

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 15 September 2021, Narodowy Bank Polski will be putting into circulation a silver coin “Massacres in Piaśnica”, with a face value of 10 złoty.

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Narodowy Bank Polski

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NARODOWY  
BANK POLSKI

The Polish Thermopylae

## Dytiatyn



Collector coins

# The Polish Thermopylae – Dytiatyn

On 8 September 2021 Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a silver coin of the series “The Polish Thermopylae” – Dytiatyn, with a face value of 20 złoty.

On 16 September 1920, at Dytiatyn, west of Podhajce, a small Polish unit fought a battle with two brigades of the Red Army. During the Polish offensive in Galicia, the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division commanded by Col. Stanisław Burhardt-Bukacki received orders to capture Podhajce. In the morning of 16 September, two companies of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the 13<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, led by Captain Jan Gabryś, with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battery of the 1<sup>st</sup> Mountain Artillery Regiment and a platoon of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battery of the 8<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, reached Dytiatyn. Just outside that village the soldiers encountered the columns of the 8<sup>th</sup> Red Cossack Division and the 123<sup>rd</sup> Rifle Brigade. The Poles moved on to the offensive, dispersed the leading enemy unit and took up positions on Hill 385. There they organised the defence, as the march of the Bolsheviks could threaten the main forces of the 8<sup>th</sup> ID. They repulsed several wave attacks by cavalry and infantry, supported by heavy artillery fire. At around 3 p.m., as the ammunition started to run out, two cannons had been damaged and communication with other Polish units had been lost, Captain Gabryś gave the order to retreat. As most of the soldiers withdrew with their wagons, the Bolsheviks attacked the artillery positions, which were being prepared to pull back and covered by the 9<sup>th</sup>



An image of a fragment of the reproduction of Jerzy Kossak's painting “The Battle of Dytiatyn 16 September 1920” from the collection of the Polish Army Museum in Warsaw.

Company platoon. Captain Adam Zając, who was leading the 4<sup>th</sup> Battery, took command of the group of artillerymen and infantrymen. Once again, the Poles threw back the Bolsheviks and did not respond to an offer to surrender. During another Cossack charge, after the last shells had been fired, they defended the cannons, fighting hand-to-hand. About 50 Polish soldiers, including all the officers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battery, died at that time. The Cossacks killed the several seriously wounded who had been taken prisoner.

The battle of Dytiatyn stopped the march of large enemy forces for a whole day and prevented them from attacking the 8<sup>th</sup> ID. It passed into the tradition of the Polish Army as a symbol of a soldier's duty fulfilled to the end, was named “the Polish Thermopylae” and immortalised on

**Face value: 20 zł**

Metal: Ag 925/1000

Finish: proof

Diameter: 38.61 mm

Weight: 28.28 g

Edge (side): plain

Mintage: up to 10,000 pcs



Designer: Urszula Walerzak

Issuer: NBP

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

the plaques of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Captain Zając was decorated with the Virtuti Militari, and the 4<sup>th</sup> battery of the 1<sup>st</sup> Mountain Artillery Regiment was given the name of a “death battery”. The 16<sup>th</sup> of September was the holiday of the 1<sup>st</sup> Motorised Artillery Regiment, which replaced the disbanded 1st Mountain Artillery Regiment.

*Prof. Janusz Odziemkowski*

The reverse of the coin depicts a fragment of the reproduction of Jerzy Kossak's painting “The Battle of Dytiatyn 16 September 1920”.

The obverse of all the coins of the “The Polish Thermopylae” series features Athena, the goddess of just war and wisdom.