

de Sapporo" is published in Sapporo; a team composed of Japanese, Polish and Russian authors is preparing his biography, project financed by the Japanese Government grant. Three international conferences devoted to Piłsudski were held: in Sapporo (1985), Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk (1991), and Cracow and Zakopane (1999); a number of Japanese and Polish biographical films devoted to him have been produced; the Polish Post issued a stamp featuring his likeness; there are commemorative medals and plaques in honour of this exile and ethnographer of international renown who remained forgotten until very recently. The coins issued by the NBP are also intended to pay homage to the researcher who should remain vivid in our memory.

Prof. dr hab. Antoni Kuczyński.
University of Wrocław
Chair of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology

Translation: NBP

● The National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation coins commemorating Bronisław Piłsudski:

On 1 October 2008

with face value of **10 zł** - struck in proof finish in silver;

On 29 September 2008

with face value of **2 zł** – struck in standard finish in Nordic Gold alloy.

● The purpose of the issue is to remember the activity of the famous Polish ethnographer.

The National Bank of Poland

holds the exclusive right to issue the currency in Poland.

Whereas the NBP issues **coins and banknotes of general circulation**, since 1966 it has also been issuing collector coins.

In 2006, the first Polish **collector banknote** was put into circulation. The issue of collector items is destined both to commemorate events, anniversaries and well-known personalities and to disseminate knowledge about Polish culture, science and tradition.

Since 1996, the NBP has also issued the **occasional Nordic Gold coins of general circulation of 2 złote denomination**.

All coins issued by the NBP are legal tender in Poland.

Since 1997 the NBP has issued a series of coins „Polish Travellers and Explorers”. In this series silver coins of 10 zloty denomination and Nordic Gold coins of 2 zloty denomination are minted. The subject “Bronisław Piłsudski” is the eighth in this series.

Information on the Issue Schedule and how to purchase the coins can be found at:

www.nbp.pl
www.numizmatyka.nbportal.pl

The coins were struck by the State Mint in Warsaw.

Printed by NBP Printing Office

NBP

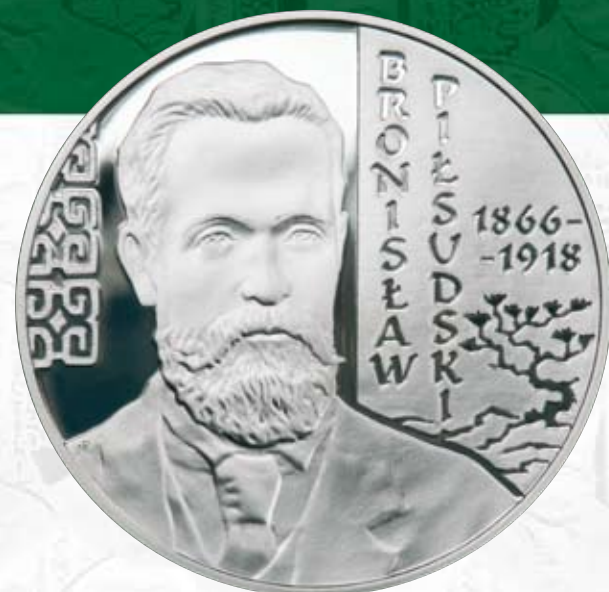
National Bank of Poland

COINS



POLISH TRAVELLERS AND EXPLORERS

Bronisław Piłsudski 1866-1918



COINS ISSUED IN 2008 COINS ISSUED IN 2008

Polish Travellers and Explorers: Bronisław Piłsudski (1866-1918)

- Bronisław Piłsudski (1866-1918) – exile and ethnographer, also called the King of the Ainu people, brother of Marshal Józef Piłsudski. He was born in Zulovo, Lithuania. In 1886, he started law studies at Saint Petersburg University, yet he failed to graduate as he was involved in a plot to assassinate Tsar Alexander III. Then, a twist of fate brought him to quite a different reality, distant from his youthful plans. In St Petersburg, he was sentenced to death penalty, which was later commuted to fifteen years' heavy labour on Sakhalin Island. He arrived on Sakhalin in August 1887. His exile experience encompassed working as a woodcutter, prison clerk, meteorologist, builder of meteorological stations, as well as teacher and ethnographer, activities that preoccupied him most. In one of his articles, Piłsudski wrote that he enjoyed contacts with the locals, as "this was the only group on the island to remain morally uncorrupted." He gave the following description of his commitment: "I became close to those people who suffer unjust treatment and face extinction... I treated them, vaccinated them against pox, taught them to read and write; I was their interpreter and advocate before the authorities. I won their full confidence and was accepted as a member of one of the families."
- Bronisław Piłsudski is considered a distinguished ethnographer specialising in the research into the culture of Sakhalin indigenous people – the Ainu, Oroks, and Nivkhs. His research achievements have been widely acknowledged by contemporary cultural anthropologists

