

Partnership with POLIN Museum on Printed Cadastral Maps

by Jay Osborn
Gesher Galicia Digital Map Manager

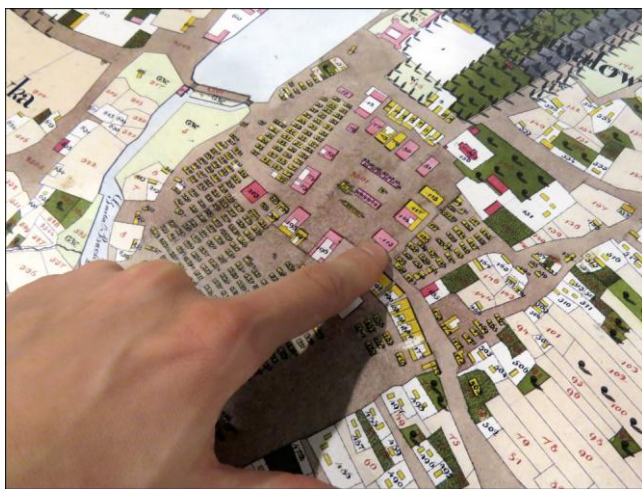
IN LATE 2014, GESHER GALICIA signed an agreement with the new POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, for a five-year joint development project in order to furnish the Museum's Resource Center with durable paper

copies of historical cadastral maps from Gesher Galicia's collection of digitally assembled images. Work progressed over the following months, and by the end of 2015, the first set of printed maps was delivered to the Resource Center for use by museum visitors wishing to research their families' lives in historical Galicia with the aid of the Center's staff, library, and computer databases. (For additional details on the Resource Center, refer to the March issue of the *Galitzianer*, p. 37.)

Below: *Gesher Galicia adviser Marla Raucher Osborn and Gesher Galicia Digital Map Manager Jay Osborn in POLIN Museum with Magdalena Mizgalska, historian and Resource Center staff member.*



As part of the agreement, Gesher Galicia selects, prepares, and donates print-ready high-resolution images from the digital map files it has previously assembled for its award-winning online Map Room, from scans of archived historical paper maps; the print-ready files are annotated with map titles (town and year), the source archive, and a scale bar. The POLIN Museum then manages printing and delivery of one map per image and adds these cadastral maps to its large print collection of street, regional, topographic, and other maps.



Identifying numbered buildings on this beautiful 1828 cadastral map of Grzymatów (in today's Ukraine).

The cadastral maps were originally drafted at high scale (typically 1:2880) from very accurate surveys of the 19th and early 20th centuries conducted in the Austrian Empire and its successor Austro-Hungarian Empire. They preserve remarkable details of the built and unbuilt landscape in and around the business and residential areas of the entire province. The surviving historical maps cover villages, towns, and cities from both western and eastern former Galicia, today southeast Poland and western Ukraine. The new maps for the Resource Center are printed at near original scale, allowing visitors to investigate individually drawn and numbered houses of their ancestors in the context of neigh-

borhoods, market squares, rivers, creeks, reservoirs; gardens, farms, and forests; synagogues, churches, and cemeteries; roads and railroads; local manors and imperial administration.

Approximately 200 cadastral maps are forecast for preparation and delivery to the Resource Center over the course of the project, covering nearly all of Gesher Galicia's growing collection. The first phase of the project was completed with delivery of 45 maps to the Center; another 50 maps are planned for 2016. Project status and planning is documented at the **Gesher Galicia Map Room**: <http://maps.geshergalicia.org/>. You can follow our progress via the Projects page: <http://www.geshergalicia.org/projects/>

The printed maps complement other learning aids available in the Resource Center for education, genealogy, and historical research. The Center is staffed by historians with expertise in a wide range of historical eras, locales, and themes. In addition to the maps, visitors have access to historical photographs of Jewish life in interwar Poland, computer databases devoted to the history and genealogy of Polish Jews, and a specialist library dedicated to the history, culture and religion of Jews of the region.

