

# 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 20 September 2012, the National Bank of Poland  
will be putting into circulation coins commemorating  
Bolesław Prus, with the face values  
of 200 zł, 10 zł and 2 zł.**

Information on the issue schedule and the possibility  
of acquiring 2 zł coins can be found at the

**[www.nbp.pl/monety](http://www.nbp.pl/monety)**  
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.

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# NBP

National Bank of Poland

# c o i n s



POLISH SHIPS

“ORZEŁ”  
Submarine



# Polish Ships: “ORZEŁ” – SUBMARINE

● ORP “Orzeł” (Warship of the Republic of Poland “Eagle”) was built with funds raised by the public, whereas its weaponry cost was paid by the Polish Navy. It was developed at N. V. Koninklijke Maatschappij “de Schelde”, a shipyard in Vlissingen, Holland. The contract was signed in 1936. 15 January 1938 saw the christening and launching of the ship. Jadwiga Sosnowska, wife to general Kazimierz Sosnowski, became the ship’s “godmother”. On 2 February 1939, the Polish warship flag was officially raised and 5 days later the ship reached the navy port in Gdynia. The first commander of the ship was Lieutenant Commander Henryk Kloczkowski.

● On 1 September 1939, “Orzeł” entered the dispersal area in the Bay of Puck and on 4 September continued to Gotland, where Lieutenant Commander Kloczkowski went down with an unidentified disease and decided to seek help in Tallinn. The ship reached the roadstead of the Tallinn port on 14 September, and Kloczkowski was taken to hospital, while the command was taken by Lieutenant Jan Grudziński. On 15 September, he was submitted a decision on the ship’s internment on account of non-compliance of her sojourn with the provisions of the agreement concluded between Scandinavian and Baltic states in 1938. The ship was towed to the port and its disarming began. The crew, however, plotted an escape from Tallinn. On the night of 17 September, the ship left the port and plunged into the waters of the Gulf of Finland. Escape of “Orzeł” triggered a response by Estonia and both empires which were partitioning Poland at that time. The ship was expected to arrive in the Bay of Gdańsk or the shores of Sweden. The pursuit was however futile. Lieutenant Grudziński decided to stay in the Baltic and identify targets for the submarine’s torpedoes, until she runs out of fuel and the supplies of food and fresh water, and then to move to Great Britain. Ensign Marian Mokrzycki developed a makeshift map of the Baltic and the Danish straits based on a list of lighthouses in the area and his knowledge of the Baltic Sea. The end of regular warfare activities in Poland and the shortage of fresh water made Lieutenant Jan Grudziński decide on leaving the Danish straits, and the ship entered Rosyth on 14 October. The ship completed seven patrol missions from that base. She sank a German ship “Rio de Janeiro”, carrying soldiers and war materials, thus revealing the planned invasion of Norway. “Orzeł” submarine’s last patrol west of the exit of the Skagerrak began on 23 May. On 1 and 2 June, the ship was sent wireless messages to change her patrol area, but never acknowledged their receipt. “Orzeł” was declared missing on 11 June, after the ship’s crew failed to reply to return orders.

● 6 officers, a junior warrant officer and 53 petty-officers and ratings were lost along with the ship. The reason and location of her sinking remains unknown. She was assumed to have hit German mines on 7 June, but since this is a hypothesis only, the official date of “Orzeł” submarine’s loss is still 8 June 1940, the date of her expected return to base.

● Publications about “Orzeł” began to emerge already during the war. The ship was made famous by books and a feature film. A tradition was then developed that wreaths are laid in the area of the ship’s last patrol. Since the names of most famous historic vessels are transferred onto new naval units, the second submarine named “Orzeł” served under the Polish flag in 1962–1983, and since 1986, the Polish Navy operated the third “Orzeł” submarine. The legend of “Orzeł” was reborn in 1993, when a wreck of another ship was found during crude oil search on the continental shelf at the Norwegian

shores. An association was then formed seeking to find the wreck of “Orzeł”. The most spectacular, though unsuccessful, expedition was organised in 2008 onboard “Imor”, a sea exploration ship.

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● Tactical and technical data of the ship: displacement – 1,110/1,473.5 t, dimensions – 84.0 x 6.7 x 4.17 m, weaponry – 12 torpedo launchers and 20 torpedoes, a 105-mm sea artillery gun, a double 40-mm anti-aircraft gun and a coaxial 13.2 mm heavy machine gun. The ship operated two 4740 hp Diesel engines and two electric engines, 1100 hp, reached a maximum speed of 20/9 knots, surface range of 7,000 nautical miles at 10 knots, and underwater range of 100 nautical miles at 5 knots, maximum submerged position of 80 m, had a crew of 6 officers, 54 petty-officers and ratings.

**Walter PATER**  
**Polish Navy Museum**

● On **14 August 2012**, the National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation a coin of the series “Polish ships”, commemorating the “Orzeł” submarine, with the face value of **2 zł**, stuck in standard finish in Nordic Gold.



**FACE VALUE 2 ZŁ**

metal **CuAl5Zn5Sn1 alloy** ■ finish **standard** ■ diameter **27.00 mm**  
weight **8.15 g** ■ estimated mintage up to **800,000 pcs**

**OBVERSE:** An image of the Eagle established as the emblem of the Republic of Poland. On the sides of the Eagle, the notation of the year of issue: 20-12, below the Eagle, the inscription: ZŁ 2 ZŁ. Following the rim, the inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland), preceded and followed by six pearls. The Mint mark, M/W, under the Eagle, on the right.

**REVERSE:** Centrally, against a sea, a stylised image of ORP “Orzeł” submarine from WW2. Above it, the inscription ORZEŁ. At the top, in a semicircle, the inscription: OKRĘT PODWODNY (submarine).

**AROUND 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: **ANDRZEJ NOWAKOWSKI**