Practical advice for people planning genealogical investigations (mostly, but not only) in Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych (The Central Archives of Historical Records)

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Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych (AGAD, The Central Archives of Historical Records)

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Contents

[Translator's notes]

[note: *gmina*, the first level of administration is given here as District, *powiat* (the second level of administration) is given as Administrative District. Voyevodship (*województwo*) is the third level of administration]

[note: *zasób* has been rendered as *collection*; *zespół* has been rendered as *series*, throughout; *zabużański* has been rendered as *beyond the River Bug*; Ukrainian placenames are as transliterated by the Ukrainian government mfa.gov.ua]

[note: both *Metrical Books* and *Registers* are used for books of births, marriages and deaths]

Preparing to search the Archive

All available information and documentation should be collected together in preparation for any search, whether of the State Archive or a Church archive.

Every certificate, copy of a register entry or photocopy is important – even those which are damaged, hard to read or even incomprehensible to the amateur genealogist. With help from an experienced person, it may be possible to attempt to read and information from

these documents and extract it, to help with starting a search. Searching registers and parish documents is a good way to start, and is one route to information about ancestors.

General information

It is important to establish whether the genealogical materials of interest can be found the Central Archive (AGAD) before starting on a search of its collections.

AGAD stores Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths and parish/district records from the territories of the [Polish] pre-World War 2 voyevodships (provinces) of Lwów [Lviv], Tarnopol, Stanisławów and Wołyń [Volhynia, Volyn][1].

Detailed information on the vital records stored has been compiled in the PRADZIAD computer database, which comprises Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths and Vital Records in all the State Archives, the section of Records from beyond the River Bug of the Civil Registration department in Warsaw, Archdiocesan archives (in Łódź, Poznań, Szczecin and Wrocław), Diocesan archives (Płock, Włocławek and Warsaw-Praga - and registers from the former Pińsk diocese only, in Drohiczyn) and records in the Pomeranian Library in Szczecin. An updated version of the database is accessible on www.szukajwarchiwach.pl or on the State Archive website, http://baza.archiwa.gov.pl/sezam/pradziad.php, as at 10th August 2018.

Establishing the name of the parish or district.

Before we start a search, you need to know the religion or denomination of the person or family of interest. If we are not certain of this, you will have to search registers of different religions and denominations for a given location.

A search cannot start without basic information – the name of the place (town or village) where the family lived, and where Registers and Vital Records (of births, marriages and deaths) were recorded.

The first thing to establish is whether the place in question was the seat of the relevant parish or district (depending on religion) or whether it was an affiliate of a parish or district in a different place.

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[1] There are very few exceptions which involve the borderlands of the voyevodships of Lublin, Podkarpacie and Wilno.

Useful tools for this are:

Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich [Geographical Dictionary of the Kingdom of Poland and Other Slavic Countries [in Polish]] published in 1880-1902.

The *Słownik* [Dictionary] is available in electronic form on line through several e-libraries (e.g. www.dir.icm.edu.pl/Slownik_geograficzny www.mbc.malopolska.pl/publication/113).

The *Słownik* [Dictionary] contains descriptions of places within the Republic [of Poland] and its pre-Partition borders, in Silesia and parts of West Pomerania. Specific entries contain information on the history of the village or town, its religious and denominational structure and its administrative affiliations, and also information about the owners of towns and villages which were in private ownership at and before the publication of the *Słownik* [Dictionary]. The *Słownik* [Dictionary] is available in the reference library of the Research Room at AGAD

Skorowidz miejscowości Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej [Gazetteer of towns and villages of the Polish Republic], edited by T. Bystrzycki and published in 1933-1934.

The *Skorowidz* [Gazetteer] is also available in electronic format from several e-libraries, (e.g. www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/docmetadana?id=12786&from=publication www.dbc.wroc.pl/dlibra/docmetadana?id=12667&from=publication).

The *Skorowidz* [Gazetteer] contains information about the locations of Law Courts and distances to the nearest railway stations, as well as information on administrative affiliation (district, administrative district, voyevodship).

The *Skorowidz* [Gazetteer] specifies the Roman Catholic, Greek Catholic, Orthodox and Lutheran parish affiliation for each place.

There is no information in it about affiliation of Jewish congregations.

The *Skorowidz* [Gazetteer] is also available in the reference library of the Research Room at AGAD.

Districts relevant to Jewish affiliation can be established using *Żydowskie okręgi metrykalne* [Jewish Vital Record Districts] by Jerzy Michalewicz, Kraków 1995. The author chose to arrange this book alphabetically by administrative district (powiat), and by district (gmina) within each administrative. Changes of affiliation of particular places to particular faith districts are given, where it has been possible to confirm them. An internet search function covering all the places contained in Michalewicz's work is available on the AGAD website www.agad.gov.pl/genealogia/michalewicz.html

Schematyzmy [diocesan yearbooks] are useful in establishing administrative divisions within the Roman Catholic and Greek Catholic Churches.

Schematyzmy are guides published by the Church authorities of individual dioceses, usually annually. They contain information on diocesan and monastic clergy and a description of networks of parishes of the diocese, by deanery. The description of each parish shows when it was established, information on the parish church (when it was built, who funded it, its dedication, its current patron saint), places affiliated to the parish, the current Parish Priest and the number of worshippers.

Schematyzmy are particularly useful in establishing the parish affiliation of places which have changed status (changing from an affiliated place to an independent parish, or conversely).

The *Schematyzm* of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Lwów serves as an example. It shows that having belonged previously to the parish of Zbaraż, the following became independent parishes: Maksymówka (in 1908), Sieniawa (1909), Stryjówka (1903) and Zarudeczko (1914). Thus genealogical searches for those parishes in earlier years [before those separate parishes were formed] must be made in registers from Zbaraż parish.

Schematyzmy for various years are available in the AGAD library or on the internet (e.g. through www.pbc.rzeszow.pl).

Parish affiliation in the Łuck diocese can be established using a search tool on the AGAD website, www.agad.gov.pl/genealogia/luceiria.html (as at 10th August 2018) which makes it possible to determine parish affiliation at about mid-19th century.

Affiliation to Łuck diocese parishes before the outbreak of World War 2 can be established using Rev. Stanisław Tylus' *Spis miejscowości diecezji łuckiej wedlug kościelnego podziału administracyjnego z 1938 r.,* [List of towns and villages in Łuck diocese by Church administrative division in 1938] published in the journal *Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne* (1999, vol. 72).

