

Map Corner

A Playful Journey through Galicia

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HISTORICAL MAPS OF Galicia were not always created for serious purposes, such as administration, taxation, or military strategy. While using the Polish archives search engine for map research, I recently stumbled upon a delightful 1895 children's game, *Podróż po Galicyi*, which means “a journey through Galicia.” The game board is reproduced here on the following page.

This printed paper game board was included as a year-end bonus for young subscribers to the Polish-language children's magazine *Mały Światek* (Little World), which was edited and published in Lemberg/Lwów from 1887 to 1939 but appears to have changed quite a bit after 1919. Surviving copies held at the Polish national library show that the magazine was produced in three issues per month for subscribers in Galicia and was eventually expanded to other countries as well. Although inexpensively produced, *Mały Światek* included a variety of entertaining and educational features.

Playing the Game

The game is simple: players travel around the game board to more than 70 Galician cities, learning their names and their geographical locations as they play. The object is to be the first to return to the start city of Lwów.

Players each deposit a stake of 10 counters—such as nuts, peas, beans, or other small items—in a pot

for scoring. Then, they roll a die in turns and move tokens around the game board from Lwów through the numbered cities. The journey zigzags and loops, first through eastern Galicia and near the borders of Bukovina and Russian Ukraine, then into western Galicia and near the borders of Russian Poland and the Kingdom of Hungary.

An amusing twist to the game is the “ticket fee,” which is the required payment of an additional counter to the pot when a player stops on any of the following 10 cities, where train lines cross the route: Stryj, Stanisławów, Rawa Ruska, Przemysł, Jarosław, Rzeszów, Tarnów, Nowy Sącz, Jasło, and Lesko. By 1895, when this game was created, these cities, and many others in Galicia, did have railroad stops. In fact, most of these 10 cities were crossings for more than one train line.

The game awards special status to Kraków and Lwów. While players collect five counters from the pot for passing Kraków, the first player to return to Lwów collects the entire pot. The one caveat is that the player must land exactly on Lwów, and the game continues until someone does.

Historical cadastral maps for well over half the cities featured on the game board appear online in the [Gesher Galicia Map Room](#). If you take this playful journey through Galicia, be sure to stop in some of those cities in the Map Room to see the sights!

The Galicia board game comes from the cartographic collections of the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw (AGAD). You can use the Polish archives online search engine to look for records of any type, and perhaps, to make some unexpected discoveries of your own. Links to the search engine and to other archives with holdings from the former Kingdom of Galicia are listed on the map sources page (<https://maps.geshergalicia.org/sources/>) of the Gesher Galicia Map Room.

DAR ŚW. MIKOŁAJA



Podróż po Galicji Gra towarzyska dla czytelników „Małego Świątka”.

Objaśnienie gry:

Liczba przegranych może być dowolna.
 Każdy gracz otrzymuje do gry 10 znaczków (monetki, spienik grosza lub inne). Następnie wszyscy
 przegrani są rozdani. Każdy gracz otrzymuje po kolei kody, a kto wygrał liczbę
 przegranych równą swojej liczbie przegranych, ten wygrał i t. d.
 Kod (N. 33), Przemyśl (N. 31), Jarosław (N. 32), Sambor (N. 34), Tarnobrzeg (N. 35), Drohobycz (N. 36),
 Lwów (N. 37), Przemyśl (N. 38), Jarosław (N. 39), Sambor (N. 40), Tarnobrzeg (N. 41), Drohobycz (N. 42),
 Lwów (N. 43), Przemyśl (N. 44), Jarosław (N. 45), Sambor (N. 46), Tarnobrzeg (N. 47), Drohobycz (N. 48),
 Lwów (N. 49), Przemyśl (N. 50), Jarosław (N. 51), Sambor (N. 52), Tarnobrzeg (N. 53), Drohobycz (N. 54),
 Lwów (N. 55), Przemyśl (N. 56), Jarosław (N. 57), Sambor (N. 58), Tarnobrzeg (N. 59), Drohobycz (N. 60),
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 Lwów (N. 67), Przemyśl (N. 68), Jarosław (N. 69), Sambor (N. 70), Tarnobrzeg (N. 71), Drohobycz (N. 72),
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 Lwów (N. 91), Przemyśl (N. 92), Jarosław (N. 93), Sambor (N. 94), Tarnobrzeg (N. 95), Drohobycz (N. 96),
 Lwów (N. 97), Przemyśl (N. 98), Jarosław (N. 99), Sambor (N. 100), Tarnobrzeg (N. 101), Drohobycz (N. 102).

Premia „Małego Świątka” na rok 1895.