

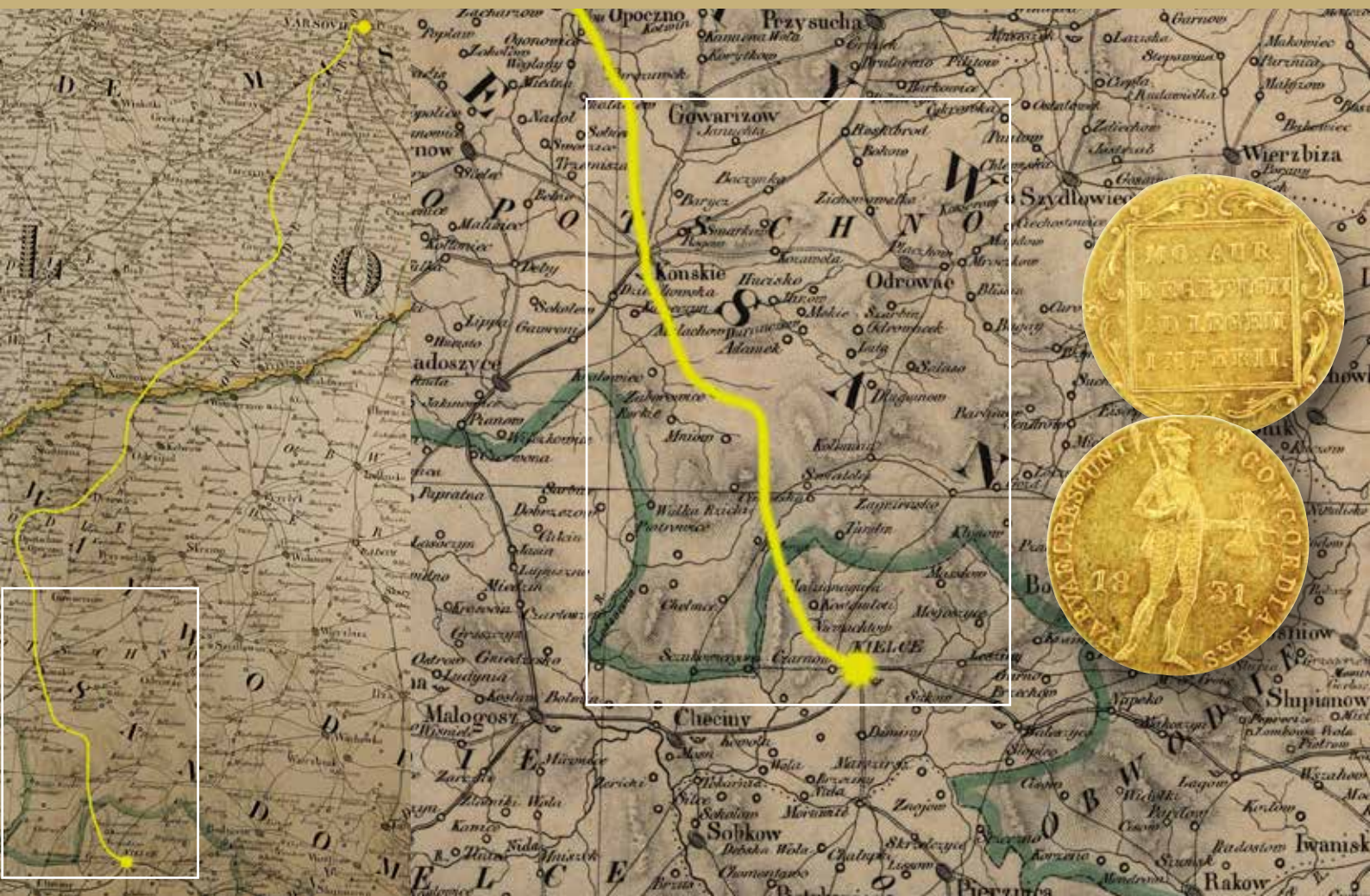


Money Centre  
in memory of Sławomir S. Skrzypek

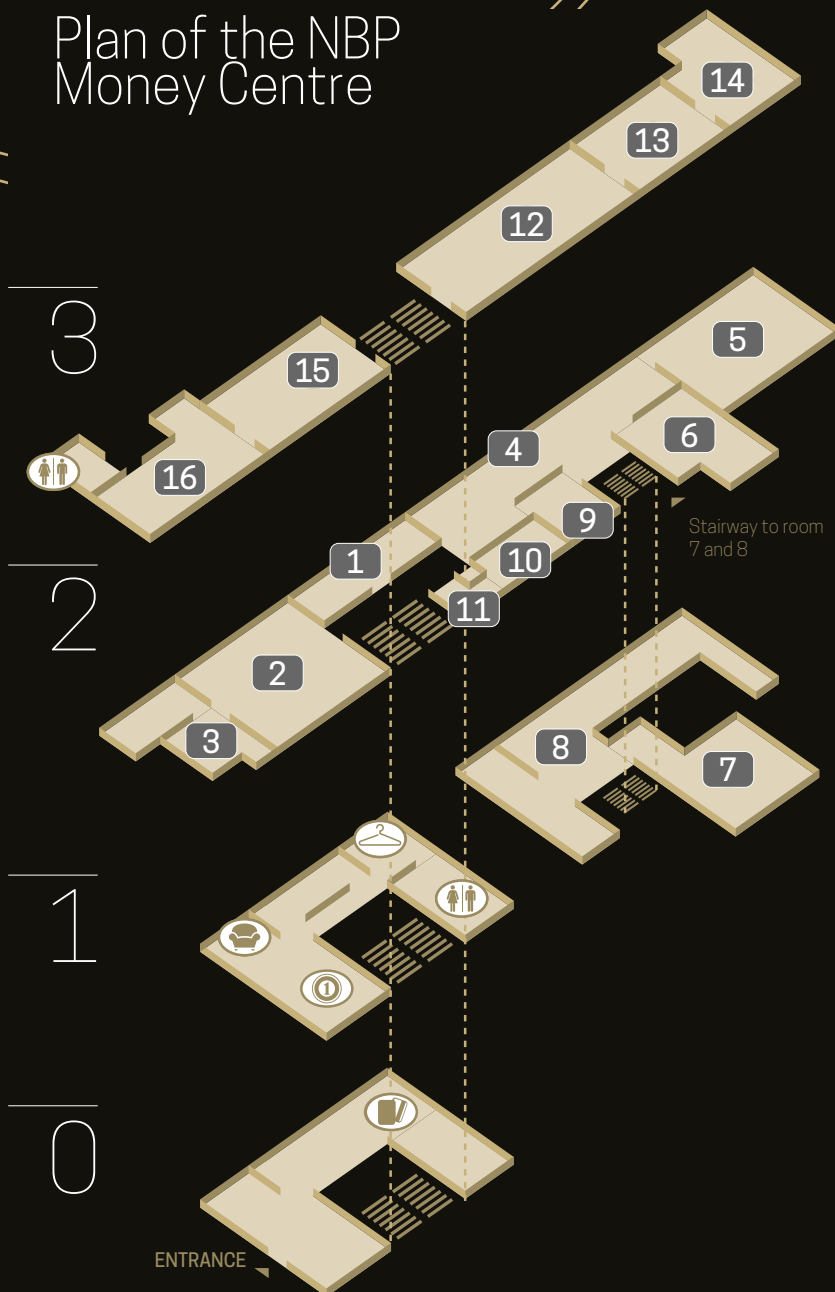
No 25  
2021 Q1

# Bankoteka


HISTORY • ECONOMY • EDUCATION



# Plan of the NBP Money Centre







## LEVEL 3

- 12** The Stock Exchange and Financial Markets
- 13** Modern Payment Systems
- 14** Monetary and Economic Unions
- 15** Creator of Money and Money Production
- 16** Money in Art
-  Toilets


## LEVEL 2

- 1** Encounters with Money
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- 3** Monetary Systems
- 4** Bank Street
- 5** The Central Bank
- 6** The Numismatist's Study
- 9** Wars
- 10** Polish People's Republic
- 11** Fall of Communism

## LEVEL 1

- 7** Laboratory of Authenticity
- 8** The Vault
-  Cloakroom
-  Relaxation area
-  Toilets
-  Sale of numismatic items

## LEVEL 0

-  Reception desk

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## Dear readers

In this issue of our magazine we return to the evacuation of Bank Polski's assets from Warsaw to Kielce in March 1831. Using the maps presented on the front page, we can trace the route of this precious convoy, which took place 190 years ago, soon after the Polish Sejm dethroned Tsar Nicholas I as the king of Poland. The article enables us to understand the decision of the Bank's authorities regarding the location chosen for the evacuation of the deposits and valuables stored at the vault of Bank Polski – at that time, the city of Kielce was the capital of the Kraków voivodeship (the city of Kraków was not the part of the Kingdom of Poland created at the Congress of Vienna).

The golden ducat from 1831 – an exhibit from this period, which is presented on the cover – can be viewed at three separate locations within the NBP Money Centre. It was an important coin, especially in the foreign settlements of the Polish National Government, and was minted under the new monetary system introduced following the aforementioned dethroning of the Russian tsar.

In the "Education" section we also present an article (along with rare illustrations) devoted to the world's first virtual coin issued by the Bank of Lithuania. The said coin also has certain links to Poland. Does this coin truly portend the digital revolution in numismatics, as the title of the article suggests?

