

● On **16 January 2013**, the National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation coins commemorating “150th anniversary of the January Uprising” with the following face values:

- 10 zł** struck in proof finish in silver;
- 2 zł** struck in standard finish in Nordic Gold alloy.

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.

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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.
Edited and printed: NBP Printing Office

NBP

National Bank of Poland

c o i n s



150th anniversary
of the January Uprising

150th anniversary of the January Uprising

● The years before the outbreak of the January Uprising were a period of repressions by Tsarist Russia, a time of mass resistance of the people as well as patriotic and religious demonstrations. On 27 February 1861, during one of them, five people were killed. Their funerals, and shooting at the crowd gathered at the Castle Square in Warsaw a month later, with a hundred people killed, led to a radicalisation of sentiments, development of conspiracy and declaring a national mourning. In many cities, such as Vilnius, Żytomierz and Kielce, marches of support and solidarity with the capital were organised. Women started wearing mourning clothes. They also wore so-called patriotic jewellery with symbols of an enslaved nation: a crown of thorns, an anchor, a heart, shackles with a chain or a coat of arms with the Polish Eagle, the Lithuanian Pahonia and Ruthenian Archangel Michael. Elements of the national costume, such as confederate caps (four-cornered hats), were also popular. Tsarist authorities used harassment and severe fines to make people stop wearing the signs of mourning. Political groups were formed in conspiracy. Representatives of the "Reds" opted for fight and social reforms, particularly granting freehold to peasants to solicit their participation in the uprising. The "Whites," in turn, were against the uprising and willing to settle with the authorities in exchange for limited reforms.

● The further acts on the part of Russian authorities: declaring martial law, profanation and closing down of Catholic churches, mass arrests and exiles, resulted in increased tensions. The unexpected conscription of young men suspected of conspiracy resulted in an outbreak of the uprising on the night of 22/23 January 1863.

● The underground Provisional National Government was established in Warsaw. Its first decisions concerned granting freehold to peasants, who were promised land for participation in the uprising. The authorities were divided into military and civilian ones. Communication with the country, provisioning and collection of the national tax were organised effectively taking into account the conditions of conspiracy. The Polish secret state was a phenomenon in Europe. It functioned until the Tsarist police destroyed its structures by mass arrests and torture.

● A 100,000-strong Russian army was stationed in the Kingdom of Poland. As they were to be opposed by untrained and poorly armed Polish troops, the only plausible solution was guerrilla warfare. Initially, open field combat was avoided. When the Polish army received weapons acquired abroad and volunteers were trained in camps set up in forests, many battles of military, psychological and propaganda importance were fought (e.g. the battles of Oksza, Słupia, Węgrów and Żyrzyn). The fights were most intense in the summer

of 1863. In total, during the two years of the uprising about 1,200 battles and skirmishes were fought. Insurrectionist troops consisted of about 200,000 people. Exceptional courage was displayed by women, who ensured communication and took care of the wounded and families of the dead.

● The uprising covered the land under the Russian rule following the Partition of Poland. Poles counted on more extensive support from European countries, but it was limited to submitting notes of protest. The uprising was supported by few volunteers from Italy, France, Russia and Germany, among others. The difficulties faced by Russians trying to eliminate the guerrillas resulted in unprecedented repressions – collective responsibility, public executions, mass confiscations of estate and exiles to Siberia. On 15 August 1864, members of the National Government: Romuald Traugutt, Roman Żuliński, Józef Toczyski, Rafał Krajewski and Jan Jeziorański, were hanged on the slopes of the Warsaw Citadel. During fights, about 30,000 insurrectionists were killed, close to 38,000 were exiled to Siberia, many emigrated. The January Uprising was the last armed bid of the nation fighting for independent Poland, before regaining its independence in 1918.

Elżbieta Kamińska
Senior Custodian of the Historical Museum of Warsaw

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FACE VALUE **10** ZŁ

metal Ag 925/1000 ■ finish **proof** ■ diameter **32.00 mm**
weight **14.14 g** ■ mintage up to **28,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: At the top, on the left, an image of the Eagle established as the state emblem of the Republic of Poland. Above, a semicircular inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA 2013 (REPUBLIC OF POLAND 2013). Below the Eagle, on the left, an inscription: 10 ZŁ. On the right, a stylised outline of a bust of a woman wearing an uprising four-cornered hat with a patriotic pendant on her neck. At the bottom, on the left, a stylised image of an anchor with an eagle referring to one of the types of patriotic jewellery. Under the Eagle, on the right, the Mint mark: M/W.

REVERSE: Centrally, a composition of elements of uprising armours, a pennant and a stylised coat of arms of the January Uprising from the seal of the secret uprising National Government. At the top, a semicircular inscription: 150. ROCZNICA (150TH ANNIVERSARY), at the bottom, a semicircular inscription: POWSTANIA STYCZNIOWEGO (OF THE JANUARY UPRISING).

Coin designer: **ROUSSANKA NOWAKOWSKA**



FACE VALUE **2** ZŁ

metal alloy **CuAl5Zn5Sn1** ■ finish **standard** ■ dimension **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 Eagle's sides, the notation of the year of issue: 20-13; below the Eagle, an inscription: ZŁ 2 ZŁ. Along the rim, an inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (REPUBLIC OF POLAND) preceded and followed by six pearls. Under the Eagle, on the right, the Mint mark: M/W.

REVERSE: On the left, a stylised fragment of an uprising graphics by Artur Grottger entitled "Farewell of an Insurrectionist." Right of the fragment, on a separate plane, a stylised composition comprising a pennant and jewellery worn by Polish patriots. Along the rim, an inscription: 150. ROCZNICA POWSTANIA STYCZNIOWEGO (150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JANUARY UPRISING).

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

Obverse designer: **ROUSSANKA NOWAKOWSKA**
Reverse designer: **URSZULA WALERZAK**