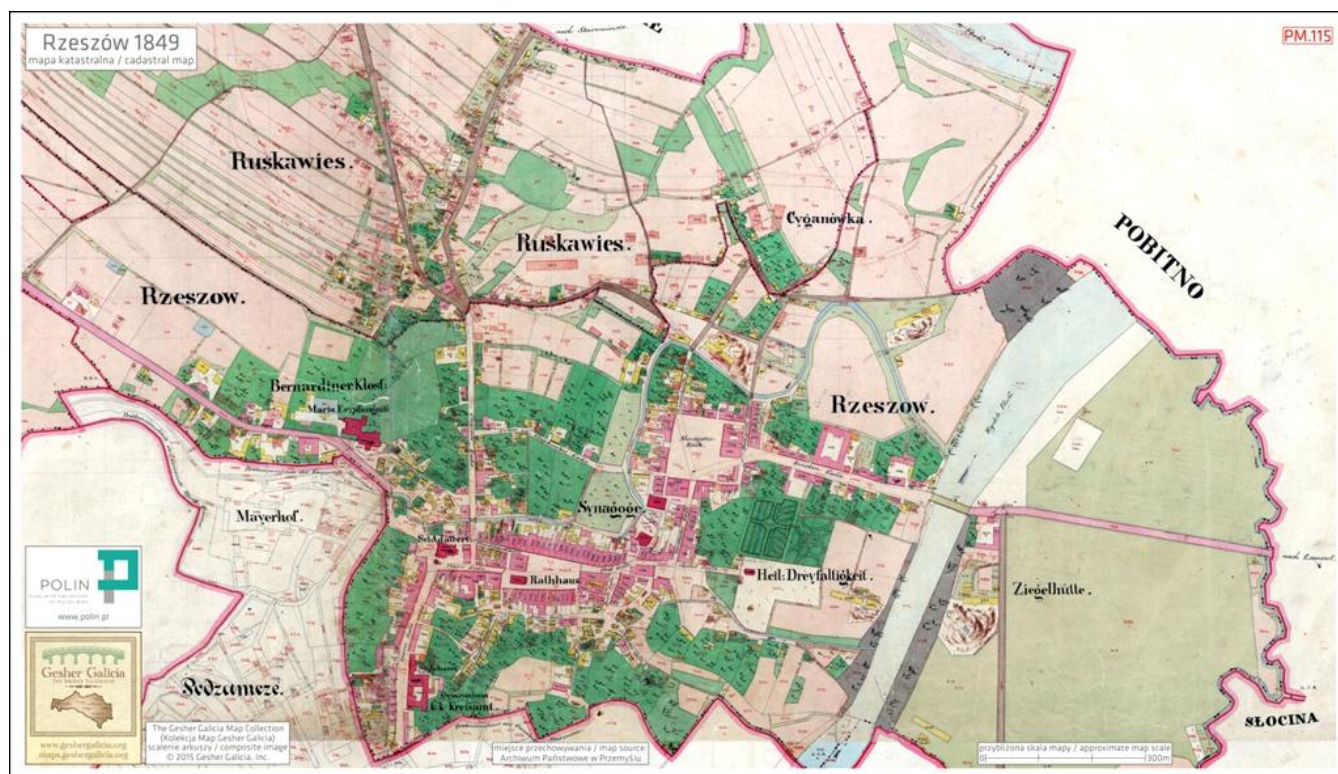


A small sampling of the maps from Gesher Galicia in the POLIN Museum's Resource Center.

In 2015, almost 6,000 people visited the Resource Center to further explore themes they experienced in the POLIN Museum's core collection, and to personally connect to the stories of Jewish life in Poland and the surrounding regions; now they have a unique opportunity to hold our historical maps in their hands and better understand who lived where in their ancestral towns.

The POLIN Museum Cadastral Maps Project is an offshoot of Gesher Galicia's [Cadastral Maps and Landowner Records Project](http://www.geshergalicia.org/projects/cadastral-maps/), begun in 2007. See <http://www.geshergalicia.org/projects/polin-museum-cadastral-maps/>. It provides another way for family historians to access the remarkable information in these historical maps.

Below: *The 1849 cadastral map of Rzeszów (original in Przemyśl State Archive, Poland).*



FACES OF GALICIA

We invite you to submit old photographs or drawings of Jewish inhabitants of Galicia to be featured in this series. (See p. 29.)

This may include pictures of your family members or photographs of unknown persons.

The material (jpg format, 300 dpi), with a simple description, should be submitted to: editor@geshergalicia.org.