The next article in this edition of "Bankoteka" associated with an important anniversary is the first part of an extensive analysis of Upper Silesia's significance for the Second Polish Republic. The opportunity to cast more light on this topic comes with the 100th anniversary of

the Third Silesian Uprising. The Polish Senate honoured this anniversary by proclaiming the year 2021 as the Year of the Silesian Uprisings. In April of this year Narodowy Bank Polski will issue the commemorative coin "100th Anniversary of the 3rd Silesian Uprising". We will write more on this topic in the second part of the article, which will appear in the next issue of the magazine.

In the "Exhibits" section, we return to the theme of the November Uprising. We present patriotic souvenirs of this national uprising, which are exhibited in the "Numismatist's Study" room.

Despite the fact that our facility is closed during the ongoing pandemic, the NBP Money Centre is constantly updating and expanding its exhibition. This also includes the introduction of new multimedia modules. In the "Discovering multimedia... Let's open the showcases" section we present fascinating conversations with the virtual figures of Polish economists – Fryderyk Skarbek, Roman Rybarski and Stanisław Grabski.

Meanwhile, in the section "From the Calendar of the NBP Money Centre", we discuss the series of educational videos posted on the [cpnbp.pl](http://cpnbp.pl) website and the NBP channel on YouTube, and we also write about an online webinar for international audiences – members of the European Association for Banking and Financial History (EABH). During the webinar, we presented the history and the stages of development of our magazine.

Enjoy your reading

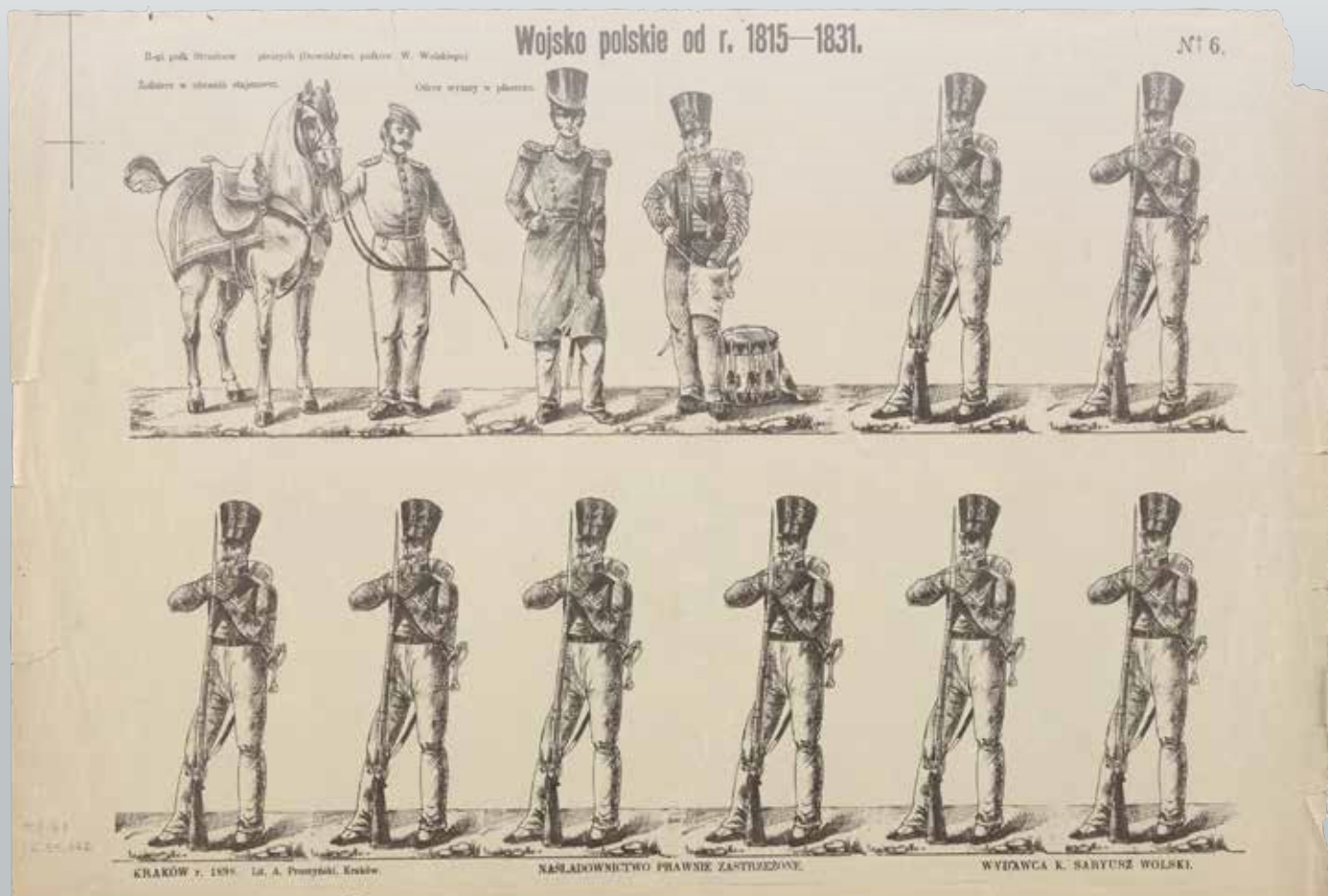
The editorial team of "Bankoteka"

# Education

**The role of Kielce in the history of Polish central banking - Part 2** pp. 5-8

**A digital revolution in numismatics** pp. 9-11

**The economic importance of Upper Silesia in the Second Polish Republic - Part 1** pp. 12-15



# The role of Kielce in the history of Polish central banking

## The evacuation of Bank Polski in March 1831 – Part 2

In the first half of the 19th century the region of Kielce was the site of intense investment activity. This included, among others, the construction of steel mills and metal plants, as well as the new road network. The quiet towns and villages, which are now mostly living off agritourism, became the focal points of an ambitious industrialization plan for the Kingdom of Poland. The construction of the rolling-mill and the puddling furnace in Sielpia near Końskie started in 1821. These facilities were planned by Stanisław Staszic. The investment project also provided for the construction of the housing estate for the workers as well as the paved road connecting the plants with Bobrza and Kielce. Initially, the project was implemented by the Revenue and Treasury Commission, and then – up until 1841 – by Bank Polski. The facilities built over the course of 20 years included

the water reservoir used to power the machines, production halls, wood drying chambers, administrative and utility buildings, the factory hospital, and the workers' housing estate.

The country's largest metallurgical complex, built in Bobrza near Kielce, was developed with even greater momentum. The design of the plant was commissioned at the initiative of the Minister of Treasury Franciszek Ksawery Drucki-Lubecki and prepared in the years 1826-1827 by Fryderyk Lempe, the professor of the Academic and Mining School (Szkoła Akademiczno-Górnicza) in Kielce. The whole complex was supposed to include, among others, enormous metallurgical furnaces with an unprecedented height of 18 m, the foundry, production halls, and charcoal



Bobrza near Kielce. Retaining wall of the metallurgical complex built in the years 1828-1831. The presumable final stage of the route used for the evacuation of the assets of Bank Polski.

Source: [polskapogodzinach.pl/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Swietokrzyskie-2261.jpg](http://polskapogodzinach.pl/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Swietokrzyskie-2261.jpg)



Skyline of Kielce from 1826. On the left side of the image there is the massive building of the Provincial Committee – the part of the old church of St. Leonard is extending towards the city. A customs chamber was located there – this is where the assets of Bank Polski were kept.  
Source: <https://zeromyszczacy.pl/relacja-z-obrad-walnego-zebrania-403-2016-cz-1-id444.html>

storing facilities. The construction of the dam (the largest object of this kind in the Kingdom of Poland) in the Bobrza river valley was supposed to enable the creation of the water reservoir used to produce mechanical energy for the needs of the plant (furnace blowers, etc.). This was to allow for the production of 5,100 tonnes of crude iron per year, that is, as much as all the existing Polish iron works combined. The plan also provided for the construction of administrative and residential buildings.

In 1831 the construction works were already quite advanced. If we were to assume that the convoy route passed through this location, then the breakdown of one of the carriages transporting the Bank's assets – as mentioned in the account of director Hoffman – which occurred "two miles from Kielce" (about 1.6 kilometres) might have happened in the vicinity of Bobrza.

Let's get back to the main thread of the story, however. The unexpected "adventure" near Kielce was not the end of the troubles awaiting director Hoffman. Because of the resulting delay, and (it seems) the narrow circle of people initiated into the details of the operation, after the convoy finally reached the city, the precious deposit wasn't immediately stored in the designated location. This was due to the absence of Kacper Wielogłowski, the President of the Provincial Committee: "The President had gone out, and the remaining members of the Committee were hardly able to answer whether they had any knowledge with respect to the Bank's arrival". The Deputy President asked director Hoffman to use the building of the local seminary, but he decided against this option due to the terrible technical condition of the premises and the earlier arrangements: "I was able to see with my own eyes, that the building did not correspond to the Bank's needs in terms of security, nor in terms of convenience. There were wooden ceilings everywhere, and some of them were crumbling. The individual rooms (...) were located far apart, and were either narrow or dark, there was no room for the horses, while the inn was truly vile. For this reason, when night came,

I had to park the carriages on the market square next to the watch house, and put up an overnight guard there. Meanwhile, the horses and the people found accommodation – with great difficulty – at the inn".

It was not until the next day, 10 March 1831, that the valuable deposit was taken to the previously designated location – the provincial customs and treasury chamber operating in the so-called Leonard Building.

