

On the obverse, all Polish coins feature:

- face value
- image of the Eagle established as the state emblem of the Republic of Poland
- inscription: Rzeczpospolita Polska
- year of issue



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.

Information on the issue schedule can be found at the [www.nbp.pl/monety](http://www.nbp.pl/monety) website.

Should you have any questions, please contact our consultants at the following phone numbers: +48 801 111 000 and +48 22 185 44 50.

Collector coins issued by NBP are sold in the NBP regional branches and at the internet shop.

On 4 December 2014 Narodowy Bank Polski will be putting into circulation collector coins from the series „History of Polish Coin” – bracteate of Leszek I the White with the face value of 10 zł and collector coins from the series: “Treasures of King Stanislaw August” – Jadwiga of Anjou with the face values of 50 zł and 500 zł.

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Narodowy Bank Polski

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Narodowy Bank Polski

Polish Painters of the 19th and 20th Centuries

Józef Chełmoński



Collector coins

## Józef Chełmoński

Józef Chełmoński's oeuvre captures the quintessence of the Polish countryside, the realm of its inhabitants, nature and landscape. The artist remained faithful to those themes throughout his lifetime. He grew up in a family estate near Łowicz, and spent the last 25 years of his life in a rural manor house of Kuklówka near Grodzisk Mazowiecki. He studied in Warsaw and Munich, and for a long time he lived in Paris, where he gained both artistic and financial success. While staying in urban parks, he was longing for nature and peasant cottages. He pursued his artistic leitmotifs - farmyards, dashing horse teams, the scenes in front of an inn and in the field, all of this set against the background of the memory-evoked landscapes which he remembered from wandering around Mazovia and trips to Ukraine, Podolia, Lithuania and Polesie. The works by Chełmoński, known as realistic genre in the Polish painting, go beyond the scope of this categorization. One of his early paintings, *Cranes*, depicting a crippled bird abandoned by its flock in the foreground, was by 10-20 years ahead of ideas promoted by the symbolists, also because of its colours and original composition. *Indian summer* - known to all, which triggered the indignation of contemporary critics over the improper topic, was the first depiction of a female peasant not at work, but lying dreamily on the meadow. The girl was a part of nature, as simple as the nature itself, but



at the same time full of poetry. Such a vision of the world revealed itself most fully in later work by Chełmoński in which glimpses of the steppe, swampy meadows and forest roads which came from his brush became a vision of spirituality which permeates nature.

Individualism of Chełmoński's artistic attitude reflected his dislike of the existing stereotypes in imaging, which he rejected, while relying on his own intuition and instincts of a painter. As a human he rebelled against social conventions and artificiality of the salon's life. He demonstrated his attitude also in his attire - not overly careful, composed of the elements of urban and peasant costumes. Both in art and in life he valued authenticity most of all.

The obverse of the coins is a transposition of the left side of the oil painting by Józef Chełmoński *Night in Ukraine in winter* from 1877.

### Face value 20 zł

Metal: Ag 925 and red, yellow, green and blue paint

Finish: proof

Dimensions: 40.0 mm x 28.0 mm

Weight: 28.28 g

Mintage: up to 30 000 pcs

Obverse and reverse designer: Ewa Olszewska-Borys

Issuer: NBP

The coins, commissioned by NBP, were struck by Mennica Polska S.A.

The reverse bears the portrait of Józef Chełmoński, modelled on the image drawn by Leon Wyczółkowski in 1900; the motifs from a painting *Cranes* by Chełmoński from 1870 in the background.

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On 7 November 2014 Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a coin from the series "Polish Painters of the 19th and 20th Centuries – Józef Chełmoński", with the face value of 20 zł.