

● The National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation coins commemorating the 65th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising and Warsaw poets Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński and Tadeusz Gajcy with the following face values:

On **22 July 2009**

2 zł – struck in standard finish, in Nordic Gold,

On **24 July 2009**

10 zł – struck in proof finish, in silver, with gold-plated outer ring,

10 zł – struck in proof finish, in silver, with gold-plated inner core.

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.

COINS ISSUED IN 2009 COINS ISSUED IN 2009



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 Mint of Poland in Warsaw.

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NBP

National Bank of Poland

c o i n s



65th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising
Warsaw poets
Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński
and Tadeusz Gajcy

65th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising: Warsaw poets Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński and Tadeusz Gajcy

● Contrary to the Latin proverb: inter arma silent Musae (the muses are silent amongst war), during World War II a lot of young poets manifested their outstanding talents in the occupied Warsaw. Born between 1921-1922, highly gifted, they decided to fight, even though they knew they were facing death, like “stones tossed onto the ramparts”, as Slowacki, a great Polish romantic poet, once put it. The most brilliant ones were Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński and Tadeusz Gajcy. Both were born and died in Warsaw.

● Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński, who used the penname of Jan Bugaj, was born in 1921. He graduated from the famous Stefan Batory Secondary School in Warsaw in 1939 and intended to study at the Academy of Fine Arts. In 1942 he became a student of Polish Philology at the underground University of Warsaw and a co-editor of the underground literary monthly *Droga* [The Road]. In 1943 he joined the so-called Assault Groups, an armed resistance formation rooted in the scouting movement and subordinate to the Home Army. He graduated from the secret Infantry Non-Commissioned Officer School “Agricola” and left it with the title of officer cadet in the rank of senior rifleman. He took part in the operation of derailing a German train in Tłuszcz-Urle sector, north-east of Warsaw. Initially, he served in “Zośka” battalion (in the rank of corporal in platoon “Aleks”, company “Rudy”), and later in “Parasol” battalion (as deputy commander in 3rd platoon, 3rd company). Surprised by the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising and unable to make it to his platoon, he joined the unit of “Leszek” (Lesław Kosowski) fighting in the area of Teatralny Square. He was killed on 4 August 1944 in Blank’s Palace.

● Baczyński’s poems, referring to the romantic tradition, are a record of accelerated maturity, tantalising choices and moral dilemmas faced by the poet

himself and by the whole generation. Full of symbolic visions and apocalyptic premonitions, the poems reflect the quandary of the artist embracing the obligation to fight the occupants, they speak of the horror of death, but also of this world’s beauty. Some of his most famous poems are subtle love lyrics addressed to Barbara Drapczyńska, whom he married in 1942. The same year saw the publication of his poems in two underground anthologies: *Pieśń niepodległa* [The independent song] and *Słowo prawdziwe* [A word that does not lie]. He also published two volumes: *Wiersze wybrane* [Selected poems] (1942) and *Arkusz poetycki* [A sheet of poetry] (1944). Earlier on, he had personally designed and hand-made a number of copies of the volumes *Zamknięty echem* [Contained by echo] (1940), *Dwie miłości* [Two loves] (1940) and *Modlitwa* [The prayer] (1942). His literary legacy, preserved in manuscripts – approximately 500 lyrics, short stories and a verse drama – reveals a poetic talent that can be assessed as equal to those of Slowacki or Norwid.

● Tadeusz Gajcy a.k.a. Karol Topornicki was born in 1922. He attended the Secondary School of Marian Fathers in Bielany. In an attempt to join the army in September 1939, he left Warsaw and headed east, eventually reaching Włodawa. When he returned to Warsaw, he passed his final secondary exam (1941) in the underground education system. He then enrolled to study Polish Philology at the underground University of Warsaw. He was connected with the resistance organisation called the Confederation of the Nation and its literary monthly *Sztuka i Naród* [Art and Nation], of which he became the editor in November 1943. Risking his life, he took part in the famous operation of lying a wreath at the statue of Copernicus in 1943. During the Warsaw Uprising he served in a motorised transport unit and then in the group of “Ryszard” (Jerzy Bondorowski).

He most probably died on 16 August 1944 in the rubble of a tenement house at 1/3 Przejazd Street, blown up by Germans. He was accompanied by his poet friend Zdzisław Stroiński, who also died that day.

