

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 in the NBP regional branches and at the online shop.

On 29 May 2019 Narodowy Bank Polski will be putting into circulation a silver collector coin with a face value of 10 zł and a gold coin with a face value of 200 zł – “420th Anniversary of the Birth of Hetman Stefan Czarniecki”.

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Narodowy Bank Polski

Discover Poland

## The Monuments of Frombork



Collector coins

# The Monuments of Frombork

In 1243 Pope Innocent IV created the diocese of Warmia in the areas inhabited by the pagan Prussians. The first cathedral of the newly established diocese was founded in 1260 in Braniewo. However, after the town was destroyed during a Prussian uprising, Bishop Henryk Fleming decided to build a new temple on a fortified hill near the Vistula Lagoon in Frombork. A makeshift wooden cathedral was probably built in that location in 1278. A new brick cathedral was erected in the years 1329-1388 and has survived almost intact to this day. It was surrounded by a ring of brick defensive walls. In the subsequent centuries, further objects were added: the canonries, the Renaissance Bishop's Palace, the Barbican, the Chapter House, and Radziejowski Tower.

Frombork Cathedral is a hall church erected in the Gothic style. It does not have a tower. The building is 90 metres long, 22 metres wide and over 16 metres high. It has a single roof, with a steeple located in the centre, and four ogival turrets in the corners. In the years 1732-1735, Bishop Krzysztof Szembek added the Baroque-style Chapel of the Saviour to the southern nave of the cathedral. The chapel has a dome roof with a lantern. In the architecture of the cathedral, we find building elements of local, Prussian origin, as well as elements of the Flemish and Italian styles.

The cathedral's very rich historical furnishings have been preserved. The main altar in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century chancel is decorated with the paintings of Stefano Torelli, with a scene of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Martyrdom of Saint Andrew. The chancel also contains Gothic and Rococo-style stalls and an extremely valuable painted epitaph of the Canon of Warmia Bartłomiej Boreschow from 1426. The northern nave of the church contains a late-Gothic polyptych made in Toruń in 1504, at the request of Bishop Łukasz Watzenrode. By the pillars there are 16 side altars made of marble and wood and founded in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.



In 1684, the cathedral obtained first-class organs built in Gdańsk at the workshop of Daniel Nitrowski. Today the organs are used during the annual International Organ Music Festival held in the summer season. The floor and the walls of the cathedral contain 128 tombstones and epitaphs of Warmian bishops, canons and other members of the clergy.

From the Middle Ages to 1945, the cathedral served as the seat of the Warmia Cathedral Chapter. The Chapter's most famous member was the Canon Nicolaus Copernicus, who lived and worked on the Cathedral Hill in Frombork almost continuously from 1510 until his death in 1543. This is where the astronomer developed his greatest work entitled *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* (On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres) which revolutionised our understanding of the universe.

On 22 May 2019 Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a collector coin from the series "Discover Poland" – the Monuments of Frombork with a face value of 5 zł.

Face value: 5 zł

Alloy: ring MN25, core CuAl6Ni2

Finish: standard

Diameter: 24.00 mm

Weight: 6.54 g

Edge (side): irregularly milled; on the side an inscription: "NBP", repeated eight times, every second one inverted by 180°, separated by stars

Mintage: up to 1,200,000 pcs

Designer: Dobrochna Surajewska

Issuer: NBP

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

After his death, Nicolaus Copernicus was buried at Frombork Cathedral. Work aimed at identifying his grave site was launched in 2004. It is highly probable that fragments of Copernicus' bones were then found. On 22 May 2010 his remains were once again buried at the Archcathedral Basilica. An impressive epitaph was placed on the astronomer's tomb in the temple's south nave.

In 1965 Pope Paul VI raised the status of the cathedral to a minor basilica, and in 1992 it was elevated to the rank of Archcathedral of Warmia. On 16 September 1994, the object was entered on the list of historical monuments.

The reverse of the coin carries the image of the Archcathedral Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Andrew the Apostle in Frombork.

Fr. Professor Wojciech Zawadzki, PhD