

LECH KACZYŃSKI. IT IS WORTH BEING A POLE

Lech Kaczyński was born on 18 June 1949 in Warsaw to a family of intellectuals with strong patriotic traditions. Having graduated from the University of Warsaw, he moved to Sopot in 1971 and began academic work at the University of Gdańsk. He specialised in labour law. In 1980, he successfully defended his doctoral dissertation, and in 1990 he finished his habilitation. In 1996, he was appointed Associate Professor.

In the second half of the 1970s, he joined the circle of the founders of the Free Trade Unions (Wolne Związki Zawodowe). He would teach workers at secret meetings and write for the underground magazine "Robotnik Wybrzeża" ("Worker of the Coast").

During the August strike in the Gdańsk Shipyard, he became adviser to the Inter-Enterprise Strike Committee. He co-edited the statute of the Independent Self-Governing Trade Union "Solidarity" ("Solidarność"), headed the Intervention Bureau of the Gdańsk Inter-Enterprise Founding Committee, and was a member of the regional management of "Solidarity" in the Gdańsk Region. During martial law, he was interned. He co-organised the strikes in May and August 1988 in the Gdańsk Shipyard.

In the elections held in June 1989, he won a seat in the Senate. At the same time, acting as First Deputy Chairman of "Solidarity", he actually managed the union while Lech Wałęsa was engaged in his presidential election campaign. Lech Kaczyński came into the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland as Minister of State for National Security. From February 1992 to June 1995, he served as President of the Supreme Audit Office.

As Minister of Justice appointed in June 2000, Lech Kaczyński gained massive public support for the vigorous fight he led against organised crime and corruption. A year later, he was appointed the first chairman of the newly-formed party – Law and Justice (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość). In the autumn of 2002, he was elected Mayor of Warsaw.

In 2005, Lech Kaczyński became President of the Republic of Poland. He sought to form an axis of energy cooperation that would free Eastern Europe from gas blackmail. He initiated a diplomatic action



that saved Georgia as Russian tanks were approaching Tbilisi. He kept particularly good relations with Poland's immediate neighbours – Lithuania and the Czech Republic. He also strove to maintain strategic relations with Ukraine.

Lech Kaczyński pursued a consistent, historically-oriented policy that was aimed at reminding new Polish generations about national pride and respect for the forgotten heroes of the fight for freedom of the Republic of Poland.

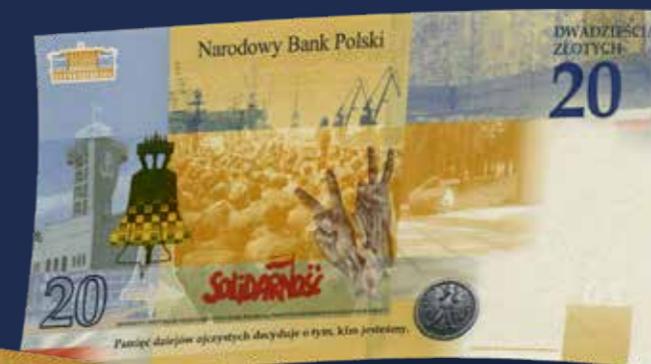
Lech Kaczyński died in a plane crash near Smolensk on 10 April 2010.

Prof. Andrzej Nowak

The portrait of Prof. Lech Kaczyński, President of the Republic of Poland, and the image of the Presidential Palace are based on photographs by Maciej Chojnowski. The image of the Presidential Couple, Maria and Lech Kaczyński, featured on the watermark is based on a photograph by Paweł Krzywicki/Forum. The image of a crowd of strikers in the Gdańsk Shipyard in the 1980s is based on a photograph by Stanisław Składanowski.