What was the origin of this name and why was this building so important in the history of Kielce? Its origins date back to the 17th century when the townspeople of Kielce founded the Church of St. Leonard in the place of the former chapel. The Bishop of Kraków Kajetan Sołtyk, who resided in the Kielce palace in the years 1782-1788, decided to add the hospital and the nunnery to the church. The construction of the impressive building was completed, however, the nuns failed to move in before the Four-Year Sejm nationalized church property in 1789. In 1794 Kosciuszko's army organized the temporary field hospital in the building. The subsequent partitions and wars were not conducive to stability, and the building remained unfinished. After the Kingdom of Poland was created in 1815, the building's large size proved to be the great asset and one of the arguments in favour of establishing the regional capital in Kielce. In addition to the departments of the Provincial Committee, the oldest part of the building, formerly used as the church, additionally functioned as the aforementioned "customs and treasury chamber".

As the result, director Hoffman was able to report the completion of the first stage of the operation to the Bank's authorities. He himself remained in Kielce, however, awaiting the arrival of the second, much more valuable transport.

This convoy left Warsaw on the night of 13 to 14 March 1831 and was escorted by 12 riflemen, under the supervision of master accountant

## Golden ducat, 1831, Au 0.983

Obverse: A knight standing in armour, holding the sword in his right hand and the bundle of arrows in the left hand. On the sides there is the date: 1831. In the rim of the coin there is the small eagle next to the knight's head, followed by the inscription "CONCORDIA RES PARVAE CRESCUNT" ("In harmony small things grow") which is followed by an image of the torch.

Reverse: In the square frame we see the following inscription: MO. AUAR. REG. BELGII AD LEGEM IMPERII (monetae aurentis regis Belgii ad legem imperii – gold coin of the kingdom of Belgium according to the imperial law). Around the frame there are decorative rosettes.

The ducat is presented at the exhibition of the NBP Money Centre in three places: in the "Numismatist's Study" room – in the glass showcase and in the so-called Numismatist's Box – as well as in the "Central Bank" room.

During the November Uprising, Bank Polski took control of the management of the Warsaw Mint. After the dethronement of Tsar Nicholas I on 25 January 1831, the new monetary system was introduced, which consisted of coins in denominations of 3 Polish grosz (minted in copper) as well as 10 Polish grosz, 2 Polish złoty and 5 Polish złoty (minted in silver), and the ducat coin minted in gold.

The management of the Bank decided to abandon the previously minted gold coins with face values of 25 and 50 złoty in favour of the ducat coin with an image modelled after Dutch coins of the same name. Its only distinguishing feature is the small Polish eagle placed on the right side of the knight's head on the obverse of the coin. The reason for this decision was the necessity of settling the National Government's foreign liabilities, and the fact that the golden ducat coin was widely known and accepted both on the European continent and beyond.

■ Marcin Madejski



Location of the Leonard Building on the section of the Kielce city map from 1828 – this is where the assets of Bank Polski worth 43 million Polish złoty were stored.  
Source: [https://kielce.fotopolska.eu/336801\\_foto.html](https://kielce.fotopolska.eu/336801_foto.html)

Luboradzki. The 16 chests contained, among other things, the deposits of the Land Credit Society (Towarzystwo Kredytowe Ziemskie), the deposit of the Łowicz land estate, Treasury deposits, and deposits of the Internal Affairs Committee, the deposits of civil tribunals and the War Commission, as well as the deposits of individuals, including covered bonds and valuables worth over 25.6 million Polish złoty. Due to unfavourable weather conditions, the difficulties that the second convoy had to overcome were much more severe than those encountered by the previous transport. In Grójec the carriages got bogged down in the mud and as many as six horses had to be hitched up in order to pull them out. It took 30 hours to travel the distance from Grójec to Mogielnica (three Russian miles or about 24 kilometres). Master accountant Luboradzki reported on the events in question in the following way: "Every half the mile our horses would stop. I was forced to hire 8 horses and bring in 10 people and was only able to make the little progress. The carriage axles became deformed... We were getting desperate...". As if that were not enough, starting in Końskie "the air became unbearable, and the convoy had to travel through ceaseless rain and snow, as well as the biggest thaw". Only after six days, on 20 March, did the transport finally arrive in Kielce, and following an appropriate inspection, Director Hoffman could inform the management of Bank Polski that the "packages are in good condition".



The no longer existing Leonard Building in Kielce on the photograph from the mid-19th century.  
Source: [madeinswietokrzyskie.pl/gmach-leonarda/](http://madeinswietokrzyskie.pl/gmach-leonarda/)

The thick walls of the Leonard Building in Kielce became the temporary haven for the assets of Bank Polski, whose overall value was estimated at over 43 million Polish złoty. This was the huge amount at the time. It's enough to say that it exceeded the Bank's share capital, which amounted to 30 million Polish złoty. This amount determined the limit for the Bank's issue of banknotes.

The assets evacuated from the vault of Bank Polski didn't stay in Kielce for long. The successful spring offensive of Polish troops on Siedlce, and especially the victorious battles at Wawer, Dęba Wielkie and Iganie, which were fought at the turn of March and April, pushed away the direct threat hanging over Warsaw. As the result, the decision was made to send all of the deposited assets back to the capital city. They were carried back "in good condition and in perfect order" by Lieutenant Marcel Suchorski, who led the unit of soldiers from the army garrison in Kielce. The convoy arrived in Warsaw on 17 April 1831. The cost of the whole operation, including the transport in both directions, was exactly 2,971 Polish złoty and 14 grosz. Despite the wartime hostilities, the encountered difficulties and accidents during the transportation, nothing was lost.

The subsequent years were not easy for Bank Polski and its successor institutions. As the result of the two world wars, the archives are incomplete. Fortunately, thanks to the accounts recorded at the beginning of the 20th century the basic information about this unusual event were preserved. It is not widely known, however, either in terms of the history of Polish central banking, or in the regional dimension. Are there any remaining material traces of the first evacuation of the Polish central bank's resources? Reality has changed

significantly. Today, after the last section of the freeway was put into use, the journey from Warsaw to Kielce only takes two hours. Meanwhile, the Leonard Building was demolished in the 1970s in order to make way for the construction of the Kielce Cultural Centre. Our older colleagues, who are now retired banking workers, could watch the progress of these works from the windows of the Narodowy Bank Polski's old Regional Branch in Kielce (and formerly the Head Office of Polska Krajowa Kasa Pożyczkowa [Polish Loan Bank] and Bank Polski SA) which was situated opposite the Leonard Building.

■ Tomasz Kaleta

NBP Regional Branch in Kielce

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# A digital revolution in numismatics

**The Bank of Lithuania was the first central bank in the world to issue the virtual collector coin. A part of this unusual project is already held in the numismatic collections of Narodowy Bank Polski.**

The first digital commemorative coin released by the central bank – known as LBCOIN – was issued on 23 July 2020. The issuer – the Bank of Lithuania – utilized blockchain technology, and the process of preparation of the issue involved the participation of invited companies from the FinTech sector.

LBCOIN is an unusual coin, or rather... coins. This is because the virtual tokens are accompanied by an issue in the material form – the silver collector coin with the nominal value of 19.18 euros. The whole set commemorates the anniversary of the signing of Lithuania's Act of Independence in 1918 (hence the atypical symbolic face value) as

well as its 20 signatories, whose images are shown both on the coin, and in the graphic design of the electronic tokens.

## How the original version of Lithuania's Independence Act was discovered.

The original copy of the Act, signed by the signatories on 16 February 1918, was considered lost after World War II. In 2017, in light of the upcoming 100th anniversary of the country's independence, the Lithuanian company MG Baltic set up the reward of 1 million euros for the finder of the original Act. The long-sought document was ultimately found on 29 March 2017 by Professor Liudas Mažylis of the Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas – it turned out that it had been kept in the diplomatic archives of the German Foreign Ministry in Berlin. Interestingly enough, in connection with the approaching anniversary of independence, the professor began searching for the document at his own initiative at the much earlier date. In 2016, as he says, intuition told him that these efforts should be intensified. He then came up with the idea of contacting the Berlin archives, and within two days he received access to the document without any obstacles. The document was, of course, one of the highlights of the anniversary celebrations in Lithuania. From February to November 2018, it was presented as an exhibit in the same room in which it was signed – at the House of Signatories Museum in Vilnius.

Sources: Wikipedia, "Dziennik Bałtycki", "Kurier Wileński"



A graphic presenting the symbols of the LBCOIN electronic tokens – the images resembling postage stamps carry the portraits of the signatories of the Act of Independence of Lithuania of 1918, divided into six groups: industrialists, diplomats, presidents, municipal officials, priests, and scientists. Source: Bank of Lithuania.

## A collector's passion

The American researcher Donald O. Case, states that "the collecting of things for pleasure is an almost universal human experience. Psychological studies tell us that it is deeply connected to the development of the self and of relations with the world and other people."<sup>1</sup>

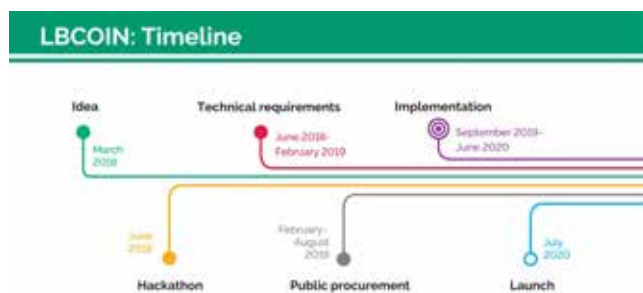
<sup>1</sup> Donald O. Case, "Serial Collecting as Leisure, and Coin Collecting in Particular", *Library Trends*, 2009, vol. 57, no. 4, pp. 729-752. Available online: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/236761587\\_Serial\\_Collecting\\_as\\_Leisure\\_and\\_Coin\\_Collecting\\_in\\_Particular](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/236761587_Serial_Collecting_as_Leisure_and_Coin_Collecting_in_Particular)

Because of this, according to the Bank of Lithuania, one of the main reasons for the launch of such an unusual issue was the desire to generate interest in collecting coins among young people who use modern technologies, and to “infect” them with the numismatic passion. The issue, developed using blockchain technology, provides an opportunity to catch the attention of those who have so far (incorrectly, as we well know) associated numismatics with an archaic and unattractive activity. It is still too early to tell whether virtual collector coins will become the new trend. So far, no other central bank has decided to pursue similar issues. It is certain, however, that the project of the Bank of Lithuania is unique on the global scale and ties into the broader discussion on modern technology and the future of money as such.

