

# The National Bank of Poland

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

In addition to **coins and notes for general circulation**,  
the NBP issues **collector coins and notes**.

Issuing collector items is an occasion to commemorate  
important historic figures and anniversaries, as well  
as to develop the interest of the public in Polish culture,  
science and tradition.

Since 1996, the NBP has also been issuing **occasional 2 zloty**  
coins, struck **in Nordic Gold**, for general circulation.

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

## COINS ISSUED IN 2012 COINS ISSUED IN 2012

On 15 May 2012, the National Bank of Poland  
is going to put into circulation coins commemorating  
150 years of the National Museum in Warsaw,  
with face values of 10 and 2 zloty.

Information on the issue schedule and the possibility  
of acquiring 2 zł coins can be found at the  
[www.nbp.pl/money](http://www.nbp.pl/money)  
website.

Collector coins issued by the National Bank of Poland  
are sold in the Kolekcjoner service (Internet auction/Online shop)  
at the following website:

[www.kolekcjoner.nbp.pl](http://www.kolekcjoner.nbp.pl)

 **KOLEKCJONER**

and in regional branches of the NBP.

The coins were struck at the Mint of Poland in Warsaw.  
Edited and printed: NBP Printing Office

# NBP

National Bank of Poland

# c o i n s



## POLISH SHIPS

# “BŁYSKAWICA” - The Polish Navy Destroyer

# Polish Ships: “BŁYSKAWICA” - THE POLISH NAVY DESTROYER

● ORP “Blyskawica” (Warship of the Republic of Poland “Lightning”) was a vessel in the Navy of the Second Republic of Poland which served during World War II and, following her return home and participation in training activities, became a museum ship. She is a symbol of the continuity of the Polish Navy and its traditions. This famous warship, nowadays open to the public, has the Navy’s signs and symbols on permanent display and provides the public with an opportunity to witness certain elements of the maritime ceremonial and to meet some of the marine corps officers.

● “Blyskawica” was built for the Polish Navy in 1935–1937 by the British shipyard of John Samuel White & Company Ltd. Shipbuilders and Engineers in Cowes, on the Isle of Wight. The ship was launched on 1 October 1936 and the Polish military flag was hoisted on her on 25 November 1937. On 1 December 1937, she entered, for the very first time, her home port of Gdynia. The design of the vessel was enhanced using Polish technological solutions. Some of the equipment was provided by Poland.

● “Blyskawica” joined the Destroyer Division. Before the outbreak of the war, the division (with the exception of “Wicher” (“Gale”) was sent to Great Britain as part of the so-called Operation Peking. During the war, the ship served in the Polish Navy using naval bases in Great Britain. She took part in the Norwegian Campaign, in covering the Dunkirk evacuation, in the Battle of the Atlantic, in landing operations in Northern Africa and Normandy as well as other naval operations. In 1942, she valiantly defended the town of Cowes against a German air raid (the town has an active Friends of the ORP “Blyskawica” Society). She covered the total distance of 146,000 nautical miles, participated in escorting 83 convoys, carried out 108 patrols, contributed to sinking two enemy surface ships, damaged three submarines and shot down four aircraft (possibly even three more). The ship was heavily damaged three times.

● In 1947, “Blyskawica” returned to Poland and, having undergone renovation and rearmament, was classified as an anti-aircraft ship. When the last stage of her service was completed, necessary adjustments were introduced and in 1976 the ship replaced the worn-out ORP “Burza” (“Thunderstorm”) – Poland’s first museum ship. The exhibition on board the “Blyskawica” museum, the ship itself being a gigantic showpiece, consists of artillery pieces and underwater weaponry, engine/boiler compartments, fragments of crew accommodation, a radio station and a permanent historical exhibition. Basic tactical and technical data of the ORP “Blyskawica” are as follows: displacement – 2,782 t, length – 113.98 m, beam – 11.3 m, draught – 3.78–4.01 m, turbine rating – 54,000 hp, maximum speed – 42.5 knots. During the ship’s service, her armament underwent modernisation several times. The latest combination of weapons comprised four gun turrets (cal. 100 mm), four twin and two single anti-aircraft guns (cal. 37 mm), a triple torpedo launcher (cal. 533.4), four depth charge throwers and two depth charge projectors. She was in service for over thirty years and was particularly active during wartime. In 1969–76, she was moored in Świnoujście and since 1976 has remained in the port of Gdynia.