Rev. Waldemar W. Żurek also published the parish network of the Łuck diocese, arranged by deanery, in *Wykazy osób z akt parafialnych diecezji łuckiej do 1945 roku* [List of persons from the Parish Records of the Diocese of Łuck up to 1945] (vol I, and again in vol VII).

Registers of Vital Records and Parish/Commune records for various religions and denominations kept in AGAD

Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych (AGAD, The Central Archives of Historical Records) keeps Metrical Books of various religions, denominations and rites, including:

1. Series 298 [Zespół nr 298] – Greek Catholic Parish Metrical Books from the Archdioceses of Lwów [Lviv], Przemyśl and Stanisławów, 456 a.u. [2]

www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/ksGrec298.xml

2. Series 299 [Zespół nr 299] – Metrical Books from Lutheran and Calvinist districts; 341 a.u.

www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/KEAH299xx.xml

3. Series 300 [Zespół nr 300) –Metrical Books from Jewish districts beyond the River Bug. 4066 a.u.

www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/Mojz300x.xml

4. Series 301 (Zespół nr 301) – Roman Catholic Metrical Books from the Lwów Archdiocese; 2049 a.u.

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[2] The number of books available in May 2018. The description "archival unit [a.u.]" denotes the number of items in the inventory. The description "Metrical Books" refers predominantly to collections of entries of births, marriages and deaths for a given place and year. An archival unit (usually in the physical form of a bound book) may contain Metrical Books from one, several, more than ten, or sometimes tens of years.

www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/KLwo301new.xml

5. Series 302 (Zespół nr 302) – Orthodox Metrical Books and Parish records from Wołyń (Volyn) and Polesie; 24 a.u.

www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/Kprx302.xml

6. Series 436 (Zespół nr 436) - Roman Catholic Metrical Books from the Diocese of Łuck; 1077 a.u.

www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/KMluck436x.xml

7. Series 437 (Zespół nr 437) - Roman Catholic Metrical Books from the Diocese of Przemyśl; 76 a.u.

 www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/Kprze437x.xml

8. Series 439 (Zespół nr 439) – Lutheran Metrical Books from the western governorates of the Russian Empire / eastern voyevodships of the 2nd [Polish] Republic; 289 a.u.

www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/KsEA439x.xml

9. Series 456 (Zespół nr 456) – Metrical Books of various denominations and rites (Armenian Apostolic Church, Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church, Baptist, Mennonite, Evangelical Christians) from territories beyond the River Bug; 18 a.u.

www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/KsOMB456x.xml

Scans are appended to the units described in the inventories of Metrical Books, inasmuch as their publication is permitted within compulsory guidelines (arising from the statute, *Prawo o aktach stanu cywilnego* (The Law concerning Vital Records) [data protection legislation].

A second group of useful materials for genealogical research are the Parish/District records for different faiths and denominations.

At AGAD, these are divided into separate series of Metrical Books and remaining documents created by Parish or District Offices (except series [*Zespół*] 302 and 456). The series of Records include books of families living in a parish or district, premarital agreements, books of marriage banns, copies from Metrical Books, lists of communicants and other documents in which people or families of interest may appear.

Unfortunately, chiefly because the poor preservation of these records, and sometimes as a result of limitations arising from Data Protection regulations, it is currently possible to search these only through an archivist[3].

AGAD contains the following series:

1. Series 303 (Zespół nr 303) – Roman Catholic parish records from the Archdiocese of Lwów [Lviv]; 319 a.u.

www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/ALeo303.xml

2. Series 424 (Zespół nr 424) – Jewish district records from eastern Małopolska (lesser Poland); 191 a.u.

www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/am424.xml

3. Series 427 (Zespół nr 427) - Lutheran and Calvinist district records; 109 a.u.

www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/AKEAH427.xml

4. Series 433 (Zespół nr 433) – Roman Catholic parish records from the diocese of Łuck; 60 a.u.

www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/APLuc433.xml

5. Series 434 (Zespół nr 434) - Roman Catholic parish records from the diocese of Przemyśl; 18 a.u.

www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/APrzemysl434.xml

6. Series 438 (Zespół nr 438) – Lutheran district records from the western governorates of

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[3] This situation will change once the documents have been scanned in full.

the Russian Empire/eastern voyevodships of the 2nd [Polish] Republic; 44 a.u.

www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/EWAKT438.xml

7. Series 461 (Zespół nr 461) – Greek Catholic rite parish records from the Archdiocese of Lwów [Lviv] and the dioceses of Przemyśl and Stanisławów; 46 a.u.

www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/Agr461.xml

Roman Catholic metrical books from the territories of present-day Ukraine are being indexed by members of Polskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne [the Polish Genealogical Society]. Indexes of 185 parishes have been published on the website www.genealodzy.pl in the *Geneteka* section (direct web address www.geneteka.genealodzy.pl). As at 10th August 2018, this represents over 579,000 entries.

Indexes of metrical books from the diocese of Łuck (about 100,000 entries at the beginning of 2016) can be found on www.wolyn-metryki.pl (as at 10th August 2018). Lubelskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne [The Lublin Genealogical Society] has published indexes of over ten parishes from the Archdiocese of Lwów [Lviv] and the dioceses of Łuck and Przemyśl on the website

www.regestry.lubgens.eu/news.php (as at 10th August 2018).

The "Jewish Records Indexing – Poland" programme has taken on the indexation of Jewish Metrical Books kept in AGAD and other archives and Civil Registries. Before embarking on searching the books, it is helpful to check whether the vital records of the district in question have been indexed, which will make the task significantly easier. Further information on the Jewish Records Indexing Project and on the books that have already been indexed can be found on the website www.jri-poland.org (as at 10th August 2018).

The indexes include every entry in the given metrical book. The description includes the number of the book, the year and the document number as well as basic personal data.

Similar work is carried out by the Gesher Galicia organisation, which posts information on the website www.geshergalicia.org (as at 10th August 2018).

NOTE: AGAD has no Jewish metrical books from the former Wołyń province (present Wołyń [Volyn] and Rivne oblasts)

How to access metrical books in the AGAD archive

Non-computer users can look through microfilms of the books using microfilm readers at the Archive. [Polish residents] who live outside Warsaw can still borrow microfilms of the AGAD books through the State Archive [Archiwum Państwowe] nearest their home. The borrower is responsible for postage costs of delivery and return.

