

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 23 November 2021, Narodowy Bank Polski will be putting into circulation a silver coin “40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Strike in the Higher School for Fire Service Officers”, with a face value of 10 zloty.

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Narodowy Bank Polski

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NARODOWY  
BANK POLSKI

Discover Poland

## Książ Castle in Wałbrzych



Collector coins

## Discover Poland – Książ Castle in Wałbrzych

On 18 November 2021, Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a collector coin from the series “Discover Poland” – Książ Castle in Wałbrzych, with a face value of 5 zloty.

Książ Castle was erected between 1288 and 1292 by Bolko the Strict, the Duke of Świdnica and Jawor from the Piast dynasty, who at that point assumed the title *Bolko dei gratia dux Slesie et dominus de Wrstenberc* (by God's grace, Duke of Silesia and Lord of Książ). The stronghold, raised in the heart of a thick forest, on a steep cliff surrounded on three sides by the Pełcznica river gorge, was of strategic significance and was considered “the key to Silesia”. It was given the name of the Duke's Mountain (German: Fürstenberg). After the extinction of the Piast dynasty from the Świdnica-Jawor line in the second half of the 14th century, it became the property of the Czech kings. Later on, at the end of the 15th century, it came under the rule of the king of Hungary Matthias Corvinus. His successor, king Vladislav II of Hungary from the Jagiellonian dynasty entrusted the Książ estate to his chancellor, Joahann von Haugwitz.

A landmark event in the history of Książ took place on 11 June 1509. It was then that Haugwitz handed over the castle and the neighbouring estates to knight Konrad I von Hoberg (in 1714, the spelling of Książ's owners was changed to Hochberg) for an unknown sum. During their tenure at Książ (German: Fürstenstein) the Hochbergs carried out several conversions of the castle, turning the military facility into an aristocratic residence. The last modernisation, which gave the structure its current shape, was



carried out by Hans Heinrich XV Hochberg von Pless in 1908-1923.

Książ Castle remained in the hands of the Hochberg family until 1941, when it was seized by the German Nazi authorities. In 1944-45 prisoners of the German Nazi concentration camp in Gross-Rosen excavated the rock on which the castle was perched, filling the hollowed space with a large underground structure of reinforced concrete. The destination of the structure remains the object of historical research. The death toll from the project is unknown.

The destruction and looting of Książ Castle by the Germans during the war and subsequently continued by Soviet soldiers and looters after it ended reduced the site to ruin. In 1973, the estate, including Książ Castle, was merged with the city of Wałbrzych, and a year later reconstruction of

**Face value: 5 zł**

Metal: ring MN25, core CuAl6Ni2

Finish: standard

Diameter: 24.00 mm

Weight: 6.54 g

Edge (side): irregularly milled, with the inscription “NBP”, repeated eight times, every second one inverted by 180 degrees, separated by stars

Mintage: up to 1,000,000 pcs

Obverse designer: Dobrochna Surajewska

Reverse designer: Paweł Pietras

Issuer: NBP

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

the castle began. Since 1991 it has been owned by the city of Wałbrzych.

Książ is one of the largest palace and garden complexes in Poland. The estate occupies the area of 21.7 hectares and the castle's volume is 160,000 cubic metres. In terms of size, it is the third largest after the Teutonic Knights' Castle in Malbork and Wawel Royal Castle in Kraków.

*Artur Szalkowski*

The reverse of the coin shows a view of the Baroque part, and some of the Renaissance part of Książ Castle seen from the south-east. The 42-metre castle tower is also in view. The tower's lower part was constructed in medieval times, the mid part is the result of 18th-century construction work and the finial was part of the 1908-1923 remodelling of the castle.