objects, the applied topographic terms (together with their abbreviated forms used in Polish maps) include:

|                   |   |                   |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| bagno             | - | marsh             |
| błonie            | - | common            |
| błoto             | - | marsh             |
| bór               | - | coniferous forest |
| cieśnina (cieśn.) | - | sound             |
| dolina (dol.)     | - | valley            |
| dół               | - | hollow            |
| głaz              | - | boulder           |
| głębia            | - | deep              |
| góra (g.)         | - | mountain          |
| grota (gr.)       | - | cave              |
| grzbiet góry      | - | mountain ridge    |
| hala              | - | meadow            |

|                                 |   |                         |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| jaskinia (jask.)                | - | cave                    |
| jezioro (j., jez.)              | - | lake                    |
| kamieniołom (kłm)               | - | quarry                  |
| kanal (kan.)                    | - | canal                   |
| kopiec                          | - | knoll                   |
| las                             | - | forest                  |
| łan                             | - | field                   |
| ławica                          | - | bank                    |
| łąka                            | - | meadow                  |
| mielizna (miel.)                | - | shallow                 |
| mierzeja (mierz.)               | - | spit, sandspit          |
| mokradło                        | - | bog                     |
| nieużytki                       | - | wasteland               |
| pagórek (pag.)                  | - | hill                    |
| park krajobrazowy (p. krajobr.) | - | landscape park          |
| park narodowy (p. nar., p. n.)  | - | national park           |
| pastwisko                       | - | pasture                 |
| polana                          | - | glade                   |
| pole                            | - | field                   |
| połonina                        | - | mountain meadow         |
| potok                           | - | stream                  |
| półwysep (płw.)                 | - | peninsula               |
| przełęcz (przeł.)               | - | pass                    |
| przylądek (przyl.)              | - | cape                    |
| pustynia (pust.)                | - | desert                  |
| puszcza                         | - | forest, primeval forest |
| rezerwat (rez.)                 | - | reservation             |
| rola                            | - | soil                    |
| rzeka (rz.)                     | - | river                   |
| rów                             | - | ditch                   |
| sadzawka                        | - | pool                    |
| skała (sk.)                     | - | rock                    |
| staw                            | - | pond                    |
| struga                          | - | brook                   |
| strumień                        | - | stream                  |
| szczyt                          | - | peak                    |
| toń                             | - | depth                   |
| torfowisko                      | - | peat-bog                |

|                    |   |                |
|--------------------|---|----------------|
| trzęsawisko        | - | swampland      |
| uroczyisko (ur.)   | - | range          |
| urwisko            | - | cliff          |
| wąwóz              | - | defile         |
| wodospad (wdp.)    | - | waterfall      |
| wyspa (w.)         | - | island         |
| wzgórze (wzg.)     | - | hill           |
| wzniesienie (wzn.) | - | height         |
| zagajnik           | - | coppice        |
| zalew (zal.)       | - | haff           |
| zarośla            | - | thicket        |
| zatoka (zat.)      | - | bay, gulf      |
| zbocze góry        | - | slope          |
| źródło (źr.)       | - | spring, source |

Names of localities are accompanied by settlement terms which point out the character of a given settlement unit. The terms pertain to towns and villages and their inner division. The following have been accepted in the Official index of localities in Poland:

|                        |   |                      |
|------------------------|---|----------------------|
| dzielnica              | - | district, quarter    |
| gajówka (g.)           | - | gamekeeper's cottage |
| kolonia (kol.)         | - | colony               |
| leśniczówka (l.)       | - | forester's lodge     |
| miasto                 | - | town, city           |
| osada                  | - | settlement           |
| osiedle (os.)          | - | settlement, estate   |
| plac (pl.)             | - | square, site         |
| przedmieście (przedm.) | - | suburb               |
| przysiółek (przys.)    | - | hamlet               |
| ulica (ul.)            | - | street               |
| wieś                   | - | village              |

Since 1975 two administrative units - the commune and the voivodeship - have been the levels of the administrative division of the country. Before 1972 there were three of them: the community, the poviat (county), the voivodeship. According to the intended new administrative division of Poland there are to be three administrative units: the commune, the poviat, the voivodeship.

