

NBP

Narodowy Bank Polski

Collector coins



Treasures of Stanisław August

Casimir The Great
(1333–1370)

TREASURES OF STANISŁAW AUGUST

The unique series of gold and silver collector coins with the face values of 500 zloty and 50 zloty – “TREASURES OF STANISŁAW AUGUST” – replicates the famous 18th century medallic series with the images of the kings of Poland, which was struck on the order of Stanisław August Poniatowski.

The royal medals, designed by two outstanding medallists: Jan Filip Holzhaeusser and Jan Jakub Reichel, were struck at the Warsaw mint in the years 1791-1797/1798. The design of the medals was based on portraits painted between 1768 and 1771 by Marcello Bacciarelli for the Marble Room at the Royal Castle in Warsaw. The coins issued by Narodowy Bank Polski are faithful replicas of the medals, preserving the diameter and height of relief of the originals. This applies to the portraits of the kings on the reverses. The obverses of the coins feature the reverses of the medals with biographies of the monarchs. The reverses of the medals have been reduced in size because they are accompanied by the name of the state along the rim, the image of the state emblem, the face value and the year of issue of the coins. The biographies of the monarchs and the inscriptions on the obverses of the medals accompanying the royal portraits are in Latin. The final text editing was most likely done by King Stanisław August himself. The names of the monarchs in Polish are presented on the sides of the coins, along with the name of the series “Treasures of Stanisław August”.

The gallery of portraits of Polish kings, painted on the order of Stanisław August Poniatowski, consisted of images of 23 monarchs. It included one royal portrait more than Bacciarelli’s series of 22 paintings. The additional portrait of Stanisław Leszczyński – featured on the medal – was most probably modelled on a painting by Jan Bogumił Pleresch. Both series, the paintings and the medals, begin with the image of Bolesław Chrobry and end with the portrait of August III. Since the 18th century, the principal place in the Marble Room has belonged to the portrait of the full-length figure of Stanisław August in his coronation robes. The painting is several times larger than other portraits. It is therefore probable that the medallic series would have finished with a medal presenting the image of the ruling monarch. However, these plans were thwarted by the king’s abdication, emigration and early death at the beginning of 1798.

The series of coins “Treasures of Stanisław August” consists of 24 portraits of monarchs – of which 23 have been modelled on the royal series plus a portrait of Stanisław August based on the medals from the period. The series will be struck in silver and gold, as was the practice in the 18th century.

Starting from 2013, Narodowy Bank Polski will issue the coins from the series four times a year.

Tomasz Bylicki
senior curator
Historical Museum of Warsaw



The Son of Łokietek, the first who collected the native rights and announced them in Wiślica, fortified many towns, incorporated Red Ruthenia into the Crown, desired to make and made citizens and farmers happy; the last king of the House of Piast. Died on the 5th of November 1370, at the age of 60, having ruled for 33 years



CASIMIR THE GREAT (1333–1370)

The fourth coin in the series is a medal depicting the son of Władysław Łokietek (Ladislav the Elbow-high or Ladislav the Short) – Casimir, who gained the title of “Great” due to his enormous contribution to the restoration of the Piast monarchy, although he became the last ruler of this first Polish dynasty.

The image of the king on the medal is a natural reference to the portrait by Marcello Bacciarelli (a different crown and garments, a prominently displayed shield with a crowned lion, showing – in a mirror reflection – the coat of arms of the annexed Red Ruthenia).

In translation the reverse of the medal reads (on the coin the original text is slightly shortened): The Son of Łokietek, the first who collected the native rights and announced them in Wiślica, fortified many towns, incorporated Red Ruthenia into the Crown, desired to make and made citizens and farmers happy; the last king of the House of Piast. Died on the 5th of November 1370, at the age of 60, having ruled for 33 years.

