



face value	<b>10 zł</b>
metal	<b>925/1000 Ag</b>
finish	<b>proof</b>
diameter	<b>32.00 mm</b>
weight	<b>14.14 g</b>
mintage	<b>45 000 pcs</b>

**Obverse:** Image of the Eagle, established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland; on both sides of the Eagle the notation of the year of issue: 20-03; under the Eagle an inscription: ZŁ 10 ZŁ, circumscription in the rim: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA, preceded and followed by five pearls. The Mint mark:  $\frac{m}{w}$ , under the Eagle's left talon.

**Reverse:** Bust of King Stanisław Leszczyński, a portrait of his daughter Maria, Queen of France, in the background. Circumscription: STANISŁAW LESZCZYŃSKI/1704-1709 • 1733-1736, on the left-hand side; a decorative ornament on the top right.



face value	<b>10 zł</b>
metal	<b>925/1000 Ag</b>
finish	<b>proof</b>
diameter	<b>32.00 mm</b>
weight	<b>14.14 g</b>
mintage	<b>40 000 pcs</b>

**Obverse:** Image of the Eagle, established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland; on both sides of the Eagle the notation of the year of issue: 20-03; under the Eagle an inscription: ZŁ 10 ZŁ, circumscription in the rim: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA, preceded and followed by five pearls. The Mint mark:  $\frac{m}{w}$ , under the Eagle's left talon.

**Reverse:** Half-figure of King Stanisław Leszczyński on the left-hand side; a bust of his daughter Maria, Queen of France, on the right-hand side in the background, circumscription: STANISŁAW LESZCZYŃSKI 1704-1709 • 1733-1736.



face value	<b>2 zł</b>
metal	<b>CuAl5Zn5Sn1 alloy</b>
finish	<b>standard</b>
diameter	<b>27.00 mm</b>
weight	<b>8.15 g</b>
mintage	<b>600 000 pcs</b>

**Obverse:** Image of the Eagle, established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland; on both sides of the Eagle the notation of the year of issue: 20-03; under the Eagle an inscription: ZŁ 2 ZŁ, circumscription in the rim: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA, preceded and followed by six pearls. The Mint mark:  $\frac{m}{w}$ , under the Eagle's left talon.

**Reverse:** Bust of King Stanisław Leszczyński, semi-circumscription: STANISŁAW LESZCZYŃSKI above. Decorative plant motif on the King's right shoulder. Leszczyński's coat of arms - 'Wieniawa', below. On the sides of the coat of arms, dates of the reign: 1704/1709 on the left, and 1733/1736 on the right.

**On the edge:** an inscription: NBP eight times repeated, every second one turned by 180°, separated by stars.

*Designer of the coins: Ewa Tyc-Karpińska*

*Coins struck by the State Mint in Warsaw.*

*Printed by NBP Printing Office*

# Collector's Coins



On 15th October 2003 the National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation collector's coins depicting King Stanisław Leszczyński, of the following face values:

- 100zł - struck in gold, in proof finish, depicting a bust of the King,
- 10zł - struck in silver, in proof finish, depicting a bust of the King,
- 10zł - struck in silver, in proof finish, depicting a half-figure of the King,
- 2zł - struck in standard finish, in Nordic Gold (CuAl5Zn5Sn1) alloy, depicting a bust of the King.

Coins are a continuation of the series "Galaxy of Polish Kings and Princes", started by the National Bank of Poland in 1979.

Stanisław Leszczyński, the only son of Rafał and Anna née Jabłonowska, was born on 20th October 1677 in Lwów. Due to his scrupulous education and upbringing, along

with his personal virtues, he could readily win friendship. He was cultured and sociable, and had broad but rather superficial knowledge on a wide range of matters, which was typical of his times.

Leszczyński's political career began when he was returned as a deputy to the convocational sejm after King Jan III Sobieski death and later at the royal election of June 1697, which elected August II Mocny (Augustus II the Strong), Elector of Saxony, to the throne of Poland. Though only 19 at the time and with no experience in politics, Leszczyński showed his aptitude for mediating in disputes. The new king, Augustus II, wanted to increase his power and rule Poland as firmly as he did his native Saxony, taking decisions by himself. This aroused opposition from even those who had raised Augustus to the Polish throne. Augustus negotiated with the neighbouring countries, promising them part of the Polish and

Lithuanian territories in return for support for his dynastic plans. Saxony formed an alliance with Russia and Denmark, and Augustus II led Saxon forces in an attack launched from Polish soil against Swedish-held Livonia. King Charles XII of Sweden crushed the armies of Tsar Peter I and Augustus II. Next, notwithstanding the Polish senators' declarations of neutrality, he entered Poland and took Warsaw, which put up no resistance.

