



NARODOWY BANK POLSKI

Collector coins



Treasures of Stanisław August

Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki
(1669–1673)

Treasures of Stanisław August

The unique series of gold and silver collector coins with the face values of 500 zloty and 50 zloty – “TREASURES OF STANISŁAW AUGUST” – replicates the famous 18th century medallic series with the images of the kings of Poland, which was struck on the order of Stanisław August Poniatowski.

The royal medals, designed by two outstanding medallists: Jan Filip Holzhaeusser and Jan Jakub Reichel, were struck at the Warsaw mint in the years 1791–1797/1798. The design of the medals was based on portraits painted between 1768 and 1771 by Marcello Bacciarelli for the Marble Room at the Royal Castle in Warsaw. The coins issued by Narodowy Bank Polski are faithful replicas of the medals, preserving the diameter and height of relief of the originals. This applies to the portraits of the kings on the reverses. The obverses of the coins feature the reverses of the medals with biographies of the monarchs. The reverses of the medals have been reduced in size because they are accompanied by the name of the state along the rim, the image of the state emblem, the face value and the year of issue of the coins. The biographies of the monarchs and the inscriptions on the obverses of the medals accompanying the royal portraits are in Latin. The final text editing was most likely done by King Stanisław August himself. The names of the monarchs in Polish are presented on the sides of the coins, along with the name of the series “Treasures of Stanisław August”.

The gallery of portraits of Polish kings, painted on the order of Stanisław August Poniatowski, consisted of images of 23 monarchs. It included one royal portrait more than Bacciarelli’s series of 22 paintings. The additional portrait of Stanisław Leszczyński – featured on the medal – was most probably modelled on a painting by Jan Bogumił Plesch. Both series, the paintings and the medals, begin with the image of Bolesław Chrobry and end with the portrait of August III. Since the 18th century, the principal place in the Marble Room has belonged to the portrait of the full-length figure of Stanisław August in his coronation robes. The painting is several times larger than other portraits. It is therefore probable that the medallic series would have finished with a medal presenting the image of the ruling monarch. However, these plans were thwarted by the king’s abdication, emigration and early death at the beginning of 1798.

The series of coins “Treasures of Stanisław August” consists of 24 portraits of monarchs – of which 23 have been modelled on the royal series plus a portrait of Stanisław August based on the medals from the period. The series will be struck in silver and gold, as was the practice in the 18th century.

Tomasz Bylicki
senior curator
Historical Museum of Warsaw



From the Wiśniowiecki family, related to the Jagiellonians, the son of Jeremi, the hero, and Gryzelda Zamoyska, against his own will and hope elected king Anno Domini 1669, on June 19, troubled by the worries of a short reign and the hatred of jealous people, died in Lviv Anno Domini 1673, aged 34, in the fourth year of the reign, on November 11.



MICHAŁ KORYBUT WIŚNIOWIECKI (1669–1673)

The nineteenth coin of the series depicts Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki, of Korybut coat of arms, the son of the Ruthenian Voivode Prince Jeremi and Gryzelda, née Zamoyska. By the votes of the gentry, who wanted a local for the throne, he was elected king of Poland against several foreign contenders, and crowned in Cracow on 29 September 1669. He was considered an inept ruler, dependent on the magnates and his reign was marked by internal factional fighting. Duke Jeremi (Jarema) and King Michał are immortalised in The Trilogy novel by Henryk Sienkiewicz.

The reverse of the coin features the bust of the king (based on a painting by Marcello Bacciarelli) transferred from the medal, in profile to the right, wearing a wig en crinière de lion, with a faint moustache, a jabot and a coat decorated with floral patterns, with the Order of the Golden Fleece on the ribbon.

On the obverse of the coin we read the text from the reverse of the medal (in translation): *From the Wiśniowiecki family, related to the Jagiellonians, the son of Jeremi, the hero, and Gryzelda Zamoyska, against his own will and hope elected king Anno Domini 1669, on June 19, troubled by the worries of a short reign and the hatred of jealous people, died in Lviv Anno Domini 1673, aged 34, in the fourth year of the reign, on November 11.*