and ethnologists all over the world. Moreover, he helped to preserve the cultural identity and integrity of the local peoples by sending memoranda to the tsarist authorities. He also established schools for the Ainu. Piłsudski gathered ethnographic collections for the museums in St Petersburg and Vladivostok. In that, he was supported by Russian scientific societies, thanks to which the conditions of his exile were relaxed and in 1899 he took up work of a custodian at the museum in Vladivostok. He also participated in the expedition led by Wacław Sieroszewski to the island of Hokkaido aimed at conducting research into the culture of the Hokkaido Ainu (1903). Afterwards, he settled back in Sakhalin. Preoccupied with studying the indigenous culture, he remained on friendly terms with the natives of the island. The Nivkhs dubbed him "Akan" – the big brother; his wife - with whom he had a son and a daughter - was Ainu. Their descendants still live in Japan.

- Friendly and family relations with the natives allowed Piłsudski to describe their customs and traditions. He came to know the secrets of shamanism and the cult of the bear. He collected texts of prayers, legends and songs, as well as materials to compile dictionaries using the innovative method of phonographic recording; he also documented the culture in photographs. Piłsudski's life in exile was influenced by different circumstances, yet it was marked by an abundance of emotions and involvement in the life of the natives. He left his Ainu family and

Sakhalin in 1905, when he illegally went to Japan. He spent 8 months there studying the Ainu culture. He then left for the United States and in the fall of 1906, he returned to Poland to settle in Galicia – first in Cracow, later in Zakopane and Lviv. His ethnographic research conducted in the Podhale region in the years 1906-1914 is also worth noting. At the outbreak of World War I, he left for Vienna and subsequently for Switzerland and France, where he worked in the office of the Polish National Committee. He committed suicide on 17 May 1918 in Paris and was buried in the Montmorency cemetery. In 2000, a symbolic tombstone was erected in honour of Piłsudski in the "Pęksowy Brzyzek" Cemetery in Zakopane.

- Bronisław Piłsudski left a vast collection of scientific work, which was only partially published during his life in French, Japanese, German, Polish and Russian languages. There were attempts to combine the materials during the interwar period, but that was only possible at the end of the 20th century with the establishment of the International Committee for the Preservation and Assessment of the Scientific Legacy of Bronisław Piłsudski and the publishing of his collected works (The Collected Works of Bronisław Piłsudski). A monument in honour of Bronisław Piłsudski was erected in Sakhalin, a mountain in Sakhalin was named after him and there is also the Bronisław Piłsudski scientific institute which publishes a yearbook entitled "Izwiestija Instituta Nasledija Bronisława Piłsudskiego." A periodical entitled "Piłsudskiana

COINS ISSUED IN 2008 COINS ISSUED IN 2008 COINS ISSUED IN 2008 COINS ISSUED IN 2008 COINS ISSUED IN 2008 COINS ISSUED IN 2008 COINS ISSUED IN 2008



FACE VALUE **10** ZŁ

metal **925/1000 Ag** ■ finish **proof** ■ diameter **32.00 mm**
weight **14.14 g** ■ mintage (volume) **99,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: On the left-hand side, an image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. In the middle, images of a man and a woman holding a child in her arms, in Ainu costume, against the background of stylised images of mountains. On the right-hand side and vertically, a stylised fragment of an ornament from Ainu costume. Below the figures and in the centre, an inscription: 10 zł; on the right-hand side, notation of the year of issue: 2008; on the left-hand side, a stylised fragment of an ornament from Ainu costume. At the top and on the right-hand side, a semi-circular inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA. The Mint's mark under the Eagle's left leg: M/W.

REVERSE: A stylised image of Bronisław Piłsudski's bust. On the left-hand side, a stylised fragment of an ornament from Ainu costume. On the right-hand side and vertically, an inscription: BRONISŁAW/PIŁSUDSKI, and a horizontal inscription: 1866-/1918. Underneath, a stylised image of a pine tree.

Coin designer: **ROUSSANKA NOWAKOWSKA**



FACE VALUE **2** ZŁ

metal **CuAl5Zn5Sn1 alloy** ■ finish **standard** ■ diameter **27.00 mm**
weight **8.15 g** ■ mintage (volume) **1,100,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: An image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland; at the sides of the Eagle, the notation of the year of issue: 20-08; below the Eagle, an inscription: ZŁ 2 ZŁ, in the rim an inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA preceded and followed by six pearls. The Mint's mark under the Eagle's left leg: M/W.

REVERSE: On the right-hand side, a stylised image of Bronisław Piłsudski's bust. On the left-hand side, a figure of a seated man in Ainu costume against the background of stylised images of mountains. Below the figure, a stylised fragment of an ornament from Ainu costume. At the bottom, a semi-circular inscription: BRONISŁAW PIŁSUDSKI 1866-1918.

ON THE EDGE: An inscription: NBP, eight times repeated: every second one inverted 180 degrees, separated by stars.

Obverse designer: **EWA TYC-KARPIŃSKA**
Reverse designer: **ROUSSANKA NOWAKOWSKA**