Metrical Books from the AGAD collections can be accessed through the computers in the AGAD research room.

Books in consignments [which reach AGAD] from Vital Records offices (USC [Urząd Stanu Cywilnego]) are not accessible until they have been scanned. Transcripts of these documents are available for official purposes in the meantime.

AGAD reminds users that, metrical books and parish/district records (which contain personal information subject to data protection) are not accessible for view before the elapse of the statutory period (births – 100 years, marriages and deaths – 80 years).

Where to look for records which are not in AGAD

If it turns out that the AGAD collections do not include the documents required, check whether they are in one of the other archives which collect documents from the area of pre-war south-east Poland.

I. Archives in Poland

1. State Archives

Metrical books of various religions from regions beyond the River Bug are stored at

III Wydział Rejestracji Stanu Cywilnego i Ksiąg Zabużańskich USC,

ul. Ks. I. Kłopotowskiego 1/3,

03-718 Warszawa,

Poland

telephones (48) 22 443 12 81 and (48) 22 443 12 80

e-mail   uscskz@um.warszawa.pl

This archive, now titled Sekcja Ksiąg Zabużańskich USC [Section of Records from Vital Records Offices beyond the River Bug], previously Archiwum Zabużańskie [Archive of records from beyond the River Bug], was at [the address] ul. Smyczkowa 14, until April 2009 (and previously at [the address] ul. Jezuicka 1 / 3). This archive stores metrical books from an area which was placed within the borders of the USSR, under the 1945 agreement on the Polish-Soviet border. These are metrical books which were completed less than 100 years ago (birth records) or 80 years ago (marriage and death records). It operates in accordance with the powers granted in the Statute on Vital Records, of 1986 (ustawa o aktach stanu cywilnego 1986) and repeated in "Prawo o aktach stanu cywilnego" (Law on Vital Records) of 28th November 2014

Older books are progressively transferred from Sekcja Ksiąg Zabużańskich [that archive] to AGAD in accordance with the 1998 order of Ministry of the Interior and Administration (Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji) and repeated in essence in the directive of the Director in Chief of State Archives (Naczelny Dyrektor Archiwów Państwowych) of 26th March 2015.

In practise, it is not usually possible to divide [records] precisely (for example, a single metrical book may cover entries from 1891 to 1921), so that some books in AGAD are more recent, and some books at the Vital Records Offices [Urzędy Stanu Cywilnego, USC] are older than the Statute provides.

Remember that it is not possible physically to divide a book which may contain births, marriages and deaths, which currently subject to different regulations on storage by Vital Records Offices [USC]

Note: This archive does not contain metrical books of the Greek Catholic rite – these were all transferred to AGAD in the early 1980s.

General information on the collections at Sekcja Ksiąg Zabużańskich USC [this archive] can be found on the website below (only names of parishes and districts, divided by religion and denomination and by pre-war voyevodship)

www.usc.um.warszawa.pl/sites/usc.um.warszawa.pl/files/zbior_ksiegi_zabuzanskie.pdf

Reminder – the PRADZIAD database has more comprehensive information on the collections at Vital Records Offices [USC].

The State Archive in Przemyśl stores a certain number of Lutheran and Calvinist metrical books and those of Roman Catholic and Greek Catholic rites, from [previously Polish] areas which post-war [World War 2] border changes rendered outside Poland.

Archiwum Państwowym w Przemyślu,

ul. J. Lelewela 4,

37-700 Przemyśl

Poland.

Telephones (48) 16 670 35 38 and (48) 16 670 76 34, extension 145 (information)

www.przemysl.ap.gov.pl   e-mail   archiwum@przemysl.ap.gov.pl

Some records from territories beyond the River Bug remain in Przemyśl, although this archive transferred many of them to AGAD in the 1990s,.?

Specific information on the Metrical Records in this archive can be found in a publication by Anna Krochmal and Michał Proksa, *Akta metrykalne w zasobie Archiwum Państwowego w Przemyślu*, Przemyśl 1998 [Metrical records in the stores of the State Archive in Przemyśl] (the information in this publication is broader than that in the PRADZIAD database with respect to the names of affiliates, series and catalogue numbers)

The publication is accessible on-site at AGAD

A few Lutheran and Calvinist metrical books are stored at the National Archive in Kraków,

Archiwum Narodowe w Krakowie,

ul. Sienna 16,

30-960 Kraków

Poland

Telephone (48) 12 421 37 33 (information)

www.ank.gov.pl   e-mail informacja@ank.gov.pl

2. Church Archives

For metrical books from the former Roman Catholic diocese of Przemyśl at the

Archdiocesan Archive in Przemyśl, enquire at:

Archiwum Archidiecezjalne w Przemyślu,

Pl. Katedralny 4 A,

37-700 Przemyśl,

Poland

Telephone (48) 16 678 66 94 extension 38

e-mail archiwum@przemyska.pl

Unfortunately, a significant proportion of metrical books from the pre-war collections of

the Przemyśl diocesan archive were lost in the War, and no further information is available

as to their fate.

For Roman Catholic metrical books from the former Lwów and Tarnopol voyevodships,

enquire at

Archiwum im. Arcybiskupa Eugeniusza Baziaka w Krakowie,

ul. M. Bobrzyńskiego 10,

30-348 Kraków

Poland

Telephone (48) 12 252 35 60

 e-mail   archiwum.baziaka@upjp2.edu.pl

This is the archive of the former Archdiocese of Lwów, stored after the War in separate

parts, in Kraków, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska and Tarnów, then united in 1956 in Lublin, and

located at the Bishop's Curia in Lubaczów from 1978. The Archive has been in Kraków

since 1995. Until 2012, it was at [address] ul. Kanoniczna 13, and is now deposited within

the structure of Uniwersytet Papieski Jana Pawła II (Pontifical University of John Paul II) in Kraków.

This Archive contains fragments of parish archives from over 270 parishes, including metrical books from the 16th to the 20th centuries.

Fundamental information on the metrical collections of this Archive can be obtained from the author of the present document.

For metrical books from the former Roman Catholic diocese of Łuck, enquire at the institute of Church Archives, Libraries and Museums KUL [of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin]:

Instytutu Archiwów, Bibliotek i Muzeów Kościelnych Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego,

ul. Chopina 29 /7,

20-023 Lublin,

Poland

Telephone (48) 81 445 30 85

e-mail   redabmk@kul.lublin.pl

There are genealogical materials currently stored in Lublin – metrical books and various transcripts and indexes prepared from original metrical books. This represents a fragment of the archive of the diocese of Łuck, transported to Poland after the War and stored in Zamek Bierzgłowski near Toruń.