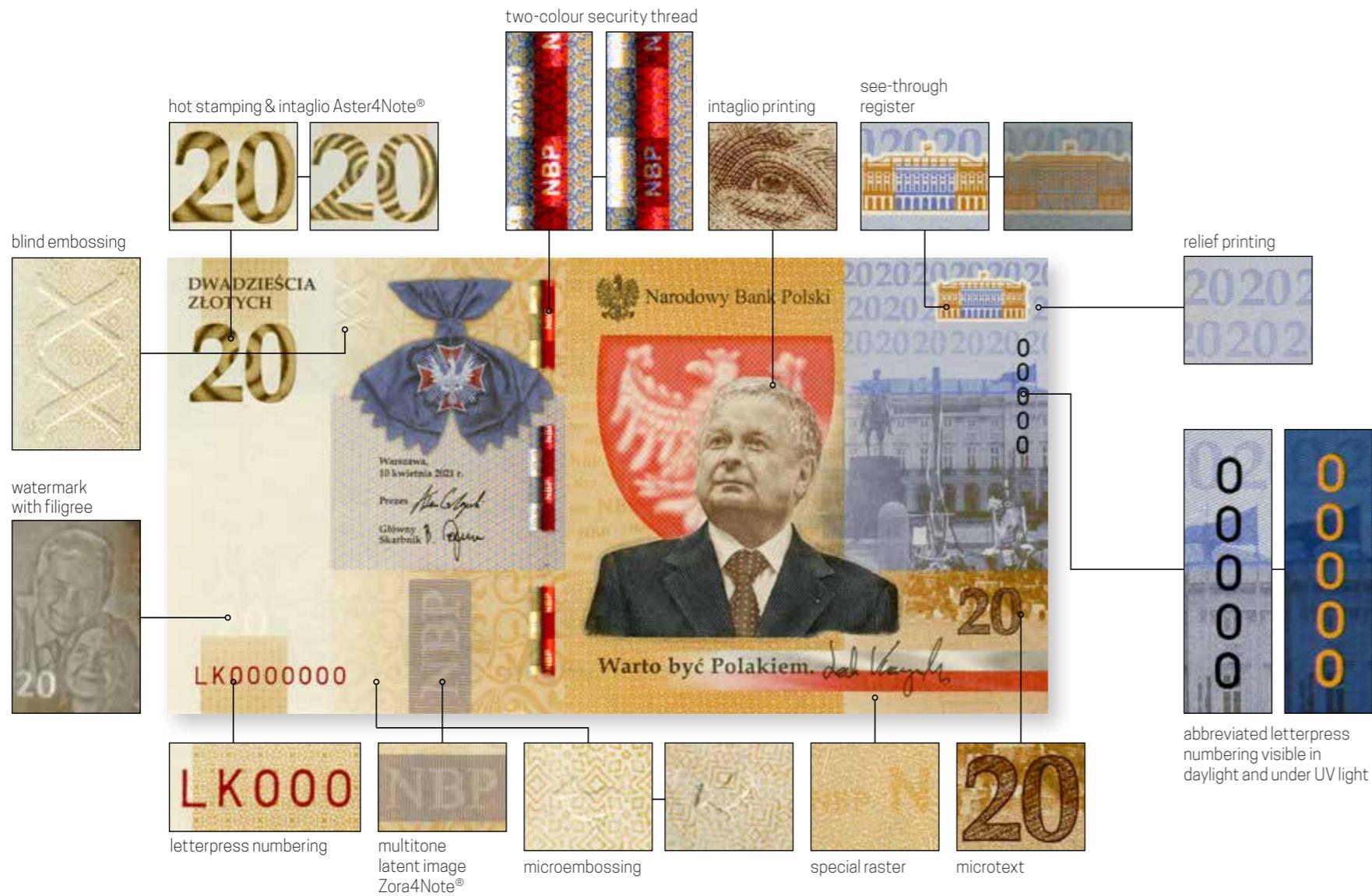


NARODOWY
BANK POLSKI



Lech Kaczyński. It is Worth Being a Pole

COLLECTOR BANKNOTE NBP



Description

The front of the banknote features a portrait of Prof. Lech Kaczyński, President of the Republic of Poland, an image of the Order of the White Eagle, and an image of the Presidential Palace in Warsaw.

The back of the banknote features an image of the building of the Warsaw Rising Museum, a crowd of strikers in the Gdańsk Shipyard in the 1980s, the inscription SOLIDARNOŚĆ (Solidarity), and a view of the Polish War Cemetery in Katyń.

Face value: 20 zł

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