

All Polish collector 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 22 185 45 96 and +48 22 185 13 03.

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

In February 2017, Narodowy Bank Polski will be putting into circulation two collector coins with a face value of 10 zł inaugurating the series of coins “The Enduring Soldiers”.

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## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the Gymnastic Society *Sokół*



Collector coins

# 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the Gymnastic Society *Sokół*

The Gymnastic Society *Sokół* (Falcon) is the oldest sports and educational organization in Poland. It has continued to carry on its activities since 7 February 1867, when the first Polish “nest” of *Sokół* was registered in Lvov. From the mid-1880s further nests of *Sokół* were formed, spreading over the area of all the three partitions of Poland.

The organization’s symbol is a falcon in flight holding dumbbells in its claws. *Sokół* is also associated with the rise of sports in Polish lands, including the first historical football match, played on 14 July 1894 in Lvov. From the start, however, the popularization of physical fitness was coupled with engagement in patriotic and pro-independence activity. This was manifested by the widespread participation of *Sokół* scouts in the Greater Poland Uprising and Silesian Uprisings, in which they constituted a substantial part of the command.

The *Sokół* movement also played a significant part in the establishment of Polish Scouting, which obtained personnel, organizational and financial support from the Society. Without the assistance of *Sokół*, it would be hard to imagine the organization of General Haller’s Blue Army, recognized as the “only independent, allied and co-belligerent Polish army”, owing to which Poland was among the winners of the WWI.

Many outstanding Poles, including Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Gen. Józef Haller, Wojciech



Korfanty, Roman Dmowski and Karol Wojtyła, were associated with *Sokół*.

After the outbreak of WWII, the organization was being ruthlessly destroyed (by both Germans and Soviets); numerous activists were killed because of their membership in the organization. Following the war, the communist authorities repeatedly refused to register the society. It became possible only after the collapse of the communist regime in 1989. In 1945-1988, the organization maintained its activity abroad.

Today, the society has more than 70 nests in Poland and abroad, engaged in wide-ranging sports, cultural and patriotic activities.

On 27 January 2017, Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a silver coin “150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the Gymnastic Society *Sokół*” with a face value of 10 zł.

Face value 10 zł

Metal: Ag 925/1000

Finish: proof

Diameter: 32.00 mm

Weight: 14.14 g

Edge: plain

Mintage: up to 20,000 pcs



Designer: Robert Kotowicz

Issuer: NBP

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

*Sokół* actively participates in public life by cooperating with many other organizations as well as state and local authorities.

*Damian Małecki*

The reverse of the coin commemorating the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Polish *Sokół* movement features in its central part an image of a pre-war activist of the Gymnastic Society *Sokół* in Poland wearing a historical overcoat called “chimere”. It also features a falcon in flight carrying dumbbells, which is the most recognizable symbol of the organization, and an inscription commemorating this event.

The obverse of the silver coin features members of the Gymnastic Society *Sokół* during exercises, doing a so-called human pyramid.