A significant part of this resource was used in the eight volumes published by Waldemar W. Żurek under the title *Wykaz osób z akt parafialnych diecezji łuckiej do 1945 roku* [List of people from the parish records of the Łuck diocese up to 1945] *(*Lublin 2004 - 2012). These contain transcripts of metrical books and parish documents of over 60 parishes from the Łuck diocese. The transcripts contain between a few and a few thousand entries, depending on the parish. This publication is in the AGAD reference library.

II. Archives in Ukraine

Metrical books of various faiths and denominations are stored in the Central State Historical Archive in Lwów [Lviv],

Centralnym Państwowym Archiwum Historycznym Ukrainy we Lwowie,

Pl. Soborny 3 a,

79008 Lviv,

UKRAINE

www.tsdial.archives.gov.ua   e-mail tsdial@arch.gov.ua

In 2018, the following inventories were added to the Archive's website

www.tsdial.archives.gov.ua/index5.html (as at 10th August 2018):

Fond (series) nr 201, opys (inventory) 4 A – Metrical books of the Greek Catholic rite

The inventory contains 8686 items (8702 archival units).

Fond nr 618, opys 2 – Metrical books of the Roman Catholic rite. The inventory contains 3207 items (3209 archival units).

A catalogue of Roman Catholic metrical books in Galicia, published in Lwów [Lviv] in 2018, is available to download from the website,.

www.tsdial.archives.gov.ua/pdf/katalog.pdf

(as at 10th August 2018)

All these research resources are in Ukrainian.

An inventory of records from the Lwów [Lviv] archive (as at 1998) was published by Rev. Józef Wołczański, in a collection entitled *Dokumenty kościoła rzymskokatolickiego Archidiecezji Lwowskiej w zasobach Centralnego Państwowego Archiwum Historycznego Ukrainy we Lwowie: inwentarze* [Documents of the Roman Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Lwów stored in the Central State Historic Archive in Lwów: inventories], Kraków 2007.

The section "Miejscowości kresowe" [Border towns and villages] on the website www.kami.net.pl (as at 10th August 2018) allows search for a placename of interest, to check whether records for that place are in the Lwów [Lviv] archive (unfortunately only up to book 2657, as at 1998). Furthermore, apart from the archival catalogue information,

the database shoes the numbers of microfilms made by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons)[4].

An unknown number of metrical books of different religions, denominations and rites (certainly, mostly from the 20th century) is in the RACS vital records archive in Lwów [Lviv]

Archiw RACS,

wul. Getmana Doroszenko 23,

79001 Lviv,

UKRAINE

The Lwów [Lviv] archive also has a relatively small collection of Jewish district metrical books.

In Fonds 701, opys 1 there are 418 Jewish books from 57 districts. These books cover a period from the end of the 18th century to the 1940s (the majority are books from the latter half of the 19th century).

The collection of Lutheran and Calvinist metrical books comprises fewer than 20 books from 5 districts, stored in fonds 427 (not described in a separate inventory)

Publication of a multi-volume comprehensive catalogue of metrical books - stored in series and collections within State Archives of the oblasts of Ukraine – started in 2009, and came from an initiative of the Ukrainian State Archive,. This publication is available – unfortunately, only in Ukrainian - in hard copy, on CDs, and through the website www.archives.gov.ua.

Volume I comprises a list of books stored in the archive of the Volyn (Wołyń) oblast (a separate catalogue of metrical books of 1600-1938 was published in Łuck) and from the Dnipropetrovs'k and Zakarpattya oblasts, http://undiasd.archives.gov.ua/doc/metric-books/mbv1.pdf

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[4] As at the end of 2017, it was possible to order microfilms to be sent to two Family History Centres [in Poland], in Warsaw and Wrocław. Microfilms are no longer distributed, but a significant proportion of them have been digitised and is accessible on site in the Centres. Detailed information is available on www.familysearch.org , after registration and log-in (as at 10th August 2018).

(as at 10th August 2018).

Volume 2 comprises a list of books from the oblasts of Rivne (published separately in Rivne as a duplicated typescript catalogue of metrical books from there), Kyiv, Mykolayiv, and Sumy

www.archives.gov.ua/Publicat/Katalog_mkn_2.php

http://undiasd.archives.gov.ua/doc/metric-books/mbv2.pdf

(as at 10th August 2018).

Volume 3 comprises a list of books stored in the city archives in Kyiv and Sevastopol, and the Ternopil, Cherkasy and Chernivsti oblasts.

www.archives.gov.ua/Publicat/Katalog_mkn_3.php

http://undiasd.archives.gov.ua/doc/metric-books/mbv3.pdf

(as at 10th August 2018).

Volume 4 comprises a list of books stored in the archives of the oblasts of Odesa (a separate catalogue of metrical books was published in Odesa), Donets'k, Ivano-frankivs'k, Luhans'k, and Poltava www.archives.gov.ua/Publicat/Katalog_mkn_4.php

http://undiasd.archives.gov.ua/doc/metric-books/mbv4.pdf

(as at 10th August 2018).

Volume 5 comprises books stored in the State Archive of the Kharkiv oblast

www.archives.gov.ua/Publicat/Katalog__mkn_5.php

http://undiasd.archives.gov.ua/doc/metric-books/mbv5-b1.pdf

http://undiasd.archives.gov.ua/doc/metric-books/mbv5-b2.pdf

(as at 10th August 2018).

Volume 6 comprises books stored in the oblasts of Kherson and Zaporizhzhya, and the Archive of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

www.archives.gov.ua/Publicat/Katalog_mkn_6.php

http://undiasd.archives.gov.ua/doc/metric-books/mbv6.pdf

(as at 10th August 2018).

Volume 7 comprises a list of books stored in the archives of the Vinnytsya and Kirovograd oblasts.

http://undiasd.archives.gov.ua/doc/metric-books/mbv7.pdf

(as at 10th August 2018).

Volume 8 comprises a list of books stored in the archives of the Khmelnytsky oblast

http://undiasd.archives.gov.ua/doc/metric-books/mbv8-b1.pdf

http://undiasd.archives.gov.ua/doc/metric-books/mbv8-b2.pdf

(as at 10th August 2018).