Michał Tomasz was born in 1640 in Biały Kamień in western Ukraine, in the Wiśniowiecki princely family. He was educated at Jesuit schools and university in Prague. He learned etiquette at the court of John Casimir Vasa, and later at courts in Dresden and Vienna. He spoke many languages. In 1670 he married Eleonora Habsburg, the daughter of the Emperor Ferdinand III and the sister of the Emperor Leopold I. In the country, two factions were in conflict: the pro-French, so-called malcontents, to which Hetman John Sobieski belonged, and the Royalists, to which Stefan Czarniecki belonged. Most sejms (parliament sessions) were broken off. In 1672, the old treaties with Brandenburg were renewed, abolishing the fief dependence of the Prussian dukes on Poland. In the same year, the Turkish invasion and the loss of Kamieniec Podolski led to the conclusion of the unfavourable treaty of Buczacz, on the strength of which the Poles had to pay a tribute to Turkey. In the following year, a conciliatory sejm was held, and an expedition against Turkey was launched under the king's command, but due to his sudden illness John Sobieski successfully took over command.

The king died childless in 1673 in Lwów; his heart was placed in the Camaldolese monastery in the Bielany district in Warsaw, and his body was buried together with the ashes of John II Casimir Vasa at Wawel in 1676.

MICHAŁ KORYBUT WIŚNIOWIECKI Collector coins

Face value: 500 zł

metal: Au 999.9/1000

finish: standard

diameter: 45 mm

weight: 62.2 g

On the edge, the inscription:

SKARBY STANISŁAWA AUGUSTA *

MICHAŁ KORYBUT WIŚNIOWIECKI *

mintage: up to 600 pcs

Designer: reverse –

Anna Wątróbska-Wdowiarska

Obverse and inscriptions

on the reverse – Robert Kotowicz

Producer: Mennica Polska S.A.

commissioned by NBP

Date of issue: 2 December 2021



Face value: 50 zł

metal: Ag 999/1000

finish: standard

diameter: 45 mm

weight: 62.2 g

On the edge, the inscription:

SKARBY STANISŁAWA AUGUSTA *

MICHAŁ KORYBUT WIŚNIOWIECKI *

mintage: up to 5,000 pcs

Designer: reverse –

Anna Wątróbska-Wdowiarska

Obverse and inscriptions

on the reverse – Robert Kotowicz

Producer: Mennica Polska S.A.

commissioned by NBP

Date of issue: 2 December 2021





Bolesław Chrobry
Boleslaus the Brave (992–1025)
Date of issue: 12 III 2013



Władysław Jagiełło
Ladislav Jagiello (1386–1434)
Date of issue: 3 III 2015



Wacław II Czeski
Vaclav II (1291–1305)
Date of issue: 22 V 2013



Władysław Warneńczyk
Ladislav of Varna (1434–1444)
Date of issue: 15 IX 2015



Władysław Łokietek
Ladislav the Elbow-high (1320–1333)
Date of issue: 13 IX 2013



Kazimierz Jagiellończyk
Casimir Jagiellon (1447–1492)
Date of issue: 3 XII 2015



Kazimierz Wielki
Casimir the Great (1333–1370)
Date of issue: 3 III 2014



Jan Olbracht
John Albert (1492–1501)
Date of issue: 14 VI 2016



Ludwik Węgierski
Louis I of Hungary (1370–1382)
Date of issue: 10 IX 2014



Aleksander Jagiellończyk
Alexander (1501–1506)
Date of issue: 7 XII 2016



Jadwiga Andegaweńska
Jadwiga of Anjou (1384–1399)
Date of issue: 4 XII 2014



Zygmunt I Stary
Sigismund the Elder (1506–1548)
Date of issue: 12 VII 2017



Zygmunt August
Sigismund-Augustus
(1548–1572)
Date of issue: 7 XII 2017



Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki
(1669–1673)
Date of issue: 2 XII 2021



Henryk Walezy
Henry Valois (1573–1575)
Date of issue: 12 VII 2018



Jan III Sobieski
John III Sobieski
(1674–1696)



Stefan Batory
Stephen Bathory (1576–1586)
Date of issue: 17 I 2019



August II Mocny
Augustus II the Strong
(1697–1706, 1709–1733)



Zygmunt III Waza
Sigismund Vasa (1587–1632)
Date of issue: 23 I 2020



Stanisław Leszczyński
(1705–1709, 1733–1736)



