

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 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 2 December 2021, Narodowy Bank Polski will be putting into circulation a gold coin with a face value of 500 złoty and a silver coin with a face value of 50 złoty of the series “Treasures of Stanisław August” – Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki.

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Narodowy Bank Polski

We protect the value of Polish money



NARODOWY
BANK POLSKI

40th Anniversary of the Strike in the Higher School for Fire Service Officers



Collector coins

40th Anniversary of the Strike in the Higher School for Fire Service Officers

On 23 November 2021, Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a silver coin “40th Anniversary of the Strike in the Higher School for Fire Service Officers”, with a face value of 10 złoty.

On the night of 24 to 25 November 1981, the cadets of the then Higher School for Fire Service Officers (WOSP) initiated a sit-in strike. They did not agree to the provisions of the planned amendment to the Higher Education Act, which was to change the status of the school. WOSP – so far civilian, though subordinate to the Ministry of Internal Affairs – was to be governed by the Military Higher Education Act. That would open up the possibility of using its cadets, for example, to quash social protests.

The sit-in was joined by over 90 percent of the cadets and some WOSP employees. Initially, the strikers attempted to hold talks with the Joint Committee involving representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Science, Higher Education and Technology, and Fire Service Headquarters. However, after 20 hours of negotiations, the government broke off the talks.

In the most difficult moments, the strikers drew spiritual support from the pastoral service of Blessed Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko. He would celebrate Holy Masses which the strikers could attend and he would hear their confessions.

On 30 November 1981, WOSP was dissolved by the Council of Ministers. In spite of the information about the dissolution of WOSP, the propaganda campaign, and the pressure exerted by their parents, the majority of the cadets continued the



Face value: 10 zł

Metal: Ag 925/1000

Finish: proof

Diameter: 32.00 mm

Weight: 14.14 g

Edge (side): plain

Mintage: up to 10,000 pcs



Designer: Dobrochna Surajewska

Issuer: NBP

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

protest. The strike was crushed on 2 December 1981 by several thousand policemen (going under a typical communist designation of Citizen’s Militia), the Motorized Reserves of the Citizens’ Militia (ZOMO), and soldiers of the Vistula Military Units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The students and employees were forcibly removed from the school. But the protest of the cadets was by no means over. It only changed its form to a ‘wandering’ sit-in. The strike of the young fire officers continued until martial law was imposed. Classes resumed at the beginning of February 1982 and since then the school has been called the Main School of Fire Service (SGSP). Over 70 WOSP

students were prevented from continuing their education – they were not allowed to complete their studies at any Polish institution of higher learning. Many were persecuted. A group of former WOSP employees was also not employed at SGSP.

The reverse of the coin features a crowd supporting the strikers – Warsaw residents, parents, and delegates from higher learning institutions and workplaces, all gathered in front of the Higher School for Fire Service Officers building.

Jakub Binio