

● The National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation coins commemorating 450th anniversary of the Polish Post:

on **19 November 2008**

200 zł – struck in proof finish in gold,
10 zł – struck in proof finish in silver,

on **17 November 2008**

2 zł – struck in standard finish in Nordic Gold alloy

The National Bank of Poland

holds the exclusive right to issue the currency
in the Republic of Poland.

In addition to issuing **coins and banknotes of general circulation**, the NBP issues collector coins and banknotes. The issue of collector items is designed both to commemorate events, anniversaries and well-known personalities and to disseminate knowledge about Polish culture, science and tradition.

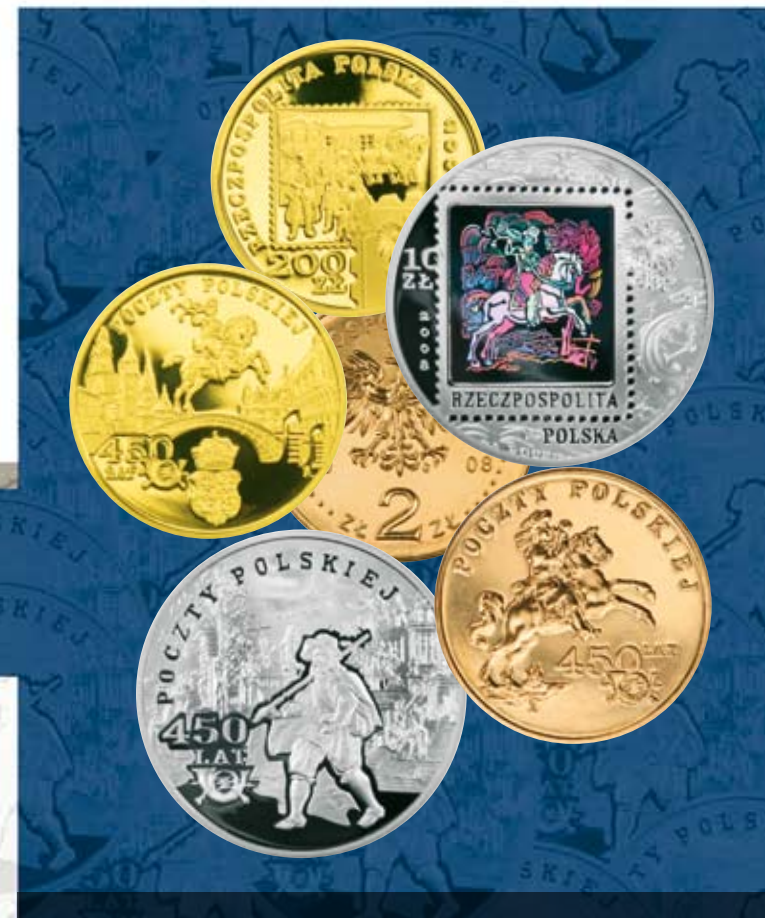
Since 1996, the NBP has also been issuing **occasional Nordic Gold coins of 2 zloty denomination**.

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

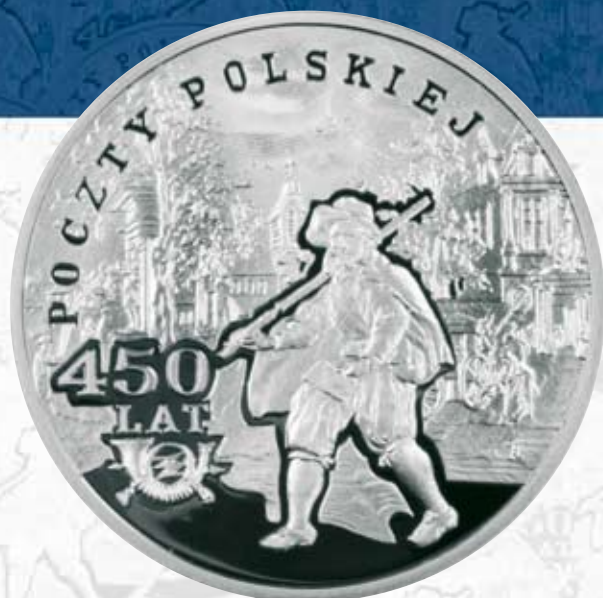
NBP

National Bank of Poland

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COINS ISSUED IN 2008 COINS ISSUED IN 2008



Information on the schedule of issue
and the sale of coins can be found at the websites:

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

The coins have been struck
at the Polish Mint Plc in Warsaw.

Edited and printed: NBP Printing House

450th Anniversary of the Polish Post

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● 450 years ago - on 18 October 1558 – king Sigismundus II Augustus [Zygmunt August] issued an official legal act concerning Polish postal service. This day is acknowledged as the beginning of the post in Poland.

● The King issued the so-called „A Privilege for Prosper Prowana in the Matter of the Postal Services”, where he ordained: „ that we in pursuance of our own and my subjects’ convenience, in order that both us, the King, and royal subjects can conveniently to Italy forward letters and manage their affairs there – we initiate a permanent postal route, known under the name of the post office, id est, relay post rider system covering the distance between Cracow and Venice, operating on an ongoing basis in all times and seasons of the year and on particular days”.

● This first regular postal service ran from Cracow via Vienna and Graz to Venice; a letter took 9 days to reach the addressee. A few years later postal services were established between Cracow and Vilnius.