At the same time, the combination of tokens with the issue of the silver coin reflects the quest for synergy between the virtual and the physical world of finance. As the result, supporters of both virtual and physical money receive an interesting offer as part of the single issue. This opens the new chapter in the history of numismatics.

### A look to the future

The second, equally important reason for the execution of this unusual project is the opportunity to test blockchain technology in the environment of the central bank (with the view towards the possible future introduction of the central bank digital currency, known as the CBDC, which remains in the realm of science fiction for the time being, but is nonetheless widely debated across the world).



Timeline presenting the stages of work on the LBCOIN: March 2018 – idea; June 2018 – hackathon, June 2018-February 2019 – agreement on the technical requirements, February-August 2019 – public procurement procedure; September 2019-June 2020 – implementation; July 2020 – launch; Source: Bank of Lithuania.

On the occasion of the work on the LBCOIN, the Bank of Lithuania established cooperation with representatives of the booming FinTech industry. This gave the Bank’s employees an opportunity to take the close look at the most advanced solutions in the field of payments and to test them.

### Details of the issue

The LBCOIN coin was issued on 23 July 2020 together with the physical version of the coin minted in silver.

LBCOIN consists of six digital tokens and one physical silver collector coin. The Bank of Lithuania issued four thousand LBCOIN coins, that is, 24,000 digital tokens and four thousand physical silver collector coins. Each token digital represents one of the 20 signatories of the Act of Independence. The tokens are divided into six categories according to the signatories’ area of activity (priests, presidents, diplomats, industrialists, scientists, and municipal officials), with four thousand tokens assigned to each of them.

When purchasing the digital coin, the collectors receive six randomly selected digital tokens, which they will be able to:

- exchange for the physical collector coin (after having collected the token from each of the six categories);
- store in the e-shop offering LBCOIN coins;
- use as the gift;
- exchange with other collectors;
- transfer to the NEM wallet – the public network based on the NEM blockchain technology.

The physical silver collector coins with the unusual face value of 19.18 euros were minted by the Lithuanian Mint. Each element of the coin refers to the different technology – we could say that an entire palette of symbolic references to modernity were used as part of this single design.

Due to its size and shape, the coin resembles the credit card carrying the image of the Act of Independence and its signatories. The reverse of the coin shows the tricolour flag of Lithuania with the Lithuanian national anthem inscribed in the binary code. The obverse of the coin carries the image of the Vytis (an armoured knight on horseback engaged in the pursuit of enemies), which serves as the coat of arms



Reverse of the silver version of the LBCOIN. The strip in the colour of the flag contains the Lithuanian national anthem inscribed in the binary code. Source: Bank of Lithuania.



The obverse of the silver version of LBCOIN. Source: Bank of Lithuania.

of the Republic of Lithuania. The image is incorporated into the QR code linking to the e-shop where digital LBCOIN tokens will be offered for sale. The physical coin was struck in proof finish and weighs 36.36 grams. Both the physical coin and the digital tokens were designed by Giedrius Paulauskis.

■ Natalia Ćwik

## The text of the Act of Independence of Lithuania of 1918, presented on the LBCOIN coin.

### RESOLUTION

The Council of Lithuania in its session of 16 February 1918, decided unanimously to address the governments of Russia, Germany, and other states with the following declaration:

The Council of Lithuania, as the sole representative of the Lithuanian nation, based on the recognized right to national self-determination, and on the Vilnius Conference's resolution of 18–23 September 1917, proclaims the restoration of the independent State of Lithuania, founded on democratic principles, with Vilnius as its capital, and declares the termination of all state ties which formerly bound this State to other nations.

The Council of Lithuania also declares that the foundation of the State of Lithuania and its relations with other countries will be finally determined by the Constituent Assembly, to be convoked as soon as possible, elected democratically by all its inhabitants.

The Council of Lithuania by informing the Government to this effect requests the recognition of the independent State of Lithuania.

Dr Jonas Basanavičius  
Saliamonas Banaitis  
Mykolas Biržiška

In Vilnius, 16 February 1918.

Kazys Bizauskas	Pranas Dovydaitis
Jurgis Šaulys	Steponas Kairys
Jokūbas Šernas	Petras Klimas
Antanas Smetona	Donatas Malinauskas
Jonas Smilgevičius	Vladas Mironas
Justinas Staugaitis	Stanisław Narutowicz
Aleksandras Stulginskis	Alfonsas Petrulis
Jonas Vailokaitis	Kazimieras Steponas Šaulys
Jonas Vileišis	

monecie LBCOIN

# The economic importance of Upper Silesia in the Second Polish Republic – Part 1

*Silesia, this land which had been taken away from Poland by enemy hands,  
It is the true treasure trove: inside, it hides black diamonds.  
And therefore, Poland will become one of the major powers,  
Once it, God willing, regains Upper Silesia.*

Due to an awareness of the economic importance of Upper Silesia, as well as memories of its historical ties with Poland, after the end of World War I most Polish leaders called for the inclusion of this area within the boundaries of the newly reborn Polish state. One of the first politicians who publicly expressed Polish expectations in this regard was Wojciech Korfanty, who spoke in the German Reichstag on 25 October

1918. On that occasions he claimed that the Polish state should take control of both the territories lost as the result of the partitions (Royal Prussia, city of Gdańsk, Greater Poland, parts of Ducal Prussia) as well as the Upper Silesia and Middle Silesia regions, which had been the part of the Prussian state since the 18th century.

After the end of World War I, the Polish-German dispute broke out in Upper Silesia. At stake in this conflict was the sovereign control over the territory which was at the time regarded as one of Europe's most affluent regions. During the Paris Peace Conference (January-June 1919) the Polish delegation argued for the incorporation of Upper Silesia into Poland. The main arguments that were presented included the historical traditions,

the fact that the Polish-speaking population accounted for the majority of the region's inhabitants, and the future importance of this area for the economy of the Second Polish Republic. In the latter case, the most important factors included the benefits derived from the wealth of raw material deposits, the region's strategic location (a far-reaching outpost in case of an enemy attack from the east) and the large population of people ready to work in the rapidly growing industry.

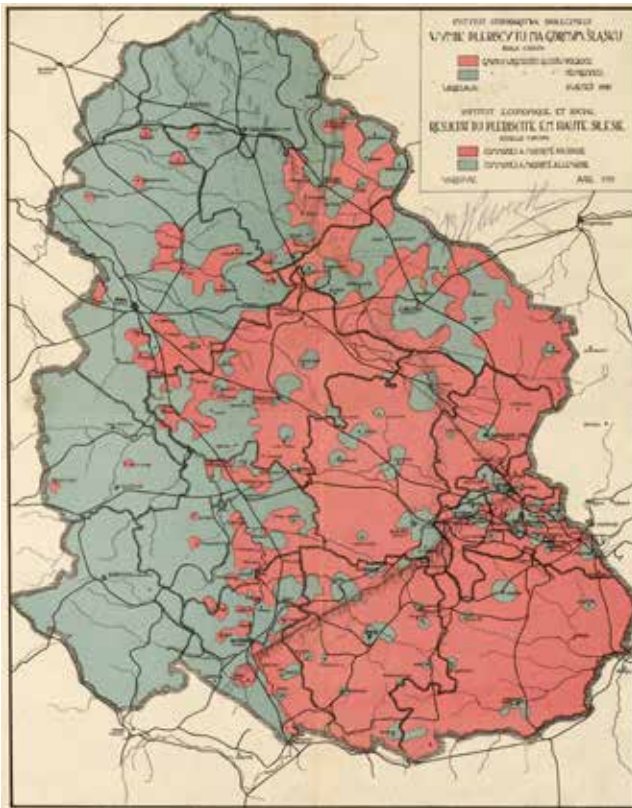
In accordance with Article 88 of the Treaty of Versailles of 28 June 1919, the final shape of the Polish-German border in Upper Silesia was to be determined in the plebiscite, which was scheduled for March 1921. However, before the vote took place, the two countries – both Poland and Germany – tried to seize control of the disputed area using fait accompli policies. These activities were not limited to the broad-ranging propaganda campaign, but also led to armed clashes (later referred to as the Silesian Uprisings). The first of these broke out in August 1919 in response to the German repressions and terror. The uprising only covered the few eastern counties of the Opole region, and quickly collapsed. A second armed uprising of the Polish



Postcard from 1905.  
National Library (polona.pl)



Polish propaganda poster issued during the plebiscite in Upper Silesia, 1921.  
NAC



Map illustrating the results of the plebiscite held in Upper Silesia on 20 March 1921. The areas marked in red signify municipalities where the majority voted for incorporation into the Polish state. The green areas signify municipalities where the majority voted to remain in Germany. National Library (polona.pl)

population took place in August 1920. It lasted several days, but it covered significantly more territory than the previous uprising. The insurgents managed to reach their main political objectives: the German security authorities were removed from the plebiscite area, and the mixed Polish-German police force – based on the principle of parity – was created. Although the temperature of the dispute hardly decreased after the uprisings, the struggle mainly shifted to the plebiscite campaign, which was conducted using all available means of communication, including the press and posters.

