

## 300th Anniversary of the Coronation of the Icon of Our Lady of Częstochowa

The Blessed Virgin Mary has long had a special status in the Polish people - she is the Mother, the Protector, and the Queen. Jan Długosz recognized this in the "Chronicles of the Famous Kingdom of Poland", calling the Mother of God "the most venerable Queen of the world and ours". Over the centuries many Polish rulers prayed for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary before her Miraculous Icon, and Jasna Góra became a pilgrimage destination for people from all strata of society, who brought gifts in the form of regalia to the Mother of God. The Marian cult was expressed and developed in the oath made by King John Casimir Vasa in the Lwów (Lvov) cathedral during the Swedish Deluge.

The Lwów Oath was followed by the canonical coronation of the Miraculous Icon of the Mother of God in 1717. This was the first coronation of an Icon of the Mother of God carried out outside of Rome and of Italy. The final decision on the coronation was taken by Pope Clement XI, who donated precious crowns and entrusted the conduct of the ceremony to the Bishop of Chełm Krzysztof Szembek.

The front side of the banknote dedicated to the 300th anniversary of this event shows the graphical depiction of the crowns bestowed by Pope Clement XI (which were stolen in 1909). The Marian crown is topped with stars which allude to the Woman of the Apocalypse. The crowns of Mary and Child Jesus are supported by pairs of angels. This is associated with the cult of the Guardian Angels, promoted by the Pauline Fathers at Jasna Góra since the seventeenth century. Under the crown of Child Jesus, against the background of stylized Anjou lilies there is a Marian monogram, used as one of the banknote's security features, the so-called see-through register (recto-verso). On the right, there are stylized motifs of tendrils from the baroque frame of the Miraculous Icon. The watermark depicts the coat of arms of the Pauline Order showing a raven with a loaf of bread in its beak and two lions leaning against a palm tree. This imagery relates to the life of Saint Paul the First Hermit, the patron of the Pauline Order. In the upper-left corner there is a floral motif from the antependium of the altar in the Chapel of the Mother of God, made on the occasion of the coronation.

On the back side of the banknote we see a drawing published in Rome in 1717, depicting the coronation of the Miraculous Icon of the Mother of God – the illumination of the sanctuary and a view of the coronation altar. On the left we see the plan of the Jasna Góra monastery with its fortifications, and below it, the fleur-de-lis of the House of Anjou. On the right there is a floral motif from the frame of the Icon and a watermark – the coat of arms of the Pauline Fathers.

The theological and historical symbolism presented on the banknote highlights the unique role that the Icon of Our Lady of Częstochowa, and more broadly the Marian cult in general, played in the history of the Polish nation.

Fr. Stanisław Jan Rudziński  
Curator of the Collection of Votive Art of Jasna Góra

On 21 August 2017, Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a collector note "300th Anniversary of the Coronation of the Icon of Our Lady of Częstochowa" with the face value of 20 zł.

**Face value:** 20 zł  
**Dimensions:** 150 mm x 77 mm  
**Volume:** up to 55,000 pcs  
**Note designer:** Justyna Kopecka

Technology Partner



Issuer: NBP

The banknotes commissioned by NBP were manufactured by the Polish Security Printing Works (PWPW S.A.). Narodowy Bank Polski holds the exclusive right to issue the currency of the Republic of Poland, including collector coins and banknotes. All coins and banknotes issued by NBP are legal tender in Poland.

NBP

Narodowy Bank Polski

## Collector banknote

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# Collector banknote

## 300th Anniversary of the Coronation of the Icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa

multitone intaglio

multicolour engraved crowns with a gold offset background

crowns - view in UV light

special raster - offset

stars printed in iridescent ink - silkscreen

multitone watermark including electrotype

security thread

embossed element for the visually impaired

see-through register

microtext - intaglio

latent image - intaglio

SPARK® live - silkscreen

positive microtexts - offset

image visible under UV light

positive and negative microtexts - offset

relief security pattern - offset

letterpress numbering with rainbow print

see-through register

special raster with a rainbow effect - offset

positive microtexts - offset

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Narodowy Bank Polski also holds and manages the foreign exchange reserves of the State. Finally, it functions as a banker to banks, creating conditions for the operation of the Polish banking system. Narodowy Bank Polski is one of the most important research and analytical centres in the fields of economics and financial markets. For more information on NBP visit: [www.nbp.pl](http://www.nbp.pl)

Narodowy Bank Polski

*We protect the value of money*