

in the rapidly changing world. The main theme of literary journalism and literary work by Prus was the Poles' immaturity and „ juvenility”, as he called it. He would often write about the excessive adherence of Poles to big gestures, heroic figures and beautiful images of the past. He urged a reliable assessment of national defects and complexes, and wrote that the Poles should learn everyday living the same way they study arithmetic or geography.

Ewa Paczoska

● On **20 September 2012**, the National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation a coin commemorating Bolesław Prus, with the following face values:

200 zł struck in proof finish in gold,

10 zł struck in proof finish in silver,

2 zł struck in standard finish in Nordic Gold.

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 złoty**
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 **18 October 2012**, the National Bank of Poland
will be putting into circulation a coin
of the “Polish Ships” series commemorating a light
cruiser “Dragon”, with the face value of **2 złoty**.

Information on the issue schedule can be found at:
www.nbp.pl/monety
website.

Collector coins issued by the NBP
are sold at the Internet auctions held
in the Kolekcjoner service at the following website:
www.kolekcjoner.nbp.pl

 **KOLEKCJONER**

and at the 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

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Bolesław Prus (1847-1912)

Bolesław Prus 1847-1912

● Bolesław Prus, born Aleksander Głowacki (born on 20 August 1847 in Hrubieszów, died on 19 May 1912 in Warsaw) is one of the leading figures in the Polish literary realism of the second half of the 19th century. He grew up in the Lublin region, but his adult life and work were associated with Warsaw. In 1863, Głowacki - then a 16-year-old high school student from Kielce - joined the January Uprising. Wounded in a skirmish near Siedlce, he was taken prisoner by the Russians. Those events remained in his memory as a traumatic experience. In 1866, he matriculated in the Department of Mathematics and Physics at the University of Warsaw, which at that time operated under the name of the Main School in Warsaw. In his third year of studies he terminated his university education due to financial difficulties. Later, he studied at the Department of Forestry at the Institute of Rural Husbandry and Forestry in Puławy, for a short time, from where in 1870 he came back to Warsaw for a permanent stay. Subsequently, he took on various jobs, i.a. he was a locksmith, wrote to newspapers. In 1872, he embarked on a career as a journalist. Soon after, he adopted his pen name of Bolesław Prus (derived from the name of the coat of arms of the Głowacki family), and so he began to sign his, as he believed, „trivia”, unworthy of a pen of a serious scientific columnist, whom he wished to become in the future. In 1874, he began working for „Kurier Warszawski” (Warsaw Courier), starting to contribute regular columns from the following year. His “Kroniki tygodniowe” (Weekly Chronicles) (later published in “Kurier Codzienny” (Daily Courier)) would run until the end of his life, and these were the first works which earned him popularity. Prus could comment on any topic in them: he recorded

both important and seemingly unimportant matters, dealt with the condition of Polish society and ... the state of pavements in Warsaw. As a chronicler Prus chose the perspective of an „unhurried passerby” who is interested in everything he comes across, as he listens to the rhythm of the present. He developed a distinctive columnist style combining humor with a serious reflection.

● Since the mid-1870s, Prus took up literature as a profession. His prose drew inspiration from the great figures of the European literary realism, yet from the inception of his career the writer sought his own way to realism. Short stories by Prus depict the world from the viewpoint which is unexpected or imperceptible in our common perspective. It is often a trivial event or an ordinary object that becomes a pretext for those microobservations (as in the most famous and superb short stories “Kamizelka” (The Waistcoat) and “Katarynka” (The Barrel Organ)), which can reveal what is hidden or overlooked in everyday life. Both in his small prosaic works and in short stories Prus, with a characteristic sensitivity to the situation of the poor and excluded, and the psychological sense of the subject, shows social problems which, despite being set in the realities of the 19th century, trigger reflections even today.

● That happens in “Lalka” (the Doll) (book edition 1890), which the writer himself described as „a novel of the great questions of our time”. It features an epic panorama of life in Warsaw in the late 1870s, showing different milieux of the modern city. The main protagonist, Stanisław Wokulski, a participant of the January Uprising, returns from exile to Warsaw, where he begins the life of a merchant and businessman.