Due to the importance of the Upper Silesian industrial region, the governments of both Germany and Poland tried to appeal to the inhabitants of the region with their political vision – both countries offered autonomy to this territory. Even before the principles of Upper Silesia’s division were ultimately established, Poland adopted the so-called organic statute, which provided for the creation of

Wojciech Korfanty (1873-1939) – one of the main architects of the process of Upper Silesia’s reunification with Poland. He was previously the member of the Reichstag and the Landtag representing Upper Silesia. One of the most prominent Polish politicians of the interwar period. NAC



the Silesian voivodeship. It was supposed to enjoy extensive self-government rights, which meant the de facto autonomy of Upper Silesia. This promise came into force two years later, after the division of the plebiscite areas between Poland and Germany was approved.

The plebiscite in Upper Silesia was held on 20 March 1921. Approximately 59.6 per cent of voters opted for the disputed area to remain within the borders of Germany, while about 40.4 per cent voted for the region to be integrated into Poland. One factor which contributed to such an outcome was the participation of numerous Silesian emigrants who were brought back from the western provinces of the German Reich (i.e. almost 200,000 people born in Upper Silesia). The vast majority of these voters were in favour of Silesia remaining within Germany’s boundaries. People were mainly voting for Poland in the rural areas, and especially in the eastern counties bordering with the Polish Republic. On the other hand, people in large cities and in the most industrialized centres, including Bytom, Katowice, Królewska Huta, and Gliwice, largely voted for the region to remain in Germany.



The Third Silesian Uprising – the voluntary insurgent subunit in Rybnik, 1921. NAC



The entry of Polish troops into Silesia under the leadership of General Stanisław Szeptycki – welcoming ceremony in the market square in Katowice, 20 June 1920. NAC

The ambiguous interpretation of the voting results and the divided opinions among the Allied Powers (France proposed the incorporation of the Upper Silesian industrial area into Poland, while the United Kingdom and Italy were in favour of its annexation by Germany) increased the likelihood of an outcome that would be very unfavourable for the Polish Republic, that is, one in which Poland would only receive the small section of the plebiscite area, without any heavy industry. The argument that ultimately determined the division of the plebiscite territories was the armed revolt of Silesia's inhabitants – the Third Silesian Uprising. It started on the night of 2 to 3 May 1921 and was led by Wojciech Korfanty.

The most important result of the uprising was not the military success of the Polish side, but the achievement of specific political objectives. After several months of disputes, on 12 October 1921 the Council of the League of Nations decided on the division of the disputed territories which was favourable to Poland. The decision was approved by the Conference of Ambassadors on 20 October.

Poland was granted 29 per cent of the territory, 46 per cent of the population (996,500 people) and most of the region's industry, including 53 of the 67 coal mines, and 9 of the 14 steel mills. The localities incorporated into Poland included Katowice, Świętochłowice, Królewska Huta, Rybnik, Lubliniec, Tarnowskie Góry, and Pszczyna. Although these territories represented the smaller part of the plebiscite area, they were more densely populated, and most importantly – much more industrialized. The lands that fell to Germany included the regions of Opole and Racibórz, as well as the industrial cities of Gliwice, Zabrze, and Bytom. The lands awarded to Poland contained all of Upper Silesia's iron

ore mines, all lead, zinc, and silver smelters, as well as the majority of zinc and lead ore mines, coking plants, steel mills, iron and steel foundries, rolling mills and steel mills. Moreover, Poland gained control over about the half of the industrial facilities not related to mining and metallurgy.

On 15 May 1922, the German-Polish Convention on Upper Silesia was signed in Geneva. The convention established the 15-year interim period aimed at ensuring economic continuity in Upper Silesia. The same document also regulated issues of nationality.

On 20 June 1922, the Polish army entered Upper Silesia under the command of General Stanisław Szeptycki, and on 16 July 1922 the ceremony celebrating Upper Silesia's symbolic unification with the Polish Republic was held in Katowice. The act establishing Poland's sovereignty over Upper Silesia was then signed.

The Silesian voivodeship was the smallest out of the 16 voivodeships of the interwar Polish Republic and was the only voivodeship in the Second Polish Republic to enjoy autonomy. Its boundaries stretched from Lubliniec in the north to Cieszyn in the south. The region's capital city was Katowice. In 1922 the total area of the voivodeship was 4,216 km<sup>2</sup>, accounting for only 1.1 per cent of Poland's overall territory. In 1938 the voivodeship's territory expanded by about 906 km<sup>2</sup> following the annexation of the Zaolzie region. According to the census carried out in December 1931, the region was inhabited by 1,295,027 people, which accounted for 4.4 per cent of the country's population. The industrial nature of large parts of the Silesian voivodeship were reflected in this area's exceptionally strong urbanization. Katowice and Królewska Huta were among the 13 Polish cities whose population exceeded 100,000 residents at the end of the interwar period.

The Silesian voivodeship was the only administrative unit in Poland to be created from lands formerly controlled by two different countries: Germany and Austria-Hungary. The Upper Silesian part of the voivodeship was more similar to Pomerania and Greater Poland, while the region of Cieszyn gravitated more strongly towards the lands of the former Galicia region. These two areas exhibited different levels of socio-economic development and carried out different ethnic, cultural, or economic policies. They had different monetary systems – the German mark was used in Upper Silesia and the Austrian crown was the legal tender in the Cieszyn region. Upper Silesia was heavily industrialized, while Cieszyn Silesia was an agricultural region (the only industrial centre – Bielsko – was primarily known for textile factories). The Upper Silesian part of the voivodeship was larger and more populous, yet the people of Cieszyn Silesia played the dominant role throughout the entire voivodeship. This was, among other things, due to the fact that there were many representatives of Polish intelligentsia in Cieszyn Silesia. Meanwhile, this social group was underrepresented in the Upper Silesian section



Map of the Silesian province ca. 1938.  
National Library (polona.pl)

of the voivodeship. Religious affiliation also became an element differentiating the two areas – Catholics dominated in Upper Silesia, while Cieszyn Silesia was mostly inhabited by Protestants. People from Cieszyn Silesia were more receptive to the influence of the general Polish culture than the inhabitants of Upper Silesia, and were more willing to engage in activities aimed at the region's rapid integration with the rest of the country. Part of Cieszyn Silesia already became the part of the Polish state in 1920, so it may have been more strongly connected with the Polish Republic. In this

situation, the process of Silesia's integration with Poland had to proceed on two levels: within the voivodeship itself (integration between the Upper Silesian and the Cieszyn Silesia sections) and between the region and the rest of the country.

The distinct nature of the Silesian voivodeship, defining its place in the Second Polish Republic, was most fully manifested through its legal autonomy. The voivodeship's autonomous rights were executed by the Silesian Sejm, the local unicameral parliament made up of 48 deputies (in 1935 the number of representatives was reduced to 24). The Silesian Sejm had broad legislative powers to regulate local public

and economic life. The Silesian voivodeship also had its own Treasury, which was financed from the citizens' taxes and from the fees derived from the business activities of various legal entities. The Silesian Treasury was supposed to transfer the certain part of its revenues (the so-called "tangenta" payment) to the Treasury of the Polish Republic. The amount was determined according to the special formula taking into account, among other things, the number of inhabitants and the fiscal strength of Silesia in relation to the population of the entire country and the general revenues of the State Treasury.

The Silesian voivodeship significantly improved the industrial potential of the newly reborn Polish state. In 1923 the Upper Silesian voivodeship accounted for the significant portion of the national output of key industrial products such as coal (73.34 per cent), crude iron (78.51 per cent), crude steel (77.09 per cent), zinc (87.7 per cent), and lead (99.7 per cent). In 1920 Jan Przybyła described Upper Silesia in the following words: "This really is the very affluent area, because aside from coal – which is largely coking coal and therefore very suitable for the needs of the iron industry – Upper Silesia also has other great mineral riches hidden in its soil, as well as well-developed industry."<sup>1</sup>

Silesia was described as "Poland's golden apple" by General Stanisław Szeptycki, while Teodor Tyc, the participant of the Third Silesian Uprising, referred to the region as the "pearl in the Polish Crown". Many representatives of Polish political elites acknowledged Silesia's enormous impact on the development of the newly reborn homeland. Eugeniusz Kwiatkowski – who served as the Minister of Industry and Trade and was also in charge of the Ministry of State Treasury in the interwar period – equated Silesia's importance with that of Pomerania. He saw both regions as the foundation of the country's economic reconstruction: "(...) from this great historical reckoning, we have come out with two golden ducats which should be utilized in order to develop our economy. These are Pomerania and Silesia, two real symbols of industry and world trade. Two cornerstones that are to become the foundation for the most thorough reconstruction of our country, which extend the horizon of our efforts infinitely."<sup>2</sup>

In reality, the incorporation of the part of Upper Silesia into Poland was one of the most important events in the 20th-century history of our country. Without the region's industry and its growth potential, it would have been extremely difficult for Poland to progress from the level of an agricultural nation to the role of the modern European state with the mixed industrial and agricultural economy.

