

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 91 59 and +48 22 185 13 03.

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

On 7 November 2019, Narodowy Bank Polski will be putting into circulation a collector coin “Discover Poland” – the Liberation Mound with a face value of 5 złoty.

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](http://www.nbp.pl)

Narodowy Bank Polski

*We protect the value of money*

NBP

Narodowy Bank Polski

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Regaining Independence by Poland

Wojciech Korfanty



Collector coins

# 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Regaining Independence by Poland – Wojciech Korfanty

Wojciech Korfanty (1873–1939) – politician, leader of the second and third Silesian Uprisings. Wojciech Korfanty was born into a religious miners' family in Siemianowice Śląskie. He attended a people's school, and then a middle school, where he set up an underground self-study club. This was the reason why in 1895 he was expelled from school. Korfanty studied philosophy, law and economics at the University of Breslau. He graduated in Berlin in 1901. It was there that he got to know the leaders of the National League. From 1901 he worked as editor-in-chief of the daily "Górnolęzak" (The Upper Silesian) and he also contributed to "Dziennik Berliński" (The Berlin Journal). He was convicted to four months' imprisonment (in the Wronki Prison) for his anti-German articles, which won him popularity. He joined the clandestine National League and stood for election to the Reichstag in 1903. In the Parliament of the Reich, he joined the Polish Club, which previously consisted only of deputies from Greater Poland and Pomerania. The speeches he made in the Parliament of the Reich revealed his outstanding rhetorical talent. In the following year he also became a member of the Landtag, the Prussian national parliament. In January 1917, he made the famous statement: "As a nation, we are Poles, not Polish-speaking Prussians". In a Reichstag address on 25 October 1918, he demanded that the lands of the Prussian partition be included in the resurgent Poland. Subsequently, together with other members of the Polish Club he left the parliament considering it an authority of a foreign state. On 11 November 1918, he became a member of the Supreme People's Council (Naczelna Rada Ludowa) in Poznań, which marked the beginning of Polish administration in the region. After the outbreak of the Greater Poland Uprising, Korfanty, as a representative of the Council, led the diplomatic negotiations as a result of which the Convention of Trier was signed on 16 February 1919, according a significant area of the Prussian Partition to the resurgent Poland. These arrangements were confirmed by the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919. However, Poland was not allotted, among others, the territory of Upper Silesia, the future of which was to be decided in a plebiscite. From December 1919, Korfanty headed the Polish Plebiscite Committee and, when the 2nd Silesian Uprising broke out during the campaign (in August 1920), he became its leader. In March 1921, despite the intensive campaign run by Korfanty, the plebiscite turned out to be a defeat for the Poles. He then came up



with the proposal of dividing Silesia (along the so-called Korfanty line), as a result of which Poland would be allotted the more industrialised part of the region. Korfanty made the decision to call a general strike and start a third uprising. On 3 May 1921, he proclaimed himself its dictator. In the course of a week, the Poles reached the Korfanty line and the main fighting took place on 20-21 May for St. Anne's Mountain. At the same time, Korfanty initiated negotiations, with his efforts leading to the end of the fighting and a division of the disputed territory in Poland's favour. Eventually, in October 1921 Poland was allotted the most industrialised part of Upper Silesia with the capital in Katowice.

On 5 November 2019, Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation collector coins of the series "100th Anniversary of Regaining Independence by Poland" – Wojciech Korfanty: a silver coin with a face value of 10 złoty and a gold coin with a face value of 100 złoty.

Face value 100 zł

Metal: Au 900/1000

Finish: **proof**

Diameter: 21.00 mm

Weight: 8.00 g

Edge (side): **plain**

Mintage: **up to 1,500 pcs**

Designer: Dobrochna Surajewska



Face value 10 zł

Metal: Ag 925/1000

Finish: **proof**

Dimensions: 32.00 x 22.40 mm

Weight: 14.14 g

Edge (side): **plain**

Mintage: **up to 13,000 pcs**

Designer: Dobrochna Surajewska

Issuer: NBP

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

The photographs of Wojciech Korfanty used for the design of the coins come from the collections of the National Digital Archives.



Between 1919–1922, Korfanty served as the leader of the Popular National Union (National Democrats) in the Legislative Sejm, and in the subsequent Sejm (1922–1928) he became the leader of the Christian Democracy. He opposed the May 1926 coup of Józef Piłsudski. In September 1930, he was arrested and imprisoned in the Brest Fortress. After being released, he emigrated to Czechoslovakia. In 1937, he actively participated in emigration groupings – as a co-founder of the Morges Front and the leader of the Christian democratic Labour Party. After much effort, he returned to Poland in April 1939. Despite strong protests, he was arrested by the Sanation government. After being diagnosed with cancer, he was released and died soon afterwards on 17 August 1939. His funeral turned into a huge patriotic demonstration.

*Prof. Jan Żaryn*