

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/money](http://www.nbp.pl/money) 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 online shop.

On 13 June 2017 Narodowy Bank Polski will be putting into circulation a silver collector coin “35th Anniversary of Fighting Solidarity” with a face value of 10 zł.

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Narodowy Bank Polski

*We protect the value of money*

NBP

Narodowy Bank Polski

## 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ossoliński National Institute



Collector coins

# 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ossoliński National Institute

In June of 1817, the Emperor of Austria Francis I approved the Act establishing the Ossoliński Public Library in Lviv, submitted by Józef Maksymilian Ossoliński. This marked the creation of an institution which would later on play a significant role in the history of Polish culture. Ossoliński planned the institution as a treasure trove of national memorabilia. Prince Henryk Lubomirski soon supported Ossoliński's project with his extensive collections. Pursuant to an agreement concluded in December 1823, his collections formed the Lubomirski Museum, which became a part of the "Ossoliński Public Library". Despite the resistance of the Austrian authorities, Ossoliński's facility became the National Institute, also known as the Ossolineum. The fall of the November Uprising clearly showed the importance of its role – after the universities in Vilnius and Warsaw were closed down, the Ossolineum became the second most important Polish cultural institution after the Jagiellonian University. Since the beginning of its existence, the functioning of the Institute has been supported by many donors, who constantly added new items to its collections out of a sense of patriotic duty. In the interwar period, the Ossoliński Institute was expanded to also include a publishing house (known primarily from the "National Library" series).

Following Poland's defeat in 1939, the Institute's collections, and especially the museum exhibits, were scattered and divided, and the library was transformed into a Soviet, and later a German institution. In 1946 a part of Ossoliński's collection was transported to Wrocław, where the National Institute was supposed to be recreated. In 1953 it became a part of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

After 1989 the Institute returned to its pre-war organizational structure. Today, just like many years ago in Lviv, it consists of the Library, the Museum of the Lubomirski Princes and the Publishing House, and since 2016 also the Pan Tadeusz Museum, presenting to visitors, among others, the manuscript of this national epic.



No other Polish institution survived as many historic storms and cataclysms as the Ossolineum. For 200 years it has served the Polish nation and gathered invaluable souvenirs of Polish culture for future generations.

On the obverse of the gold coin, there is an image of the dome of the Ossoliński National Institute headquarters in Wrocław, partly covered by a contour of the pediment

On 2 June 2017 Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation two collector coins, a gold coin with a face value of 100 złoty and a silver coin with a face value of 10 złoty: "200th Anniversary of the Ossoliński National Institute".

Face value 100 zł

Metal: Au 900/1000

Finish: proof

Diameter: 21.00 mm

Weight: 8.00 g

Edge: plain

Mintage: up to 1,500 pcs

Designer: Robert Kotowicz

Issuer: NBP

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



Face value 10 zł

Metal: Ag 925/1000

Finish: proof

Diameter: 32.00 mm

Weight: 14.14 g

Edge: plain

Mintage: up to 15,000 pcs

Designer: Robert Kotowicz

Issuer: NBP

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



of the building's northern facade. On the reverse we see the right profile bust of Józef Maksymilian Ossoliński, based on Jan Maszkowski's portrait from 1818 and Walenty Śliwicki's lithography from 1820.

On the obverse of the silver coin, there is an image of the dome of the Ossoliński National Institute headquarters in Wrocław, seen from the North-West, with an outline of the roof of the building in the background. The reverse depicts the bust of Józef Maksymilian Ossoliński facing right, according to Karl Mahnke's lithography from 1836, on the backdrop of the dome's baroque interior decorations.

*Eukasz Koniarek PhD*