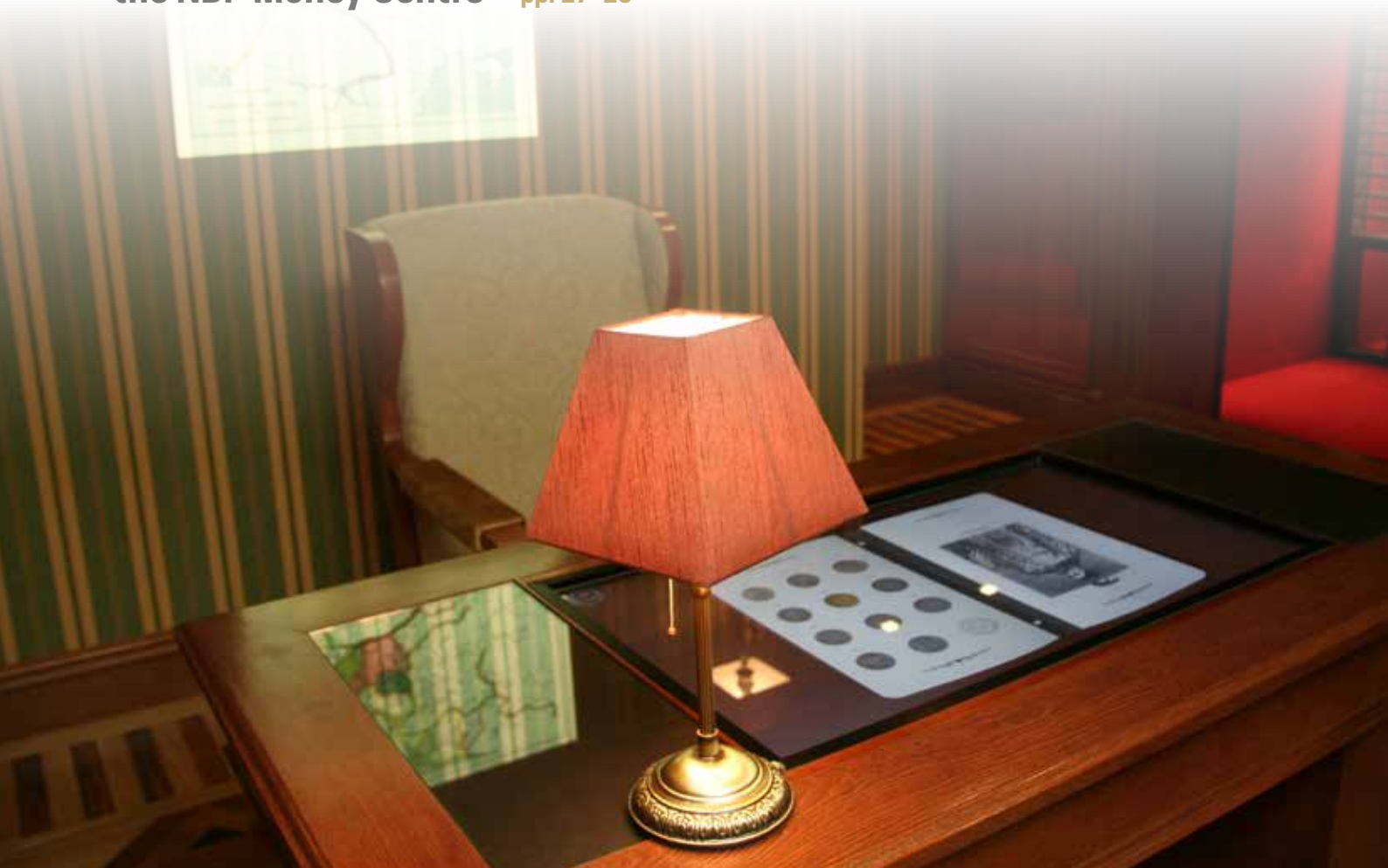
■ Anna Brzyska

<sup>1</sup> Jan Przybyła, "Walka o Górny Śląsk: od powstania do plebiscytu. Szkice i obrazki" (The struggle for Upper Silesia: from the uprising to the plebiscite. Sketches and vignettes), Mikołów 1920, p. 7.

<sup>2</sup> As cited in: Maria Wanda Wanatowicz, "Górny Śląsk – jego miejsce w Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej" (Upper Silesia – its place in the Second Polish Republic), *Niepodległość i Pamięć*, 4/2 (8), 1997, pp. 9–10.

# Exhibits

**November Uprising memorabilia in the exhibition of  
the NBP Money Centre pp. 17-18**





# November Uprising memorabilia in the exhibition of the NBP Money Centre

**In 2021 we will be commemorating the 190th anniversary of the fall of the November Uprising. Following the collapse of the national uprising in 1831, numerous interesting items related to numismatics were created.**

During the November Uprising, Bank Polski – which also managed the Warsaw Mint, pursuant to a decision of the National Government – issued coins and banknotes for the needs of the insurrectionary army. The face values appearing on them clearly emphasized that this was a Polish currency – 3 and 10 Polish grosz, as well as 1, 2 and 5 Polish złoty. Although the name of the issuer remained the same – the Kingdom of Poland – the coat of arms depicted on the obverse sides of the coins was not the coat of arms of the Kingdom of Poland from the period of dependence on Russia. Instead, it referred to the times of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The heraldic shield is divided into two fields and topped with a crown. It carries the images of the Polish eagle and the Lithuanian Chase (Vytis). Only the golden ducat broke with this convention and imitated the design of the Dutch ducat coins, which were immensely popular at that time. This included both the inscriptions on both sides of the coin, as well as the image of a knight with a bundle of arrows and the mint mark. The Polish origin of this coin was only indicated by the small image of an eagle placed before the inscription on the reverse side.

The collapse of the national uprising resulted, among other things, in the creation of a variety of patriotic memorabilia. This includes a series of small handicraft items created from the trees growing on the battlefield of Olszynka Grochowska – the most popular of these were wooden cross necklaces. Pieces of wood were also frequently embedded into jewellery or other items.

Another group of items were objects of everyday use (mainly utensils) or special boxes with sets of insurrectionary currency. For the Polish people living at that time, the possession of such memorabilia served as an expression of patriotic attitudes. The popularization of such items was undoubtedly influenced by two developments. The first was the so-called Great Emigration, when many Poles decided to go abroad on their own or were forced to flee political and economic persecution under the rule of Viceroy Ivan Paskevich (this period was referred to as “Paskevich’s dark night”). The second factor in the popularization of insurrectionary memorabilia were the Russian authorities’ efforts to quickly capture and remove from circulation all the insurrectionary coins, although they were only officially banned on 1 June 1838.



5 Polish złoty, 1831 – obverse and reverse.  
Photo: NBP



3 Polish grosz, 1831 – obverse.  
Photo: NBP



The insurrectionary ducat coin, 1831 – obverse.  
Photo: NBP

At the NBP Money Centre there are also two examples of such “patriotic decorative items”, both of which are presented in the “Numismatist’s Study” room.

The set of insurrectionary numismatic items in a special storage box – purchased in 2019 – was described in the 19th issue of “Bankoteka”. Meanwhile, the silver mug was introduced to the permanent exhibition in 2020 as a result of a successful purchase at an auction of the Damian Marciniak Numismatic Studio. This small vessel is 8 cm in height and 7 cm in diameter at the top. It weighs less than 134 grams. Several Polish coins with an issue date of 1831 have been fitted into the mug: a copper 3 grosz coin, an alloy 10 grosz coin, a silver 2 złoty coin, and a gold ducat. The craftsman soldered a silver 5 Polish złoty coin into the bottom of the mug in such a way as to highlight the inscription placed

on the edge of the coin: “BOŻE ZBAW POLSKĘ” (GOD SAVE POLAND). The coins are the only ornamental element placed on the mug. The outer part of the body is smooth, while the interior is plated with gold, which is frequently found in utensils. In addition to its aesthetic function, the gold layer also protected the users from possible harmful substances which could permeate from the mug’s silver alloy material into the consumed beverages. Unfortunately, as is often the case, the mug carries no signature of the workshop or the craftsman. As a result, it is impossible to determine where it was produced and by whom. This, however, does not in any way reduce the attractiveness or the historical value of this exhibit.

■ *Eliza Walczak*

# Discovering multimedia... Let's open the showcases

## Virtual figures of prominent Polish economists

New multimedia items in the exhibition **str. 20-23**



# Virtual figures of prominent Polish economists

## New multimedia items in the exhibition

**Presenting economic issues in a way that is interesting and comprehensible is a real challenge. The new multimedia items at the NBP Money Centre are an attempt to cope with this task - they present the views of important representatives of Polish economic thought through a dialogue with the virtual figures of Fryderyk Skarbek, Roman Rybarski and Stanisław Grabski. We invite you to join the "conversation" with Polish economists in the "Bank Street" room and in the "Central Bank" room.**



We meet the virtual figure of **Fryderyk Skarbek (1792-1866)** on Bank Street. This is an exceptional individual – the first publisher of the works of young Frederic Chopin, and the author of novels, plays and books devoted to Poland's history. In Paris, where he attended Piotr Maliszewski's private courses in political economy, he encountered the views of the

Scottish economist Adam Smith. Clearly influenced by Smith's groundbreaking dissertation "An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations" (the date of its publication, 1776, is symbolically considered as the beginning of economic sciences) Skarbek wrote his book "The basic principles of the national economy" ("Elementarne zasady gospodarstwa narodowego"). Thanks to the multimedia items made available at the NBP Money Centre, we can now ask Fryderyk Skarbek's virtual figure questions that will help us learn about his economic views.

### **Your youth coincided with the turbulent times of the Duchy of Warsaw. Did you serve in the military?**

*"No. I believe that the country needs not only soldiers, but also public officials and teachers who use the acquired knowledge for the common good. Thanks to Napoleon's victories, Poland was reborn and I was able to take up studies in Paris along with a group of colleagues. During my studies I became thoroughly acquainted with the works of theorists of economics, which after all concerns every human being. I was particularly interested in the area known as political economy, or the study of the national economy. After returning from France, in 1811, I started working at the Ministry of Treasury.*

Skarbek's research activity flourished after he became the head of the political economy department at the University of Warsaw in 1818.