Władysław IV Waza
Ladislav Vasa (1632–1648)
Date of issue: 3 XII 2020



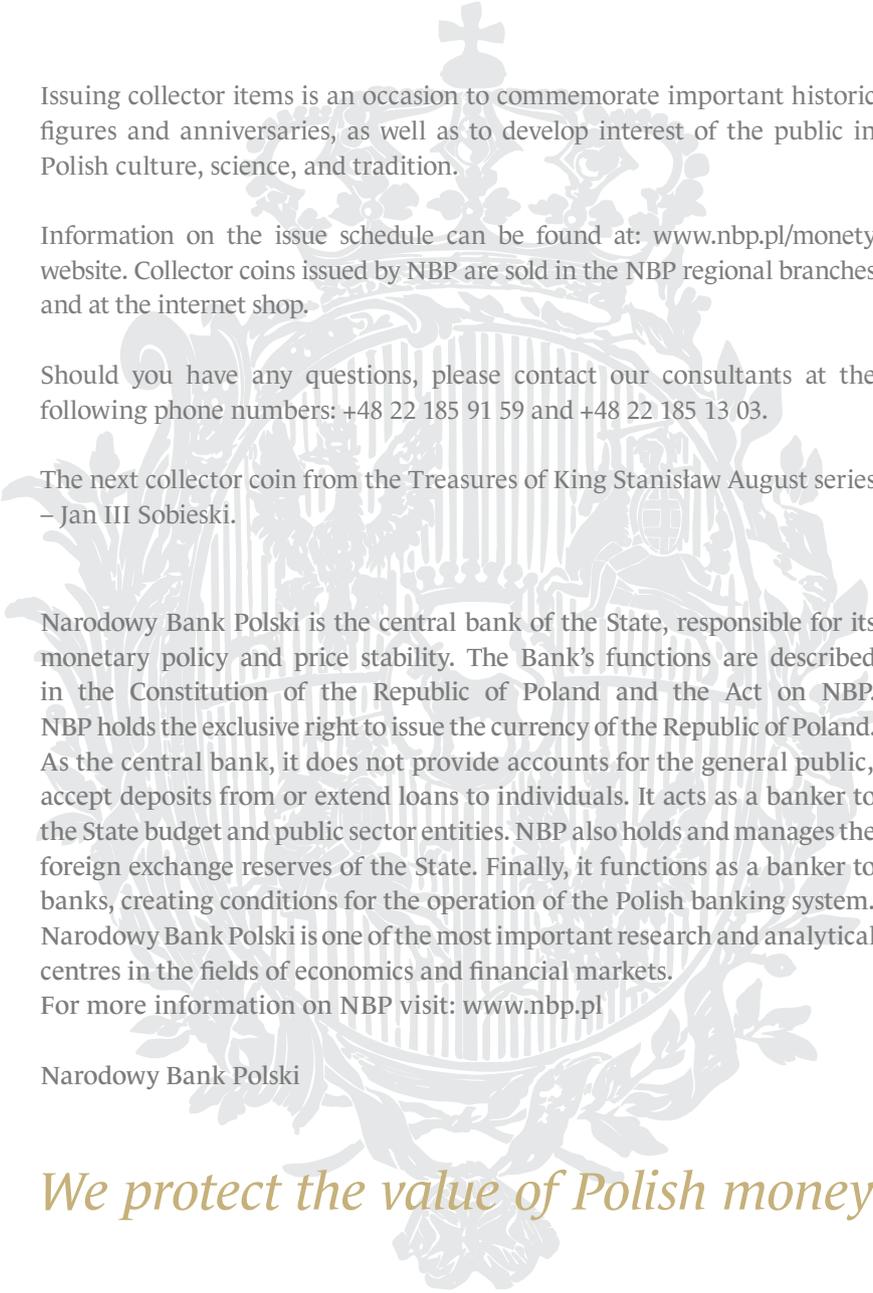
August III Sas
Augustus III
(1733–1763)



Jan Kazimierz Waza
John Casimir Vasa (1648–1668)
Date of issue: 26 I 2021



Stanisław August Poniatowski
(1764–1795)
Coin design to be presented



Issuing collector items is an occasion to commemorate important historic figures and anniversaries, as well as to develop interest of the public in Polish culture, science, and tradition.

Information on the issue schedule can be found at: www.nbp.pl/money website. Collector coins issued by NBP are sold in the NBP regional branches and at the internet shop.

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.

The next collector coin from the Treasures of King Stanisław August series – Jan III Sobieski.

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Narodowy Bank Polski

We protect the value of Polish money