Some names of Polish localities include adjectives derived from the names of historical provinces or natural and ethnographic regions. They are commonly used in an abbreviated form. The most popular of such abbreviations are:

|        |   |                       |
|--------|---|-----------------------|
| Besk.  | - | Beskidzki, -a, -e     |
| Gd.    | - | Gdański, -a, -e       |
| Kraj.  | - | Krajeński, -a, -e     |
| Kuj.   | - | Kujawski, -a, -e      |
| Lub.   | - | Lubelski, -a, -e      |
| Maz.   | - | Mazowiecki, -a, -e    |
| Młp.   | - | Małopolski, -a, -e    |
| Odrz.  | - | Odrzański, -a, -e     |
| Podl.  | - | Podlaski, -a, -e      |
| Pom.   | - | Pomorski, -a, -e      |
| Sand.  | - | Sandomierski, -a, -e  |
| Szcz.  | - | Szczeciński, -a, -e   |
| Śl.    | - | Śląski, -a, -e        |
| Śwkrz. | - | Świętokrzyski, -a, -e |
| Tatrz. | - | Tatrzański, -a, -e    |
| Warm.  | - | Warmiński, -a, -e     |
| Wlkp.  | - | Wielkopolski, -a, -e  |

Other abbreviations often used as adjective segments of Polish names of localities, especially in maps:

|        |   |   |
|--------|---|---|
| Dln.   | - | Dolny, -a, -e (lower)                       |
| Górn.  | - | Górnicy, -a, -e (miners')                   |
| Grn.   | - | Górny, -a, -e (upper)                       |
| Kość.  | - | Kościelny, -a, -e (belonging to the Church) |
| Król.  | - | Królewski, -a, -e (royal)                   |
| Mł.    | - | Mały, -a, -e (little)                       |
| Nw.    | - | Nowy, -a, -e (new)                          |
| Pol.   | - | Polski, -a, -e (Polish)                     |
| Str.   | - | Stary, -a, -e (old)                         |
| Szl.   | - | Szlachecki, -a, -e (belonging to nobility)  |
| Tryb.  | - | Trybunalski (tribunal)                      |
| Wlk.   | - | Wielki, -a, -e (great)                      |
| Włośc. | - | Włościański, -a, -e (peasants')             |

## VI. The Polish alphabet

The Polish language has 36 phonemes which correspond to 41 letters together with their combinations (letters with diacritical marks, two letters). In publications of international character Polish phonemes and letters will be transcribed by means of the international phonetic alphabet API. Below there is the list of the letters of the Polish alphabet (column 1) together with their equivalents according to the international phonetic alphabet (column 2)

| Polish letter | International phonetic transcription |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| a A           | [a]                                  |
| ą             | [õ]                                  |
| b B           | [b]                                  |
| c C           | [ts]                                 |
| ch Ch         | [x]                                  |
| cz Cz         | [tʃ]                                 |
| ć Ć           | [tɕ]                                 |
| d D           | [d]                                  |
| dz Dz         | [dʑ]                                 |
| dź Dź         | [dʒ]                                 |
| dż Dż         | [dʒ]                                 |
| e E           | [e]                                  |
| ę             | [ẽ]                                  |
| f F           | [f]                                  |
| g G           | [g]                                  |
| h H           | [x]                                  |
| i I           | [i]                                  |
| j J           | [j]                                  |
| k K           | [k]                                  |
| l L           | [l]                                  |
| ł Ł           | [w]                                  |
| m M           | [m]                                  |
| n N           | [n]                                  |
| ń             | [ɲ]                                  |
| o O           | [o]                                  |
| ó Ó           | [u]                                  |

|       |     |
|-------|-----|
| p P   | [p] |
| r R   | [r] |
| rz Rz | [ʒ] |
| s S   | [s] |
| sz Sz | [ʃ] |
| ś Ś   | [ɕ] |
| t T   | [t] |
| u U   | [u] |
| w W   | [v] |
| y Y   | [ɣ] |
| z Z   | [z] |
| ź Ź   | [ʒ] |
| ż Ż   | [ʒ] |

The Polish alphabet is a historical one, formed already in the 16th century. Every now and then it is anachronistic as referred to the current pronunciation. At present two letters u and ó correspond to the phoneme u (formerly two phonemes), two letters z and rz correspond to the phoneme ʒ (formerly two phonemes), letters ch and h, corresponding to the phoneme x. The specific trait of the Polish pronunciation is the two nasals o, e having been preserved among vowels; they correspond to the letters a and e. The Polish language has three groups of fricatives and affricates: s, ʃ, ɕ (letters s, sz, ś), z, ʒ, ʒ (letters z, ź, ż) and dz, dʒ, dʒ (letters dz, dź, dż). In the other Slavonic languages those three groups have been reduced down to two. The Polish language preserves the opposition of hard and soft consonants. The latter are distinguished in the alphabet by means of letters with diacritical marks (ć, dź, ń, ś, ź) or by the letter i preceding a vowel.