His PhD degree, which was necessary in order to be employed as a teacher, was awarded to him by the Jagiellonian University on the basis of a submitted dissertation."

**Skarbek was a supporter of economic liberalism. Asked what he believed was the source of wealth, he replies without hesitation:**

*"Work and the entrepreneurial spirit, which are supported by technical thought, constitute the foundations for the wealth of individuals and the power of states. Free trade exchange allows us to partake in the division of goods, while ensuring a universal increase in prosperity. Social changes and, above all, equality before the law, opened the way to widespread prosperity, which had previously eluded many social groups."*

As a supporter of capitalist economic principles, he promoted the ideas of economic efficiency and rationality, and denounced profligacy and extravagance. According to Skarbek:

*"One of the causes of poverty is the lack of savings and foresight. As the head of the Directorate of Insurance, I tried to promote the development of all sorts of insurance and to inspire trust in those institutions among the working class. For example, I encouraged people to set up savings passbooks for their children."*

Skarbek was also involved in social activism and charity, which he is eager to talk about:

*"It was thanks to Staszic that I directed my attention towards social issues – the situation of the prisoners, neglected children and the hospitals. I wrote about these matters and spoke about them at the meetings of the Society (The Warsaw Royal Society of Friends of Learning). As a public servant I enforced the reorganization of the health care system in the Kingdom of Poland, which had been neglected previously."*



In 2018 Narodowy Bank Polski put into circulation a silver coin with a face value of 10 zł from the series "Great Polish Economists" – Fryderyk Skarbek.

**Visitors can enjoy the full "conversation" with the virtual figure of Fryderyk Skarbek while taking a stroll on the Bank Street. During the interaction, the economist explains difficult economic situation of Polish territories in the 19th century and offers recommendations to improve this state of affairs.**

Two other virtual figures are waiting for the visitors by the entrance to the "Central Bank" room: Roman Rybarski and Stanisław Grabski – economists and politicians associated with the National Movement in the Second Polish Republic.

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**Roman Rybarski (1887-1942)** – a scholar who strongly influenced the ideological, economic, and political life of Poland in the interwar period. He was a supporter of moderate liberalism and defended the idea of the free market as a mechanism that best serves the multiplication of wealth. He warned against excessive over-regulation of the economy and the risks associated with authoritarian state policies. In short, he

advocated reducing the role of the state in the economy to a minimum.

**We could therefore ask Mr. Rybarski what he believed was the role of the state in the economy?**

"The task of the state is to create conditions in which free economic activity can develop. The state coordinates people's spontaneous activities in various fields of production. It should seek to ensure balance between the individual social strata and groups of interest. This requires conscious action on the part of the legislators who should prevent excesses through civil and commercial legislation."

The "wellbeing of the nation" was an extremely important element in Rybarski's considerations. In his works he emphasized that the "race of civilization" is won by those nations which have enough capital – in our case, of course, this should be Polish capital. He strongly criticized excessive fiscalism. He believed that domestic capital should be multiplied, broadly promoting the idea of saving. Let's ask him directly about his position on the issue of taxation:

**Can the state freely determine the amount of taxes?**

"Yes, but they cannot be too high. They should do the least possible harm to taxpayers. The burdens imposed by the state on the private sector should be constant and reasonable. Excessive fiscalism means that it's not profitable to run a business, and this leads to a decline in investment and to unemployment. Meanwhile, the interests of the State Treasury are directly connected with the economic interests of the citizens."

This opinion is consistent with Jean-Baptiste Colbert's popular saying that "the art of taxation consists in so plucking the goose as to obtain the largest possible amount of feathers with the smallest possible amount of hissing". However, the political power of



In 2019 Narodowy Bank Polski put into circulation a silver coin with a face value of 10 zł from the series "Great Polish Economists" – Roman Rybarski.

the state depends on its ability to collect taxes. Unfortunately, the history of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth provided many negative examples of that.

In this context, it's worth asking Rybarski why we should pay taxes at all.

"Taxes are an essential condition of state power. This is evidenced by the history of our country. Poland did not collect taxes in the 18th century. As a result, the state budget was too

small to support an army. Because of that we lost our independence."

Rybarski was a university teacher and pursued extensive research work. Before World War I he taught at the School of Political Sciences in Kraków. In 1913 he completed a postdoctoral dissertation at the Jagiellonian University, becoming its associate professor. In 1922 Rybarski became a lecturer at the Warsaw University of Technology, and two years later he became the head of the Department of Fiscal Policy at Warsaw University. He managed to combine his academic career with political activity. In 1926 he became a member of the Great Council of the Camp of Great Poland. In the years 1928-1935 he was a deputy to the Polish Sejm where he led the National Party's parliamentary club. Among the questions that we can ask Rybarski, there is also one that concerns his extra-parliamentary activity.

**You mentioned that you had been a civil servant. What did you do?**

"I was a member of the Polish economic delegation to the Paris peace conference, which was chaired by Władysław Grabski. After returning to Poland, I worked for some time at the Ministry of Treasury, which I left in August 1921."

**Rybarski was one of the authors of the Polish banking reforms. He mentions this when asked why the Polish złoty only replaced the Polish mark in 1924.**

"The years 1921-1923 were a period of intense inflation. At that time there was a growing awareness that a balanced budget was a necessary condition for the successful replacement of the Polish mark with the Polish złoty. There was some divergence as to the shape of the necessary reforms. I took part in this debate by publishing my book "The Polish mark and the Polish złoty" ("Marka polska i złoty polski") in 1922. In the book I described the pernicious impact of inflation on economic and social life, and I presented proposals of future

reforms. I believed that they could be carried out without the necessity of incurring foreign debt. I proposed that the value of the Polish currency should be based on the gold standard, and that the future Bank Polski should be organized as a joint stock company."

The activities of Władysław Grabski's government, which resulted in a successful reform, went in this exact direction. I subsequently prepared the statute of Bank Polski and I was a member of the Bank's Council.

Rybarski's activity was interrupted by World War II. He died at Auschwitz in 1942. Prior to his arrest and deportation to the camp he was conducting underground courses at the Faculty of Law of the University of Warsaw.

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The surname "Grabski" is mostly associated with the figure of Władysław Grabski, the Polish Prime Minister, Minister of State Treasury, and the author of the 1924 currency reform. Meanwhile,

his brother **Stanisław Grabski (1871-1949)** – a leading representative of the Lwów historical school – remains relatively unknown. Now all the visitors to the NBP Money Centre will also be able to learn more about his views.

### What were your political views?

“When I was 18, I considered myself a socialist. I approached socialism in an emotional rather than rational way. I was even one of the founders of the Polish Socialist Party. As an adult man I became involved with the National Democracy political camp and I worked with Roman Dmowski for many years. However, in the 1930s, when fascist concepts started appearing in my political environment, I broke all ties with it.”

Stanisław Grabski’s political, scientific, and educational activity lasted several decades. He became a professor of social economics at the Jan Kazimierz University of Lwów as early as 1910, and at the end of his life, in the years 1947-1949, he headed the Department of Social Systems at the Faculty of Law of the University of Warsaw. He experienced both world wars. During World War I he co-organized military units in the Eastern Galicia region and in 1917, after the fall of the Tsarist regime, he called for the creation of a Polish army in the territory of Russia. Thanks to the multimedia tools, we can also ask Stanisław Grabski about his later life.

### What did you do immediately after the war?

“I was politically active. I became a member of parliament already in 1919. In 1920 and 1921, after the war with the Bolsheviks, I participated in the peace negotiations that determined the shape of Poland’s eastern border. In 1921 I also went to Paris in order to negotiate the incorporation of Upper Silesia into Poland.”

In the years 1919-1927 Stanisław Grabski was a member of the Polish parliament elected from the list of the Popular National Union (Związek



In 2020 Narodowy Bank Polski put into circulation a silver coin with a face value of 10 zł from the series “Great Polish Economists” – Stanisław Grabski.

Ludowo-Narodowy). Grabski also served on two occasions as the Minister of Religious Affairs and Public Education.

He withdrew from political life after the May Coup. He once again found himself in the centre of political events during World War II. In 1939 he was arrested and imprisoned in a camp in the Soviet Union. Released two years later (in the aftermath of the Sikorski–Mayski Agreement), he went to London at the request of General Władysław Sikorski. Once there, he became

the chairman of the National Council of Poland, which was a consultative and expert body of the Polish president and government-in-exile. He returned to Poland in 1945.

As an economist, Stanisław Grabski saw economic life as a national community linking individuals with society. He advocated an economy based on the existence of numerous private, small, and medium-sized enterprises. At the same time, he attributed an important role to the state as an actor regulating important socio-economic issues.

### Do you believe the state should undertake economic and social reforms?

“Absolutely! The state cannot withdraw from undertaking difficult reforms if it deems them necessary for the common good. I was a supporter of the idea of a free market and a state watching over the progress of the market processes. The necessary reforms should be carried out even if they limit individual ownership and economic freedom. The absence of such policies resulted in social revolutions in the first half of the 19th century.”

Stanisław Grabski’s most important work was the ten-volume series “Social Economy” (“*Ekonomia społeczna*”), published in the years 1927-1938. In this work he introduced the concept of the social economy, which is an original attempt to formulate a comprehensive economic system. Like many economists associated with the National Movement, he developed the concept of a nation state based on a planned economy, public works, and a reform of the monetary and credit system. He was a supporter of the idea of the free market and a state watching over the course of market processes. He believed that the strength of the Polish Republic depended on the “creative forces” of the nation. He stressed that only the Polish nation can be the Sovereign in the Polish state, and therefore the state should primarily express its interests.

