

SODRZEJEWSKI

Requested by Marilyn Novak.

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If the form of this name is correct, it is pronounced roughly "sod-zhay-EFF-skee." I have to say "if the form of this name is correct" because I could not find any data confirming that such a name ever existed in Poland. I could not find the name mentioned on the Moikrewni Web site (<http://www.moikrewni.pl/mapa/>), the Herby site (<http://www.herby.com.pl/indexslo.html>), or in the book *Nazwiska Polaków* [The Surnames of Poles] by Polish expert Kazimierz Rymut.

Now there's no question that legitimate Polish surnames have existed that do not show up in modern sources, even in Rymut's book (though he's more likely to include old names than the other two sources I mentioned). I have encountered plenty of names whose existence is historically attested in reliable sources, but they've died out and no longer appear in Poland. Still, my experience has been that names for which I can find no trace are *usually* misspelled. Not always, but usually.

I should add that surnames in the form *X-ewski* or *X-owski* can mean "of the kin of X," especially in cases where the X part is from a popular first name. So if *Sodrzejewski* is the correct form of this name, we would expect it to refer to a place named with a name beginning *Sodrzej-*. I could not find such a place in the *Słownik geograficzny* (http://www.dir.icm.edu.pl/dirop/index.php/Słownik_geograficzny/) or in Bystrzycki's *Skorowidz miejscowości* (<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=12786&from=metadatabase&dirids=1>). I also tried looking at some possibilities that might be turned into *Sodrzej-*, such as *Sądrzej-* or *Sondrzej-* or *Szodrzej-*. No luck.

The closest candidate I could come up with was *Szczodrzejewo*. That is the name of a village in Września county of Wielkopolskie province, located about 8 km. southeast of Miłosław. The *Słownik geograficzny* entry for this place mentions a family named *Szczodrzejewski*, "ones from Szczodrzejewo," (Vol. 11, page 859). The Moikrewni site shows 4 people bearing the masculine form of the name, *Szczodrzejewski* (<http://www.moikrewni.pl/mapa/kompletny/szczodrzejewski.html>), and four people bearing the feminine form, *Szczodrzejewska* (<http://www.moikrewni.pl/mapa/kompletny/szczodrzejewska.html>), all living in Warsaw province as of 2002.

This name would be pronounced roughly "sh'chod-zhay-EFF-skee." That initial combination that Poles spell *Szcz-* is very hard for anyone but Slavs to pronounce, and it would not be at all surprising if it was simplified to an "s" or "sh" sound. So it is not too farfetched to suggest *Szczodrzejewski* **might** be the name that was simplified to *Sodrzejewski*. At least, it is the closest reasonable match for which I can find any information whatsoever.

I don't know if that's any help, but it's the best I could come up with.

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