## VII. Polish geographical names pronunciation guide

The pronunciation of Polish speech sounds more often than not differs from that of English sounds. Considerable discrepancies occur in the pronunciation of vowels. Polish spelling is also different from English. This is why it is difficult to provide an accurate written version of English equivalents to Polish speech sounds. Below we have provided the English speaking people with a tentative version of pronouncing Polish geographical names. To facilitate the problem an international phonetic alphabet has been made use of.

| Polish letter | Internat. phonetic transcription | Approx. English pronunciation | Polish example | Pronunciation |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| a             | a                                | ah                            | Adamów         | ahdahmoof     |
| ą             | õ                                | õ                             | Gąski          | gõskee        |
|               | om < p, b                        | om                            | Dąbki          | dompkee       |
|               | on < c, cz, d, dz, t             | on                            | Łącko          | wontsko       |
|               | oŋ < ć, ci, dź, dzi              | oñ                            | Mącice         | moñtseetseh   |
|               | on < k, g                        | ong                           | Łąkowo         | wongkovo      |
| b             | b                                | b                             | Busko          | boosko        |
|               | p < voiceless, Ø                 | p                             | Lubsko         | loopsko       |
| c             | ts̄                              | ts                            | Celiny         | tsehleeni     |
| ch            | x                                | h                             | Chudów         | hoodoof       |
| cz            | tʃ                               | ch                            | Czarne         | chahrneh      |
| ć             | tʃ̣                              | tsy                           | Boćki          | botsykee      |
| d             | d                                | d                             | Duszniki       | dooshneekee   |
|               | t < voiceless, Ø                 | t                             | Nowogród       | novogroot     |
| dz            | dʒ                               | dz                            | Radzyń         | rahdziñ       |
|               | ts < voiceless, Ø                | ts                            | Kłodzko        | kwotsko       |
| dź            | dʒ                               | dzy                           | Dźwirzyno      | dzyveezhino   |
|               | tʃ̣ < voiceless, Ø               | tsy                           | Łódź           | wootsy        |
| dż            | dʒ                               | j                             | Dżystka        | jistkah       |
| e             | e                                | eh                            | Ełk            | ehwk          |
| ę             | ẽ                                | ẽ                             | Węgorzewo      | vẽgozhehvo    |
|               | em < p, b                        | ehm                           | Dęby           | dehmbi        |
|               | en < c, cz, d, dz, t             | ehn                           | Kęty           | kehnti        |
|               | eŋ < ć, ci, dź, dzi              | ehñ                           | Będzin         | behñdzeen     |
|               | en < k, g                        | ehng                          | Łęka           | wehngkah      |
| f             | f                                | f                             | Frombork       | frombork      |
| g             | g                                | g                             | Gubin          | goobeen       |
|               | k < voiceless, Ø                 | k                             | Brzeg          | bzhhek        |
| h             | x                                | h                             | Huba           | hoobah        |
| i             | i                                | ee                            | Inowrocław     | eenovrotswahf |
| j             | j                                | y                             | Jurata         | yoorahtah     |
| k             | k                                | k                             | Kraków         | krahkoof      |

| Polish letter | Internat. phonetic transcription | Approx. English pronunciation | Polish example | Pronunciation |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| l             | l                                | l                             | Lublin         | loobleen      |
| ł             | w                                | w                             | Łódź           | wootsy        |
| m             | m                                | m                             | Marki          | mahrkee       |
| n             | n                                | n                             | Nowiny         | noveeni       |
| ń             | ɲ                                | ñ                             | Poznań         | poznañ        |
| o             | o                                | o                             | Opole          | opoleh        |
| p             | p                                | p                             | Piła           | peewah        |
| r             | r                                | r                             | Radom          | rahdom        |
| rz            | ʒ                                | zh                            | Rzeszów        | zeshshoof     |
|               | ʃ < voiceless, Ø                 | sh                            | Kleparz        | klehpahsh     |
| s             | s                                | s                             | Sobota         | sobotah       |
| sz            | ʃ                                | sh                            | Kalisz         | kaleesh       |
| ś             | ɕ                                | sy                            | Cieśle         | tsyehsyleh    |
| t             | t                                | t                             | Toruń          | torooñ        |
| u             | u                                | oo                            | Łubno          | woobno        |
| w             | v                                | v                             | Warszawa       | vahrshahvah   |
|               | f < voiceless, Ø                 | f                             | Guzów          | goozoof       |
| y             | i                                | i ("is")                      | Bystra         | bistrah       |
| z             | z                                | z                             | Zawoja         | zahvoyah      |
|               | s < voiceless, Ø                 | s                             | Gwizd          | gveest        |
| ź             | ʒ                                | zy                            | Hoźna          | hozynah       |
|               | ɕ < voiceless, Ø                 | sy                            | Świtez         | syveetehsy    |
| ż             | ʒ                                | zh                            | Żnin           | zhneen        |
|               | ʃ < voiceless, Ø                 | sh                            | Błazkowa       | bwahshkovah   |

where

< means "followed by"

Ø denotes the final position

(e.g. d in the final position, or followed by a voiceless consonant is pronounced t)

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