■ *Katarzyna M. Rokosz*

# From the Calendar of the NBP Money Centre

## **“Exploring the history of Polish money”**

- a series of educational films of the NBP Money Centre **p. 25**

## **The “Spread your words!” webinar**

Online seminar on the topic of company magazines as communication and trust building tools **p. 26**





# “Exploring the history of Polish money”

## – a series of educational films of the NBP Money Centre

The history of Polish money is a multi-layered story, full of interesting facts, and spanning the course of more than 1000 years. At the NBP Money Centre we try to show that there is a truly remarkable story behind each coin and banknote included in the exhibition. This is an invitation for each visitor to dig deeper into the realities of the epoch from which the given exhibit derives. This idea guided the creation of special classes at the exhibition entitled “History of the Złoty”, which are dedicated to primary school students in grades 6-8 as well as secondary school



students. Due to the limitations associated with the epidemiological situation, the NBP Money Centre team decided to use the scenario of these classes in order to develop a six-part series of educational films presenting the history of our currency. The project is implemented in

cooperation with the Multimedia Division of the NBP Communications Department. The videos can be viewed on the YouTube channel of Narodowy Bank Polski. They were conceived as a way to introduce variety to history lessons delivered in the context of remote learning.

The narrative of the subsequent episodes is presented in chronological order and covers the most important stages of development of the Polish currency. At the same time, the stories presented in the individual episodes constitute smaller, standalone narratives – it is not necessary to watch the previous films one after the other in order to understand the current topic. The contents are presented in a manner that is easily accessible to a young audience. While watching the movies, the students will encounter numerous references to the general history of Poland, which should facilitate their understanding of the evolution of Polish money. One additional interesting fact is that some of the most interesting items presented in the exhibition of the NBP Money Centre were used during the preparation of the videos. The role of the narrators in the individual episodes is taken on by experienced educators, who are usually conducting educational activities with children and young people at our facility.

The first two episodes of the series “Exploring the history of Polish money” premiered in December of last year. The first one, entitled “Before the Polish złoty was introduced”, describes the most important topics associated with the beginnings of Polish coin mintage and its development up to the 14th century. In the second episode, “The Birth of the Polish złoty – part I”, the narrative focuses on the beginnings of our currency in the 15th and 16th century.

In the current year NBP is planning to release the remaining four episodes:

- “The Birth of the Polish złoty – part II” – this episode is devoted to the functioning of Polish money in the second half of the 17th century, which was a period marked by numerous wars, as well as the initial introduction of the Polish złoty in the form of coins and paper money;
- “Money during the partitions” – this episode covers the 19th century, when the Polish złoty became the circulating currency of the Kingdom of Poland. Topics relating to the birth of central banking in the Polish territories are also discussed;
- “Currency of the independent Polish Republic” – the history of Poland in the interwar period is a story of two currencies; Episode 5 presents the economic challenges that accompanied the restoration of the independent Polish state after the war;
- “The Polish złoty on the path to the present times” – the last part of the series presents the fate of the Polish złoty during World War II, the peculiar ways in which money functioned during the Polish People’s Republic, and the most recent history of our currency associated with the redenomination of 1995.

The release of each episode is accompanied by a live chat with an expert (on the YouTube platform). During these meetings, employees of the NBP Money Centre answer questions submitted by the online users and expand on the topics associated with the theme of the given episode. We sincerely encourage you to watch all episodes of the series. Detailed information about the premieres can be found in the “News” tab at the website of the NBP Money Centre.

■ Adam Skrzęta

# The “Spread your words!” Webinar

## Online seminar on the topic of company magazines as communication and trust building tools

On 17 December 2020, experts from the NBP Money Centre, Anna Brzyska and Stanisław Gorący, conducted an hour-long international webinar in English, which was organized in cooperation with the European Association for Banking and Financial History with headquarters in Frankfurt am Main.

The webinar entitled “Spread your words! Company magazines as communication and trust building tool” was an opportunity to showcase the history and the editorial background of the “Bankoteka” quarterly. The experts presented the development of the magazine and described the process of preparation, formatting, acquisition and editing of articles, as well as the distribution of the educational magazine.

Stanisław Gorący, the editor-in-chief of “Bankoteka”, shared his experiences with the seminar participants and presented some suggestions on how to prepare an interesting magazine that engages

the audience, provides economic education in an accessible way, and introduces readers to issues related to the history of finance. The webinar was provided on an open-access basis and was delivered free of charge. It involved the participation of approximately 50 people from different countries. The webinar participants represented both central banks and commercial banks, as well as other institutions (including research centres) from countries such as Greece, Spain, Finland, Portugal, Switzerland, Romania, Slovenia, Germany, and France.

■ Natalia Ćwik

NBP Narodowy Bank Polski BANKOTEKA – NBP Money Centre magazine 3

### Main topics

- 1 **Brief history of BANKOTEKA** – how it all began
- 2 **Quick look at statistics:** number of issues, articles, authors and other insights
- 3 **Production process:** content creation, authors, editorial process, layout & graphics, translation
- 4 **Smart distribution** – benefitting from the potential of cooperation
- 5 **Feedback from the audience**
- 6 **Dos and don'ts:** hints from the editor
- 7 **Ideas for the future**

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### Brief history – how it all began

- Main goals:
  - IDEA of the concept of an educational centre: the NBP Money Centre.
  - LATEST NEWS about the progress of the creation of the NBP Money Centre.



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### From banca...to bank...



The word “bank” derives from old Italian **banca** → “counter, moneychanger’s bench or table”

Source: Cochérelli, Cuttings from a Latin prose treatise on the Seven Vices. Depicting bankers in an Italian counting house in the 14th century.

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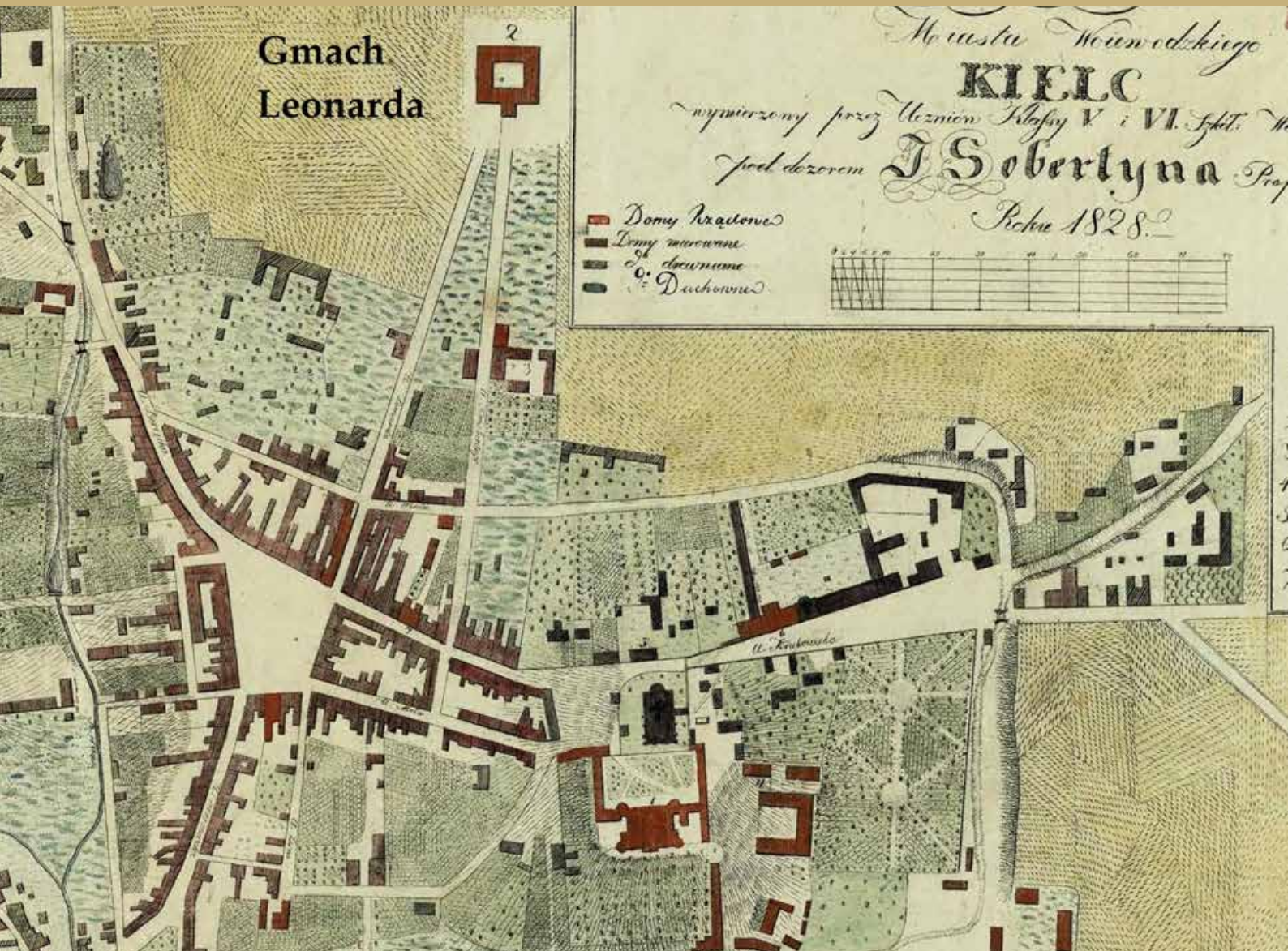
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