The long reign of Casimir the Great, born in 1310, yielded many benefits to the country. The King reinforced power in the hereditary districts – Greater Poland, Sieradz and Wieluń Land, Lesser Poland and Kuyavia. Losing Gdańsk Pomerania to the Teutonic Knights, and in 1348 – the Silesian principalities to Bohemia, he directed his expansion towards the east and south. He annexed the Principality of Galicia–Volhynia (Red Ruthenia) and subordinated Mazovia and Podolia. The trade route connecting the Baltic Sea with the Black Sea was established. The economy boomed, supported by modernisation measures – the unification of law, settlement of towns, as well as treasury and military reforms. The country gained dozens of new castles and many secular and church buildings. In 1364 the king founded Kraków Academy, the first Polish university. He carried out a monetary reform, creating new monetary units, including the first thicker silver coin – the Kraków grosz.

Marta Męclewska
Former Curator of the Numismatic Cabinet
of the Royal Castle in Warsaw

CASIMIR THE GREAT COLLECTOR COINS

FACE VALUE: 500 ZŁ

metal: Au 999.9/1000

finish: standard

diameter: 45 mm

weight: 62.2 g

mintage: up to 750 pcs

designer: reverse –

Anna Wątróbska-Wdowiarska

obverse and inscriptions

on the reverse – Robert Kotowicz

producer: Mennica Polska S.A.,

commissioned by NBP



FACE VALUE: 50 zł

metal: Ag 999/1000

finish: standard

diameter: 45 mm

weight: 62.2 g

mintage: up to 5,000 pieces

designer: reverse –

Anna Wątróbska-Wdowiarska

obverse and inscriptions

on the reverse – Robert Kotowicz

producer: Mennica Polska S.A.,

commissioned by NBP





Bolesław Chrobry
Boleslaus the Brave
(992-1025)



Władysław Jagiełło
Ladislav Jagiello
(1386-1434)



Wacław II Czeski
Vaclav II
(1291-1305)



Władysław Warneńczyk
Ladislav of Varna
(1434-1444)



Władysław Łokietek
Ladislav the Elbow-high
(1320-1333)



Kazimierz Jagiellończyk
Casimir Jagiellon
(1447-1492)



Kazimierz Wielki
Casimir the Great
(1333-1370)



Jan Olbracht
John Albert
(1492-1501)



Ludwik Węgierski
Louis I of Hungary
(1370-1382)



Aleksander Jagiellończyk
Alexander
(1501-1506)



Jadwiga Andegaweńska
Jadwiga of Anjou
(1384-1399)



Zygmunt I Stary
Sigismund the Elder
(1506-1548)



Zygmunt August
Sigismund-Augustus
(1548-1572)



Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki
(1669-1673)



Henryk Walezy
Henry Valois
(1573-1575)



Jan III Sobieski
John III Sobieski
(1674-1696)



Stefan Batory
Stephen Bathory
(1576-1586)



August II Mocny
Augustus II the Strong
(1697-1706, 1709-1733)



Zygmunt III Waza
Sigismund Vasa
(1587-1632)



Stanisław Leszczyński
(1705-1709, 1733-1736)



Władysław IV Waza
Ladislav Vasa
(1632-1648)



August III Sas
Augustus III
(1733-1763)