● The organization of the royal post office in Poland was supervised by Prosper Prowana, of Italian descent, succeeded in his duties by Sebastian Montelupi. A special credit for the development of the Polish postal system goes to two Polish kings. In 1583 Stephen Báthory [Stefan Batory] was the first ever to introduce a flat postal fee which was set at the level of 4 Groschen

[grossus] per one lot [i.e. 1/32 of a pound], irrespective of the distance covered. The second king was Stanislaus II of Poland [Stanislaw August Poniatowski] who, in the final years of the Commonwealth of Poland and Lithuania, officially guaranteed the secrecy of correspondence and introduced the so-called initializing cancellation-seals – early forms of post stamps. A number of new routes was then launched, postal workers were issued identical uniforms and post offices received consistent visual identification. The 18th century was the age of travel. Hence, under the reign of Stanislaus II the post office expanded into new services: i.a. express mail, rent-a-coach services, shipments to order and so-called relays. During the partition of Poland the postal services were operated within the territories of respective partitioning empires. The restricted autonomy of the Duchy of Warsaw established in 1807 and the Kingdom of Poland created in 1815 made it possible to develop postal services - the service range was then extended to cover delivery of press and cashless money transfers. At that time the number of passenger transport grew considerably. In 1860 the first Polish post stamp was put into circulation. Although patterned on Russian post stamps, it bore a Polish inscription indicating its price - 10 copecks per lot.

● In the second half of the 19th century the first electromagnetic Morse telegraph went into operation in the Polish territory, and in 1881 the Bell Society established the first telephone network in Warsaw. However, it was

not until Poland regained independence in 1918 that the reconstruction of the Polish postal system began. Following the re-integration of the three post-partition zones and the unification of post-office items, such as mail boxes, labels, post marks, the period of the Second Polish Republic saw a rapid development of the Polish postal system. In 1919 Poland joined the Universal Postal Union and International Telegraph Union. On 22 March 1928 the state-run enterprise “Polish Post, Telegraph and Telephone” [“Polska Poczta, Telegraf i Telefon”] came into life. In the 1930s the range of postal services was further widened, postal transport was modernized, and a rapid development of telegraph and telephone communication followed. With the end of World War II, the reconstruction of the postal system commenced, the state operator “Polish Post, Telegraph and Telephone”, was re-established to continue its activities until the corporate restructuring in 1992 into two separate companies: public utility company Polish Post [“Poczta Polska”] and Polish Telecommunication [“Telekomunikacja Polska”]– joint-stock company of the State Treasury.

Jadwiga Bartkow-Domagala
Museum of Post Office and Telecommunication in Wrocław

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 **200** ZŁ

metal **900/1000 Au** ■ finish **proof** ■ diameter **27.00 mm**
 weight **15.50 g** ■ mintage (volume) **11,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: On the right-hand side at the bottom, an image of the Eagle established as the state emblem of the Republic of Poland against a background of a fragment of post stamp. In the central part, a stylized post stamp with a fragment of the image of a watercolour picture depicting the change of horses at a postal stage. At the bottom on the left-hand side, an inscription: 200/ZŁ. On the left-hand side and at the top a circumscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA. On the right-hand side vertically the notation of the year of issue: 2008. The Mint's mark, M/W, under the Eagle's left leg.

REVERSE: In the central part, a stylized image of a 19th century mounted post rider on horse crossing a bridge. Below, a stylized image of the coat of arms of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in use during the reign of the king Sigismundus Augustus. On the left-hand side, a fragment of stylized image of the Wawel Cathedral and the Wawel Royal Castle in Cracow. On the right-hand side, a stylized image of St. Mark's Square in Venice and the outlines of fragments of two gondolas. At the bottom on the left-hand side, an inscription: 450/LAT (450th anniversary). Below the number "450", a stylized image of a postal trumpet. At the top, a circumscription: POCZTY POLSKIEJ (of the Polish Post).

Coin designer: **ROBERT KOTOWICZ**



FACE VALUE **10** ZŁ

metal **925/1000 Ag** ■ finish **proof** ■ diameter **32.00 mm**
 weight **14.14 g** ■ mintage (volume) **135,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: At the top on the right-hand side, an image of the Eagle established as the state emblem of the Republic of Poland. In the central part, a stylized image of a post stamp depicting stylized images of a mounted post rider on horse playing the trumpet and of trees, changing colours depending on the tilt angle. In the background of the post stamp, a stylized image of a postal map and on the right-hand side a fragment of an image of a coach clock. On the left-hand side an inscription: 10/ZŁ. Below the inscription, vertically, the notation of the year of issue: 2008. At the bottom an inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA /POLSKA. The Mint's mark, M/W, under the Eagle's left leg.

REVERSE: In the central part a stylized image of a 16th century post courier. In the background a stylized fragment of a 17th century engraved copperplate with an image of an inn. At the bottom on the left-hand side an inscription: 450/LAT (450th anniversary). Below, a stylized image of a postal trumpet. On the left-hand side and at the top a circumscription: POCZTY POLSKIEJ (of the Polish Post).

Coin designer: **ROBERT KOTOWICZ**

The owner of the woodcut "16th-century Post Courier": the National Museum in Wrocław
 Photograph: Wojciech Rogowicz



FACE VALUE **2** ZŁ

metal **CuAl5Zn5Sn1 alloy** ■ finish **standard** ■ diameter **27.00 mm**
 weight **8.15 g** ■ mintage (volume) **1,400,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: An image of the Eagle established as the state emblem of the Republic of Poland, on both sides of the Eagle a 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, M/W, under the Eagle's left leg.

REVERSE: A stylized image of a mounted post rider on horse of the beginning of 18th century. At the bottom on the right-hand side an inscription: 450 LAT (450th anniversary). Below the inscription a stylized image of a postal trumpet. At the top a circumscription: POCZTY POLSKIEJ (of the Polish Post).

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

Obverse designer: **EWA TYC-KARPIŃSKA**
 Reverse designer: **ROBERT KOTOWICZ**