The description of the collections of each archive starts with its address data, a brief account of the origin and date of the acquisition by the archives of the series/collections containing the metrical books, and more detail on their subject: the number of the series/collection, the full name, date range and quantity of metrical books (hardly any of the Ukrainian archive series/collections are composed exclusively of metrical books)

The State Archive of the Zhytomyr oblast has books from about 90 Roman Catholic parishes of the Łuck diocese.

Current addresses of all Ukrainian archives can be found (in English and Ukrainian) on the website www.archives.gov.ua

Brief overview of Metrical Books of various religions and denominations
Metrical Books were kept in at least two copies , for all religions and denominations. One copy (the original) stayed in the parish or commune, the other (the copy) was sent to a church archive or (for Jewish records) to a state office.

The AGAD collections include originals as well as copies. This information is important for researchers who have transcripts made between World Wars I and II. Page and volume numbers cited there may refer to different copies, and may turn out not to be useful signposts in the search for a particular document.

Metrical books of various religions and denominations from the Austrian partition [of Poland], which form the majority of those at AGAD, contain the largest amount of useful information for genealogy; there is somewhat less information in the books from the Russian partition.

It is important to note that metrical books were not kept assiduously, always and everywhere. This is not limited to the important matter of handwriting, but includes the rules for writing entries in the books. Many entries were not made directly into the books, but [events were recorded] separately on pieces of paper, and the books were updated from these, from time to time (or only at the end of the year).

These pieces of paper sometimes got lost, or forgotten, so many books have entries at the end concerning people who had previously been overlooked (this is found most often in Lutheran and Jewish records).

Many Lutheran books were not kept in chronological order, but had an index of persons made when they were compiled. Where these indices have not been preserved, research must encompass a full year of entries, even when the actual date of the event is known. There may also be no entry in the register is found despite accurate information on the date of birth or death.

Other errors also occur – for example, the birth records of the children of one marriage are shown with different maiden names for the mother. In these cases, where possible, the best way to establish the truth is through finding the relevant marriage entries. There are also many imprecisions in the spelling of surnames. There was no convention on the spelling of surnames, and much depended on the person keeping the register.

Differences often arose in the writing of surnames in different languages (for example, in Greek Catholic registers: Latin, Ukrainian and Polish), and their subsequent translation.

Hence different versions of the same surname may appear in parallel: Nahorny, Nahirny, Nagórny.

Now these mistakes and differences in the writing of entries cause legal difficulties, sometime requiring Court judgements[5]

Metrical books in the Roman Catholic Church

Obligatory registration (keeping metrical books) of vital records was introduced in Polish territories at the beginning of the 17th century. Church authorities required the recording of registers of those baptised, confirmed or married, and those who received Communion at Easter. Somewhat later came the requirement to register the dead. In the 18th century, it was recommended that separate registers be kept for baptisms, marriages and funerals. This was done, with information for all towns and villages in a parish combined in a single register for that parish, without division into columns.

As a consequence of the partitions of Poland, the Archdiocese of Lwów and the diocese of Przemyśl became part of the Austrian Empire, and the diocese of Łuck (Diocese of Łuck and Żytomierz, taking in the Kijów [Kyiv] and Wolyń [Volyn] governorates) became part of the Russian Empire.

In the Austrian Empire, registers of births, marriages and deaths became recognized as the legal records of civil status, and gained the status of official documents. They were kept in Latin. Large parishes kept a separate register for each constituent village or district. Small parishes kept only one register in which entries from different villages or districts were to be clearly distinguished.

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[5] It should be added, here, that official transcripts issued by AGAD contain the surname in the format in which it appears in the given document, but the forename in Polish form (e.g. for Catholic rites, Petrus as Piotr [Peter], Pauilus as Paweł [Paul], Ahafia as Agafia) or in their original form (e.g. for Lutherans and non-Christian religions, Heinrich, Agnes, Ruchel, Mosze).

Older registers were kept in a descriptive style, without columns or particular format (for example, a clergyman wrote: "On the fifth of May of eighteen hundred and sixty, Jan Makowski turned up at my house and presented a child of the male gender…").

Later, registers were written in columns, and sometimes on printed forms. The nature of the registers also changed. Earlier registers of baptisms and funerals were superseded by registers of births and deaths. The dates of the events were given before the dates of the [respective] religious services (baptisms and funerals). From 1825 onwards, records in birth registers had to include the name of the midwife who delivered the baby. From 1858, details of the grandparents were required, alongside the mother's and father's details in the "parents" section. From 1886, stillbirths were also to be recorded.

The Polish language appears in the registers in the 19th and 20th centuries, alongside the Latin.

Registers in Polish are usually written within a standard Polish format, so it is not hard to understand the entries.

To follow registers written in Latin, the reader needs to understand the titles of the registers (books) and the standard headings and formats used

Liber natorum: Book of births

These books (registers) contain the following column headings and formats.

The top left-hand corner shows the year to which the book refers

Numerus: number of the entry in the book (entries were not always numbered)

Mensis/Natus/Baptisatus: Month/Born/Baptised (this column contains the dates of birth and baptism)

Numerus domus: house number (in towns, the street name and the house number)

Nomen: forename (if there is a middle name, there may be a note saying binomini – having two names)

Religio/Catholica/Aut Alia: Religion/Catholic/Or Other (usually indicated by a slanted line in the relevant column)

Sexus/Puer/Puella: gender/boy/girl (indicated by a slanted line in the relevant column)

Thori/Legitimi/Illegitimi: status of birth/legitimate/illegitimate (indicated by a line in the relevant column or written in words)

Parentes/Nomen/Conditio: parents/name/status (forenames and surnames of parents and their employment)

Patrini/Nomen/Conditio:- Godparents/name/status (forenames and surnames of godparents and their employment)

Beneath the entry (not in separate columns)

Baptizavit: baptised by (forename and surname of priest, his clerical position)

Obstetrix: midwife (name and surname of the woman who delivered the baby).