● Gajcy created vision-based lyrics, rich in metaphors, combining elements of fairy tale, dream and reality. He referred to the tradition of catastrophists. He chose to be active, seeing the role of the poet as the teacher of the nation. His narrative poems *Z dna* [From the bottom] (echoing his 1939 experiences) and *Widma* [Spectres] (published in 1943 in his debut volume with the same title) were permeated with catastrophic imagery. He authored a drama *Homer i Orchidea* [Homer and the Orchid], prose pieces, literary critical articles and a grotesque stage performance *Misterium niedzielne* [Sunday Mystery Play]. The tragic predicament of an artist who loses the “purity” of art when he chooses to engage in battle found the fullest expression in the poems collected in the volume *Grom powszedni* [The daily thunderbolt] (1944). The poem *Do potomnego* [To my descendant], written shortly before the Warsaw Uprising, became his poetic testament.

● Neither of the young poets was born a soldier. It was the moral and patriotic duty that stopped them from locking themselves up in the sublime world of art. The heavy loss to Polish culture which was caused by their death is best epitomised by the famous phrase: “We belong to a nation whose lot it is to shoot at the enemy with diamonds”.

**Elżbieta Szymańska
Museum of Literature**

COINS ISSUED IN 2009 COINS ISSUED IN 2009



FACE VALUE **10** ZŁ

metal inner core: Ag 925/1000, outer ring Ag 925/1000
plated with Au 999/1000 ■ finish proof ■ dimensions 32,00 mm
weight 14.14 g ■ mintage (volume) 100,000 pcs

OBVERSE: At the top, an image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland against the background of a stylised rift in a wall filled by flames. To the right of the Eagle, the notation of the year of issue: 2009. Below, an inscription: 10 ZŁ. In the centre, an inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA/POLSKA (Republic of Poland). On the left and right, stylised silhouettes of burning buildings. In the rim, a circumscription: 65. ROCZNICA POWSTANIA WARSZAWSKIEGO (65th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising). At the bottom, in a semicircular fashion, stylised images of sheets of paper, a book, a helmet and the Symbol of Fighting Poland, against the background of a stylised image of a brick wall fragment. The Mint’s mark: M/W under the Eagle’s left leg.

REVERSE: In the centre, against the background of a stylised image of flames, a stylised bust of Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński with a badge of “Agricola” pinned to his jacket. At the top, a semicircular inscription: KRZYSZTOF KAMIL BACZYŃSKI. On the right-hand side, an inscription: POECI/WARSZAWSCY (Warsaw Poets). At the bottom, on the right, against the background of a stylised image of sheets of paper, an excerpt from the poem “Pocałunek” (A Kiss) by Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński: “...TRZEBANAMTERAZ/UMIERAĆ/BY POLSKA/UMIAŁA/ZNOWŻYC.” (we have to die now, so that Poland could live).

Coin designer: ROUSSANKA NOWAKOWSKA



FACE VALUE **10** ZŁ

metal inner core: Ag 925/1000 plated with Au 999/1000,
outer ring Ag 925/1000 ■ finish proof ■ dimensions 32,00 mm
weight 14.14 g ■ mintage (volume) 100,000 pcs

OBVERSE: At the top, an image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. To the right of the Eagle, an inscription: 10 ZŁ. Under the inscription, the notation of the year of issue: 2009. To the left of the Eagle, a stylised image of burning buildings and an explosion in front of them. Under the Eagle, a stylised image of the national flag of the Republic of Poland above a collapsed brick wall. Against the background of the wall, an excerpt of the poem “Do potomnego” by Tadeusz Gajcy: “...IDĘ PRZEZ POWIETRZE, A ZA MNĄ MIASTO MOJE IDZIE” (I walk through the air, and my city walks with me). At the top, a semicircular inscription: 65. ROCZNICA POWSTANIA WARSZAWSKIEGO (65th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising). At the bottom, a semicircular inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland). The Mint’s mark, M/W, under the Eagle’s left leg.

REVERSE: In the centre, a stylised image of a bust of Tadeusz Gajcy in profile. On the right, an outline of a fragment of a rifle. At the top, a semicircular inscription: TADEUSZ GAJCY. At the bottom, in the background of a stylised image of a sheet of paper, an inscription: POECI/WARSZAWSCY (Warsaw Poets). On the left, a fragment of a stylised image of the Symbol of Fighting Poland.

Coin designer: ROUSSANKA NOWAKOWSKA



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 the sides of the Eagle, the notation of the year of issue: 20-09, under the Eagle, an inscription: ZŁ 2 ZŁ. In the rim, an inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland), preceded and followed by six pearls. The Mint’s mark, M/W, under the Eagle’s left leg.

REVERSE: A stylised image of the buildings of the Warsaw Rising Museum. At the top, on the right, an inscription: 65./ROCZNICA/POWSTANIA/WARSZAWSKIEGO (65th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising).

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

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