Wokulski is, on the one hand, a success story, on the other hand – a melancholic, in vain searching for the meaning and purpose of his existence. He discerns the purpose of life in a beautiful aristocrat whom he romanticises, which inevitably leads to a disappointment. The narration develops in the rhythm of illusions and disillusion, and reveals the mechanism by which individuals and communities yield to idealistic illusions. The Doll, a picture of Polish society under transition, was not understood by his contemporaries - mainly due to the use of the experimental narrative and an open ending, which makes it impossible to explicitly close Wokulski’s story.

● “Emancypantki” (the New Woman) (book edition 1894) was another great novel by Prus. This work can be regarded as the voice of the writer on the emancipation of women, which was one of the pressing issues of the time. This is, however, predominantly a novel about a process of growing up of the main character - Madzia (Maggie), who is seeking her place in the world, experiencing a crisis of faith and finding her own way to God. In his only historical novel “Faraon” (Pharaoh) (book edition 1897) the writer presented the mechanisms of power and the functioning of the state. It also raises important questions about the conditions and possibilities of a rebellion. The last finite novel by Prus was “Dzieci” (Children) (book edition 1909), which showed a disturbing and dark image of the Polish revolution of 1905.

● His novels depict the story of a Pole who must contend with his own psyche and the circumstances of the times in which he lived. Therefore, it is worthwhile to return to the questions raised by the writer – most notably to opportunities for Polish business and culture

COINS ISSUED IN 2012 COINS ISSUED IN 2012 COINS ISSUED IN 2012 COINS ISSUED IN 2012 COINS ISSUED IN 2012 COINS ISSUED IN 2012 COINS ISSUED IN 2012



FACE VALUE **200** ZŁ

metal **Au 900/1000** ■ finish **proof** ■ diameter **27.00 mm**
weight **15.50 g** ■ mintage up to **3,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: On the left, a stylised image of a silhouette of Bolesław Prus walking the street. On the right, in the bottom half of the coin, an image of the Eagle established as the state emblem of the Republic of Poland. In the upper half of the coin, in the background, an outline of a stylised drosky and urban edifices. At the top, in a semicircle, an inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA [The Republic of Poland]. Below the inscription, the notation of the year of issue: 2012. At the bottom, in a separate surface, an inscription: 200 ZŁ. Below the Eagle, on the right, the Mint mark: M/W.

REVERSE: On the left, a stylised image of a bust of Bolesław Prus. On the right, starting from the top to the bottom, in a semicircle, an inscription: BOLESŁAW PRUS and, starting from the bottom to the top, the years: 1847-1912.

Coin designer: **ROUSSANKA NOWAKOWSKA**



FACE VALUE **10** ZŁ

metal **Ag 925/1000** ■ finish **proof** ■ diameter **32.00 mm**
weight **14.14 g** ■ mintage up to **30,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: On the left, in a separate surface, starting from the top to the bottom, an inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA [the Republic of]/2012. To the right of the inscription a stylised image of a silhouette of Bolesław Prus walking the street. On the right, in the upper half of the coin, in the background, stylised outline of the Old City in Warsaw, and in the lower part of the coin, an image of the Eagle established as the state emblem of the Republic of Poland. At the bottom, in a separate surface, an inscription POLSKA [Poland]. Above, in the middle, an inscription: 10 ZŁ. Below the Eagle, on the right, the Mint mark: M/W.

REVERSE: Centrally, a stylised image of a bust of Bolesław Prus. On the left, against the background of a separate surface, a stylised image of a 19-century lady with an umbrella, against the outline of the Old City in Warsaw. At the bottom, in a semicircle, an inscription: 1847-1912. At the top, in a semicircle, an inscription: BOLESŁAW/PRUS.

Coin designer: **ROUSSANKA NOWAKOWSKA**



FACE VALUE **2** ZŁ

metal **CuAl5Zn5Sn1 alloy** ■ finish **standard** ■ diameter **27.00 mm**
weight **8.15 g** ■ mintage up to **800,000 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: 20-12; below the Eagle, an inscription: ZŁ 2 ZŁ. Surrounding, an inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA [The Republic of Poland], preceded and followed by six pearls. Under the Eagle, on the right, the Mint mark: M/W.

REVERSE: Centrally, a stylised image of a bust of Bolesław Prus. At the top, on the left, a semicircular inscription: BOLESŁAW PRUS. At the bottom, on the right, a semicircular inscription: 1847-1912.

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**