Liber Copulatorum: Register of Marriages

This type of register contains the following column headings and formats

The top left-hand corner shows the year from which the register is taken

Numerus: ordinal number of the entry in the register (entries were not always numbered)

Mensis: month (date of marriage)

Sponsus: Groom

Numerus domus: house number (of the groom, sometimes also of the bride)

Nomen: name (forename and surname of the groom, his employment, his parents)

Religio/Catholica/Aut Alia: Religion/Catholic/Or Other

Aetas: age (given in years, or as date of birth)

Caelebs: unmarried man/bachelor (indicated by a line in the relevant column)

Viduus: widower (indicated by a line in the relevant column)

Sponsa: Bride

Nomen: [as above]

Religio/Catholica/Aut Alia: as above

Aetas: [as above]

Caelebs: unmarried woman/spinster

Vidua: widow

Testes/Nomen/Conditio: witnesses/name/status (forenames and surnames of the witnesses and their employment)

Beneath the entry, a note of who officiated at the marriage ceremony (dates of the banns might also be written there, and for minors, confirmation of their parents' consent to their marriage).

Liber Mortuorum: Register of Deaths

Numerus: ordinal number of the entry in the register (entries were not always numbered)

Dies Mortis/mensis: day of death/month (this column contained the date of death)

Numerus domus: as above

Nomen Mortui: name of the deceased (forename and surname of the deceased, employment, civil status)

Religio/Catholica/Aut Alia: [as above]

Sexus/Masculinus/Feminina: gender/male/female

Dies Vitae: days of life (age of the deceased)

Morbus et Qualitas Morbus: disease/cause of death

Usually there are details of the date of the funeral below the entry (Sepulivit die 27 Juni… – buried on the 27th of June) with the surname of the priest who conducted the funeral.

The Latin-Polish dictionary, "*Słownik łacińsko-polski dla prawników i historyków*" by J. Sondel (Kraków 1997, 2nd ed 2006) is useful for translation into Polish. This dictionary is in the reference library at AGAD

It is worth knowing and remembering that some words in the register entries were sometimes abbreviated,

for example. Obst. - abbreviation for obstetrix: midwife.

This also applies to the Latin names of months: Januarius (January), Februarius (February),

Martius (March), Aprilis (April), Maius (May), Junius (June), Julius (July), Augustus (August). These names were usually shortened to the first 3 or 4 letters of each.

From September onwards, this type of notation may be found:

7bris: September

8bris: October

9bris: November

10bris: December

It is important to note this, to avoid the misconception that the number indicates the month [as conventionally], for example, that 7bris means July.

Common vocabulary from the registers:

baptizatio - baptism; baptizatus - person baptised; conjugalis - marital;

conjugatis - married; conjuges - the married couple; copulatio - marriage

defunctus/denatus - the deceased;

filius - son; filia - daughter; frater - brother; gemini - twins; illegitimus – extra-marital [illegitimate]; infans - child; juvenis – bachelor; liberi - children;

marita - wife; maritus - husband; mater - mother; materna - godmother [*sic*]; matrimonialis - marital; matrimonium - marriage; mortuus - died, the deceased; natus - born;

olim - the late/sometime; orphanus - fatherless orphan; parentes - parents; pater - father;

patrini - godparents; pupillus - motherless orphan; quondam - deceased/the late; relicta - widow; relictus - widower; secundo voto - remarried; sepultura - funeral; sepultus - buried;

soror - sister; sponsa - bride; sponsus - groom; sponsor fidei - godfather;

uxor - wife; uxoratus - married man: vidua - widow; viduus - widower; virgo - virgin/spinster.

In the Łuck diocese, separate registers were kept for each year of births/baptisms, marriages and deaths/funerals, for whole parishes. The oldest registers are written in Latin, then in Polish from the 1830s and in Russian after 1848.

In Russian language registers from the mid 19th century onwards, there was a comprehensive printed form, but priests were not always diligent in completing it. The first column contained the surname in Russian, and sometimes in Polish, which makes searches somewhat easier. These registers are hard to read, however (even for those fluent in Russian) and the amateur genealogist them may have difficulties in searching them.

In the birth registers (Myetricheskaya kneega o rodivshichsya) the name of the newborn was written first (in Russian or Polish), then the record number of the entry, the house number, gender (in some parishes it was the custom to write an ordinal number in this column, showing how many boys or girls had been born in the parish in that year – thus the total was ready at the end of the year); who baptised the child, and when and where, and what sort of baptism it was; who the parents were, where they were born and where they were baptised, who was present at the baptism (godparents); remarks.

Printed forms were also used in marriage registers(Myetricheskaya kneega o brakosochetavshichsya). The man's surname was written first, then the house number, information on when the banns were posted, data on parents of the newlyweds and on the witnesses to the marriage.

In the death registers (Myetricheskaya kneega oomiershych) were written the surname of the deceased; the house number; when death occurred, place and cause of death and whether the Sacrament had been received; employment, length of life, whether the deceased left any children; where and when the burial took place and who witnessed it.

Metrical books of the Greek Catholic Rite

Metrical books of the Greek Catholic rite were kept according to the principles accepted for the Roman Catholic Church. They were to be written in Latin, against which the Uniate clergy rebelled, demanding the introduction of Ukrainian in the books. Ukrainian predominates in books of the 1920s, with Polish appearing alongside.

The oldest books of baptisms, marriages and burials from the 18th century were written in Russian.

The forms used in the Greek Catholic Church were usually in two languages, Latin and Ukrainian, so an understanding of the Latin terms is sufficient. The arrangement of sections was the same as in the Roman Catholic books.

Note the names of the months, when written in words, are different from those in Polish – I - January – siczeń, II - February – luty, III - March – berezeń, IV - April – kwitień, V - May – traweń, VI - June – czerweń, VII - July – lipeń, VIII - August – serpeń, IX -

September – wereseń, X - October- żołteń, XI - November – lystopad[6], XII - December - hrudeń

Lutheran and Calvinist Metrical books

This relatively small church – 33,000 worshippers at its height – was formed by German colonists who flowed into Austria in the second half of the 18th century. They were not recognized by the State at first, but became tolerated in time, and gained equal rights in law with the Catholic Church from 1861. Its essence was the union of Lutherans and Calvinists within one Church organisation.

Metrical books were organised similarly to the Roman Catholic ones. Smaller districts recorded birth marriages and deaths together, for all towns and villages. Larger districts established separate books for affiliated places, and with the passage of time, books appeared which covered entire districts, but registered only births, or marriages, or deaths. Most of the books have indexes of persons made separately for each year, which simplifies research.

Considerable weight was given to the maintenance of books of confirmations (formal acceptance into the Church, usually at age 13-14). These books – whether conducted separately or [the records] written between births and marriages – contained very precise information on the people being confirmed.

The German language predominates in these books. Some of them are hard to read. Books in the Lutheran and Calvinist Church used the Latin forms from the Roman Catholic Church.