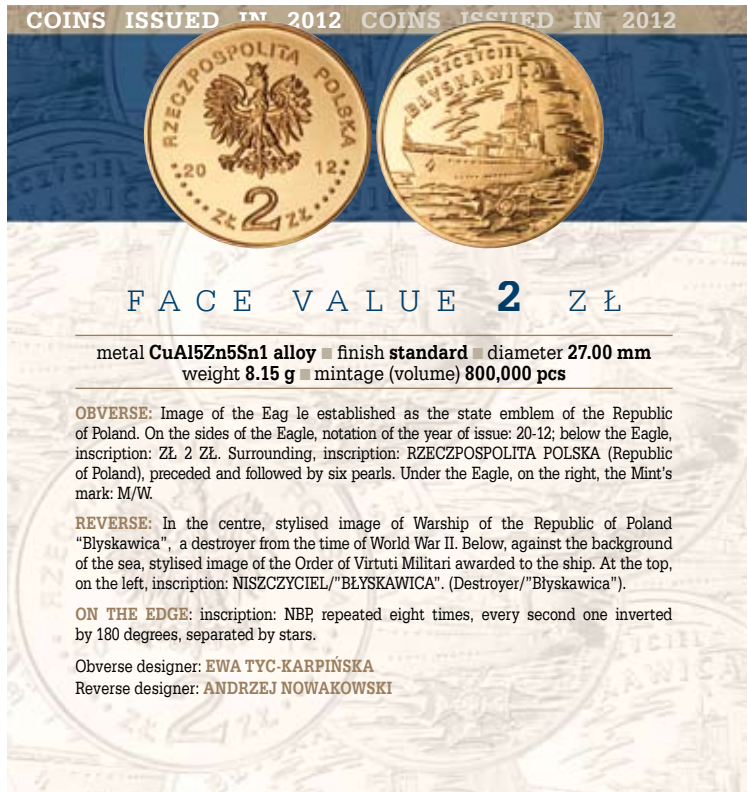
● On board the ship, various Navy celebrations take place – commissioning ceremonies are held, nomination and awards are handed in, musters are called, farewell ceremonies conducted; conferences and meetings are organised. Each year the ship is

visited by tens of thousands of people. In 1985, Friends of the ORP “Blyskawica” Society was established. In 1987, “Blyskawica”, as the only Navy ship so far, was awarded the Golden Cross of the War Order of Virtuti Militari in recognition of her services during World War II and her instrumental role in inspiring patriotic initiatives after her transformation into a museum.

● In 2007, the World Ship Trust honoured the vessel for her wartime merits with the International Maritime Heritage Award. In this way “Blyskawica” joined the international fleet of ships that have helped change the course of history.

**Walter PATER**

● **On 26 April 2012**, the National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation a coin of the “Polish Ships” series commemorating the ORP “Blyskawica” destroyer, with a face value of **2 zloty**, struck in standard finish in the Nordic Gold alloy.



metal **CuAl5Zn5Sn1 alloy** ■ finish **standard** ■ diameter **27.00 mm**  
weight **8.15 g** ■ mintage (volume) **800,000 pcs**

**OBVERSE:** Image of the Eagle established as the state emblem of the Republic of Poland. On the sides of the Eagle, notation of the year of issue: 20-12; below the Eagle, inscription: ZŁ 2 ZŁ. Surrounding, inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland), preceded and followed by six pearls. Under the Eagle, on the right, the Mint’s mark: M/W.

**REVERSE:** In the centre, stylised image of Warship of the Republic of Poland “Blyskawica”, a destroyer from the time of World War II. Below, against the background of the sea, stylised image of the Order of Virtuti Militari awarded to the ship. At the top, on the left, inscription: NISZCZYCIEL/“BŁYSKAWICA”. (Destroyer/“Blyskawica”).

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

Obverse designer: **EWA TYC-KARPIŃSKA**  
Reverse designer: **ANDRZEJ NOWAKOWSKI**