

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 28 November 2012, the National Bank of Poland
will be putting into circulation coins of the
“Polish Painters of the 19th and 20th Centuries”
series commemorating Piotr Michałowski,
with the face values of 20 zł i 2 zł.

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

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

 **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

COINS



POLISH SHIPS

Light Battle Cruiser “Dragon”

Polish ships: light battle cruiser “Dragon”

● Light battle cruiser “Dragon” was the first battle ship of this class, operated by the Polish navy. She was built in the years 1917-1918 by the shipyard Scott’s Shipbuilding & Engineering Company Limited of Greenock for the British Royal Navy, as a prototype of the series of eight type “D” light battle cruisers. These eight battle cruisers also included ORP [in Polish: *Okręt Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej* – Ship of the Republic of Poland] “Conrad”, the second Polish ship of this class.

● During her service in the Royal Navy, the then HMS “Dragon” sailed almost all the seas and oceans. In the final year of World War I, the ship took part in patrols in the North Sea. The outbreak of World War II found the ship in Great Britain. Between the outbreak of war and the transfer to the Polish Navy, the ship was involved in military operations in the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, and from the end of 1941 until return to the British Isles – in operations in the Far East.

● Taken over by the Polish Navy on 15 January 1943, in Birkenhead, her official name was changed to ORP “Dragon” only on 17 May. Initially suggested names “Lvov” and “Westerplatte” were not accepted, and eventually the original English name of the ship, with rich tradition, remained. At the same time this name was a reference to the galleon “Dragon” [in Polish: “Smok”] – the first ship built for Poland in Elbląg in the years 1570-1572.

● On completion of overhaul, retrofit and rearming as well as selection of the crew in autumn of 1943, the training of ORP “Dragon” crew began. On 20 February 1944 the cruiser sailed on her first combat mission under the Polish battle ensign, in the Norwegian Sea as part of the Convoy JW 57 distant covering force, sailing to Murmansk and then – Convoy RA-57, returning from there. At the beginning of March the ship returned to Scapa Flow and later, as part of British 10th Cruiser Squadron, she began preparations to support planned allied troops landing in Normandy.

● The task of the 10th Cruiser Squadron was artillery support of allied troops landing and overpowering of the German defence of the French coast. Between 6 June and 8 July 1944, ORP “Dragon” guarded the left wing of the landing troops, bombing German reinforcements and coastal artillery batteries near Caen as well as columns of German troops, moving along the coast. On 8 July 1944, approximately at 5:00 a.m., the ship was hit by a “Neger” miniature submarine [the so-called human or one-man torpedo] and badly damaged. As a result of the explosion, 37 crew members were killed and 14 other wounded. Damage to ORP “Dragon” was extensive, however the original intention was to salvage the ship. Eventually an economically justified decision was taken to set the ship on the sea bed near the “Sword” beach in Normandy. The wreck of the ship was used as part of the breakwater of the “Mulberry” artificial harbour. A few months later the majority of the crew salvaged from “Dragon” commenced service on the “Conrad” light cruiser.

● The ship’s commanders were: between 15 January 1943 and 12 January 1944 - Captain Eugeniusz Plawski and between 12 January 1944 and 15 July 1944 - Commander Stanisław Dzienisiewicz.

● The dimensions, speed, firepower and weaponry of ORP “Dragon” in 1944 were the following: displacement 4,850 t, dimensions: 143,65 x 14,10 x 5,33 m, propulsion: two 40,000 HP turbine sets, max. speed 29 knots, range 6,700 nm at 10 knots and 1,400 nm at 29 knots, weaponry: five 152-millimeter marine guns, a 102-millimeter double-mount universal gun, two 40-millimeter quadruple-mount anti-aircraft guns as well as three double-mount and four single-mount 20-millimeter anti-aircraft guns, armour at ship’s waterline was 38-76 mm thick and ship’s deck 25 mm thick. Ship’s crew consisted of 30 officers as well as 430 non-commissioned officers and sailors.

Walter Pater

● **On 18 October 2012**, the National Bank of Poland will be putting into circulation a coin of the ‘Polish ships’ series commemorating the “Dragon” light cruiser, with the face value of 2zł struck in standard finish in Nordic Gold.