When used, original (elaborate) forms contained the following columns:

Metrical book of births (baptisms) – Taufbuch

(also variants on the words Geburt, geboren) containing columns: Fortlaufende Zaht – number; Ort und Hausnummer – town or village, house number; Jahr, Monat, Tag der Geburt und der Taufe – dates of birth and baptism; Name des Taufenden – person conducting the baptism; Taufname – forename and surname of child; Geschlecht – gender (the denomination was written in this column, if there was no other, as A. C. for Lutheran

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[6] Sometimes appearing as "padolyst".

or H. C. for Calvinist); Eltern des Täuflings – des Vaters/der Mutter – information about the parents – names and surnames, employment, place of residence; Pathen, Tauf und Familennamen, Stad, Wohnort – information about godparents; Hebamme – forename and surname of midwife; Anmerkung – remarks.

Metrical book of marriages – Trauungsbuch, Traubuch

(also variants on the words getraufen, kopulirte). The ordinal number appeared first, and then Name des Trauenden – person conducting the marriage ceremony; Jahr, Monat und Tag der Aufgebote/Trauung – dates of banns and marriage; Bräutigam (data on the groom) Name, Character und Eltern – forename and surname, employment, parents; Wohnung und Haus N. – place of residence and house number (age was often written here, if there was no other column for it); Religion – Evangelisch/katholisch – religion (denomination was written here); Braut (data on the bride) Geburtsort – data on the bride and her parents; Geburts –Jahr, Monat und Tag (date of birth); Stand – civil status (denomination was also written here); Beistäbde, Name, Character, Wohnort – data on the witnesses to the marriage; Anmerkung – remarks.

Metrical book of deaths – Todtenbuch, Todtbuch

(also variants on the word vestorben) started with the ordinal number, then Name des Einsegnenden – forename and surname of the deceased; Todes Jahr, Monat, Tag und Stunde – date and time of death; Tauf und Familiennamen des Gestorbenen, dessen Stad, oder Stad des Ehegatten, der Eltern und Geburtsort – data on the deceased – spouse, parents, surviving children, employment, place of residence; Religion Evangel A.C./Evangel H.C. – Lutheran/Calvinist; Geschlecht – gender; Geburts Jahr, Monat und Tag – date of birth; Krankheit und Todesart – cause of death; Ort des Tosdes Hausnummer – place of death; Ort wo und Tag, au welchem die Beerdigung geschehen – where and when buried; Anmerkung – remarks

Lutheran Metrical books in Volhynia

These were kept in a similar way to the Lutheran and Calvinist books in the Austrian partition. Older books are written in German. At the end of the 19th century, it was ousted by Russian, and records in Polish appeared between the [World] Wars. Lutheran and

Calvinist (German) forms from Galicia were often used or Roman Catholic (Russian) forms from the Łuck diocese. Where records were kept in Russian, the forenames and surnames were written in German, in brackets. In these books, too, it is common to find difficulty in reading the entries.

As previously mentioned, alphabetic indexes for a large proportion of Lutheran books have survived, either in separate volumes, covering tens of years, or bound into books after entries for the year to which they refer.

Jewish metrical books

Judaism was legally recognised in the Austrian Empire in 1789. Rabbis were required to keep Jewish metrical books. State officials took over this function from 1875. Between the [World] wars, the obligation of keeping the books returned to the Rabbi.

The oldest surviving books have a highly simplified system of records, recording only basic data (for births, only the date and forenames of child and parents)

In due course, the format developed to resemble that in Catholic books. There were additional columns for the date of circumcision (boys) or naming (girls).

A characteristic of entries into Jewish metrical books is the large number of births registered as being extra-marital. The majority of Jewish weddings were conducted by the Rabbi and were not confirmed by a State official. Therefore children of these unions were registered as illegitimate. The Remarks column usually mentioned the person claiming fatherhood. This is important, because a person using the father's surname in adulthood may have been registered in the book under the mother's surname.

Jewish metrical books were written in German, and later in Polish.

Forms for Jewish metrical books were usually printed in German with a Polish translation. Various columns appear in the births books, for the entry of the date of circumcision (boys) or naming (girls). The surnames of the person carrying out the circumcision, the witnesses and the sandek/sandak (a role similar to that of godfather in the Roman Catholic church, often carried out by the boy's maternal grandfather) and szames (also called szkolnik), a district official present at rites involving the registration of births, marriages and deaths.

The death books had a separate column for the number of the card of the examination of the remains and the name of the person who led it. The register entry included the precise time of death (these entries were concerned with requirements of Judaism, necessitating burial as soon as possible after death, in conflict with a law requiring a 48 hour delay).

How to conduct a search, and what to note.

The best search method depends on the goal of the search.

A search for information on particular people about which some information is already available (birth year, for example), starts with the book containing records for that year. A search to find as many past relatives as possible must be far wider in scope.

If information is already available, the first step is to check its accuracy.

Consider a contemporary death certificate, which includes the place and year of birth of the person of interest. When found, the birth entry in question contains the names of the parents, and often the grandparents, of the newborn. Work backwards from that date to the entry for the marriage of the parents, which contains new information, their dates of birth or how old they were at marriage. Use these as a basis to find their birth entries. If several years passed between the marriage and the birth, it is likely that this was not the couple's first child. Different books must now be searched to find the other children of the same couple. It is worthwhile to keep note of the house number recorded in the register. In small towns, changes of address were rare, so that searching books of births, marriages and deaths by house number can allow swift discovery of further family members.

If there is little information about particular individuals, but it is known that the family lived in the place concerned, all available books must be searched. Note and record everyone who shares the surname in question, or surnames that sound similar. The spelling of surnames, mentioned above, was standardised only in the 20th Century, earlier entries on the same person or family are subject to variation.

House numbers can be used to try to link found family members, and then to identify a known person in one of the families found. Tracing the male ancestral line is the first step. It was usual to state the place of origin for persons mentioned in a register entry who did

not come from the parish (or district) concerned. This is important information – it may broaden a search and increase the number of ancestors found. It is worth remembering that marriages traditionally took place in the parish of the bride. If only the groom's residence is known, a marriage entry may not be found.

Another issue arises from inter-faith, inter-denomination or inter-rite marriages. Interfaith marriages are relatively rare, but marriages between persons of Roman Catholic and Greek Catholic rite were common. In searching for children of these unions, it is important to note that it was accepted that sons were brought up in their father's denomination, and girls in their mother's. Thus children of such a union could be inscribed in the books of different rites and parishes.