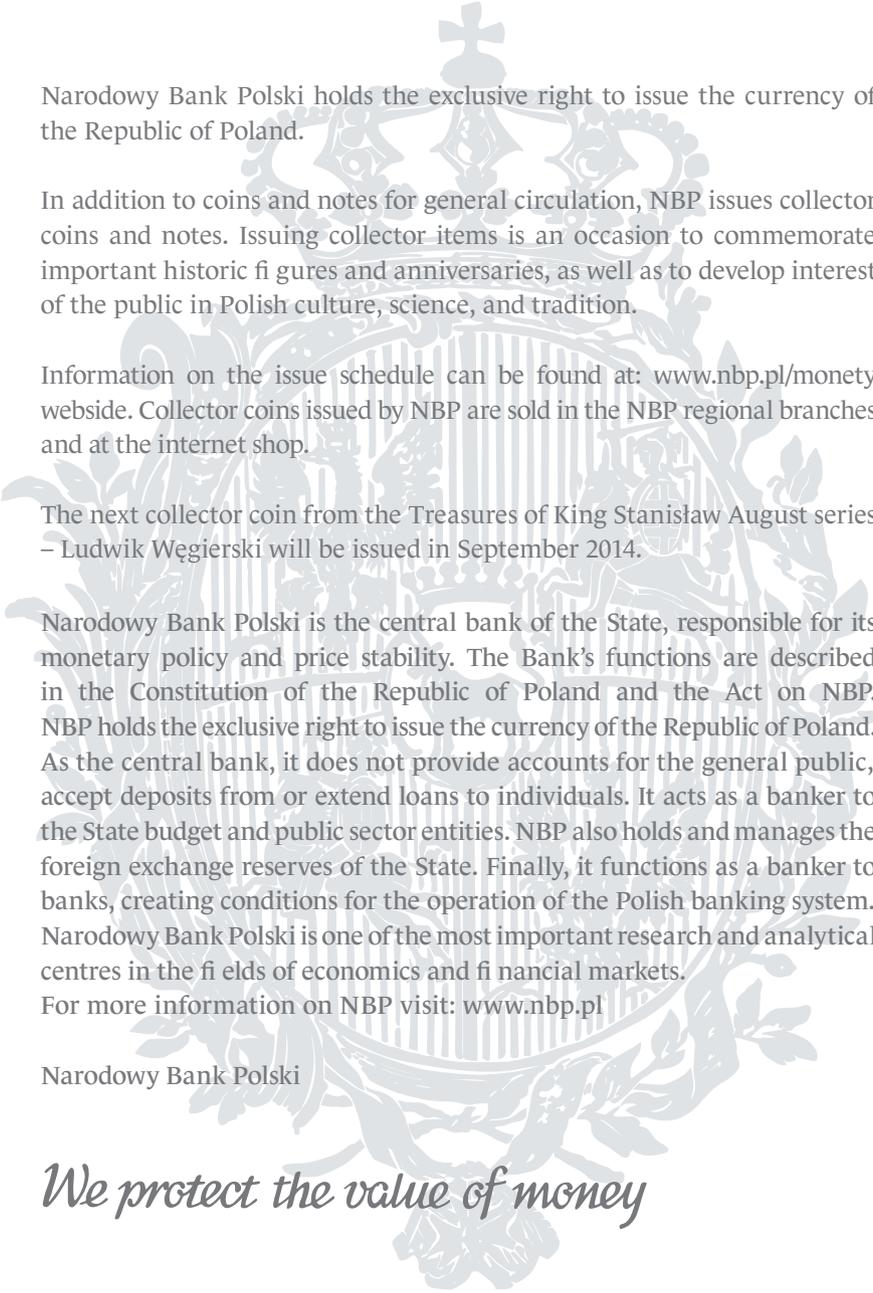


Jan Kazimierz Waza
John Casimir Vasa
(1648-1668)



Stanisław August Poniatowski
(1764-1795)

Coin design to be presented



Narodowy Bank Polski holds the exclusive right to issue the currency of the Republic of Poland.

In addition to coins and notes for general circulation, NBP issues collector coins and notes. Issuing collector items is an occasion to commemorate important historic figures and anniversaries, as well as to develop interest of the public in Polish culture, science, and tradition.

Information on the issue schedule can be found at: www.nbp.pl/money website. Collector coins issued by NBP are sold in the NBP regional branches and at the internet shop.

The next collector coin from the Treasures of King Stanisław August series – Ludwik Węgierski will be issued in September 2014.

Narodowy Bank Polski is the central bank of the State, responsible for its monetary policy and price stability. The Bank's functions are described in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland and the Act on NBP. NBP holds the exclusive right to issue the currency of the Republic of Poland. As the central bank, it does not provide accounts for the general public, accept deposits from or extend loans to individuals. It acts as a banker to the State budget and public sector entities. NBP also holds and manages the foreign exchange reserves of the State. Finally, it functions as a banker to banks, creating conditions for the operation of the Polish banking system. Narodowy Bank Polski is one of the most important research and analytical centres in the fields of economics and financial markets. For more information on NBP visit: www.nbp.pl

Narodowy Bank Polski

We protect the value of money