If the aim of the search was to find as many family members as possible, then at the end of the search, it is worth checking, where possible, whether people [of interest] identified in the death registers had been found previously in the registers of births

Where to find Registers from regions now within Lithuania and Belarus

1. Archives in Poland

First, It is important to note that an agreement was signed in 1946 between Poland and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, for each nation to pass on relevant metrical books from regions which had become part of that nation after the [second World] War, to the other nation, to which those regions had previously belonged. No such agreement was made with the republics of Lithuania and Belarus, hence the minimal number of books from those areas within Polish archives.

It may be supposed that the a few metrical books and parish records from present-day Lithuania and Belarus reached AGAD by chance, alongside books from present-day Ukraine.

The vestiges of the collection of Roman Catholic books from the diocese of Wilno stored at AGAD are 19th century books from the parishes of Braszewice, Czernawczyce and Roś. Series 548 (Zespół 548) – metrical books of the Roman Catholic parishes from the diocese /archdiocese of Wilno and the diocese of Pińsk; 6 a.u.

www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/KMWilno548.xml

The series of records from the archdiocese of Wilno/diocese of Pińsk includes documents from the parishes of Czernawczyce i Drohiczyn.

Series 435 (Zespół nr 435) – Roman Catholic parish records from the diocese /archdiocese of Wilno and the diocese of Pińsk; 4 a.u.

www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/Awil435.xml

Confirmation books from Wilno have been added to the Lutheran metrical books from Volyn preserved at AGAD, and metrical books from the parishes of Kalwaria and Wiłkowyszki affiliated to the Mariampol district[7].

The Archdiocesan archive in Białystok preserves the remains of parish records from the former archdiocese of Wilno (territories of present-day Lithuania and Belarus) from 1865. The archive preserves transcripts of the metrical books of the former diaconates of Grodno (1865-1937) i Łunna (1922-1937).

Archiwum Archidiecezjalnym w Białymstoku

ul. Warszawska 46,

15-077 Białystok,

Poland

Telephone (48) 85 732 40 51 (Dział metryczny – records department)

www.archibial.pl   e-mail aab@archibial.pl

The metrical books from some tens of parishes of the former diocese of Pińsk are stored at Archiwum Diecezjalne w Drohiczynie,

ul. Kościelna 10,

17-312 Drohiczyn n. Bugiem,

Poland

tel. (48) 85 665 78 08 , extension 710

www.drohiczynska.pl   e-mail archiwum@drohiczynska.pl

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[7] Our archive also preserves Lutheran books from Windawa (Windau) in Courland, present-day Latvia.

Detailed information prepared by Rev Eugeniusz Borowski can be found on the diocesan page in the "Instytucje (Archiwum)" section

Rev. Waldemar W. Żurek started the publication of "Wykazy osób z akt parafialnych diecezji pińskiej do 1947 roku" (lists of persons from parish records of the diocese of Pińsk until 1947), in hard copy, in 2013,

(Five volumes appeared from 2013 – 2016, containing transcripts from 37 parishes in alphabetical order: Volume I , B-I; Volume II, K; Volume III, K-M; Volume IV, M-O; Volume V, P-S).

Note that civil records recreated on the basis of witness accounts of court proceedings in the years 1946-52 are kept in Archiwum USC Łódź Centrum.

2. Archives in Lithuania and Belarus

Lithuania

Anyone seeking their roots in the former territories of Lithuania must look in the archives of both present-day Lithuania and present-day Belarus.

Enquiries for Lithuania should be directed to:

Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania /Lietuvos valstybes istorijos archyvas/

LT – 03107 Vilnius,

Mindaugo 8

Lithuania

e-mail istorijos.archyvas@lvia.lt

This archive contains metrical books from over 600 Roman Catholic parishes from the territories of present-day Lithuania and over 200 parishes from the territories of present-day Belarus. There are also some tens each of books from Lutheran and Evangelical Reformed Church in the Republic of Poland districts, from Uniate and Jewish districts and from over 200 orthodox parishes. The historical archive also contains collections from the previously separate metrical archive on ul. Kalinauskago in Wilno [Vilnius].

The addresses of other Lithuanian archives can be found on www.archyvai.lt

Work is in progress to digitialise the Lithuanian Archive's metrical books within a project archival digitisation project for archival materials, books, maps and images of works of art from the State Reserves. For information on this subject see www.epaveldas.lt/kolekcijos (as at 10th August 2018)

General information in English states that digitisation concerns Roman Catholic metrical books from the 15th to the middle of the 20th century. There are currently 4563 items in the department of Roman Catholic Metrical Books.

The search engine accepts only names written in Lithuanian.

Bełarus

There is an accessible database similar to the Polish PRADZIAD on the Belarusian archive page www.archives.gov.by. Click on *Genealogy/Family History* from the main page, which is in English and Russian, and then on *Parish registers*, […]

Data on the Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Greek Catholic books is published separately.

Direct access to a list of Roman Catholic books

www.archives.gov.by/index.php?id=640747 (as at 10th August 2018)

Direct access to a list of Orthodox and Greek Catholic books

www.archives,gov.by/index.php?id=244873 (as at 10th August 2018)

The database is constructed based on the current administrative divisions of Belarus (arranged alphabetically within governorates).

There are also EXCEL tables of lists of Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Greek Catholic books preserved at the National Historical Archives of Belarus in Grodno.

Enquiries about Belarus should be addressed to

Department of Archives and office-work

The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus

220004, Minsk, Kollektornaya street, 10

Belarus

www.archives.gov.by   e-mail belcom@archives.gov.by

Finally, it is worth mentioning scans of metrical books and parish records (mostly parishes from the present-day territories of Lithuania and Belarus) accessibly on the website of Polskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne [Polish Genealogical Society] www.genealodzy.pl in the section *Biblioteka Kresowa* [Library of the Borders]*,* and directly through www.kresy.genealodzy.pl (as at 10th August 2018).

Scans there include those of parish metrical books made accessible on the e-paveldas portal.

The *Geneteka* section of the www.genealodzy.pl website (reached directly through www.geneteka.genealodzy.pl) publishes indexes of metrical books, including some from present-day Lithuania and Belarus

Lithuania – 37 parishes, over 309,000 entries

Belarus – 102 parishes, over 177,000 entries (as at 10th August 2018).