Charles XII used the opposition to Poland's taking part in the war and the Russian alliance to his advantage, gaining the support of those in the nobility who had formed Warsaw confederation. He decided to depose Augustus and he started looking around for a suitable candidate. Since Augustus had imprisoned Jan III Sobieski's sons, who had the best claims, he finally settled for Stanisław Leszczyński, who was duly elected on 12th July 1704 by the Warsaw confederates, who had abjured their allegiance to Augustus II, with Swedish forces securing the election.

Leszczyński was a monarch with no military or material resources and no public support, entirely at the mercy of his Swedish protector. At Charles's XII request Leszczyński was crowned King of Poland in Warsaw on 4th October 1705, and entered into an alliance with Sweden whereby Poland became Sweden's dependent and relinquished Courland. Stanisław's position relied on Swedish military supremacy. His reign, dependant on Swedish victories, was confirmed in 1706 when Charles XII entered Saxony and forced Augustus II to renounce the crown of Poland.

However, Sweden's defeat at the crucial battle of Poltava against Russia in 1709 turned the scales in favour of Russia. Augustus II annulled his abdication and returned to Poland. Stanisław was forced to flee the country. He was still an ally of Sweden, and Charles XII installed him in his Rhineland residence, where Stanisław lived with his family. Still, Augustus II wanted to retrieve his independence and to get rid of his hated rival. He organised several assassination attempts against Leszczyński, which only forced the latter to move. In 1719 he settled in Wissembourg in Alsace. In 1725 Louis XV, the King of France, married Stanisław's daughter Maria, in the hope that the marriage would strengthen France's influence in Poland. He established his Polish father-in-law in his palace at Chambord and granted him a pension. The marriage improved Stanisław's difficult situation in exile and strengthened his position in Poland.

On Augustus's II death in 1733 France supported the candidacy of Stanisław Leszczyński for the Polish throne. Disguised as a merchant, Leszczyński crossed Germany secretly and arrived in Warsaw, where he found shelter in the French embassy. On 10th September 1733 the French ambassador, Monti disclosed his presence to the crowds of nobility gathered in a church for the election. Clad in the garments of a Polish nobleman, the exiled king won the hearts of his countrymen, who now saw him as the embodiment of independence. On 12 September after a landslide victory in the election, he was hailed as the new

monarch. The newly elected king, representing the aspirations for independence of the Polish nation, constituted a threat to the interests of Russia, Austria and Prussia. These countries also feared that Leszczyński's links with Louis XV would strengthen the French position in this part of Europe. Russian forces entered Poland and on 5th October 1733 held another election at Praga, a suburb of Warsaw, when Augustus III of Saxony was "elected" the King of Poland. With Russian troops closing in on him, Leszczyński managed to retreat to Gdańsk, which was loyal to him, to wait for the expected French assistance. When the city surrendered, while French diplomacy remained passive, Leszczyński took refuge in Prussia. The King of Prussia offered him to stay in Königsberg, counting on territorial gains from Poland as a result of the conflict.

A war known as the "War of the Polish Succession" broke out in the whole of Europe, and lasted until 1736. The French fought the Austrians, though not for the crown of Poland, but for the retrieval of Lorraine. When it did return to France, Louis agreed to end the war. The tussle among the great powers turned Leszczyński into a pawn on the diplomatic chess-board. He was one of the last to learn that under the peace treaty signed in Vienna on 5th October 1735 he was expected to abdicate. He was given a coronet, first in the Duchy of Bar-le-Duc, and later Lorraine, with the right to retain his royal title. This was to facilitate the subsequent incorporation of these duchies in France. In Poland Leszczyński's supporters had fought the forces of Augustus III and the Russian troops, which were overwhelmingly preponderant. After a short period of defiance, on 26th January 1736 Leszczyński agreed to abdicate and left for Lorraine, which Louis XV had granted him lifetime tenure.

Leszczyński spent the last thirty years of his long life at Lunéville, where he earned the reputation of a good master and patron of arts and sciences. Thanks to him, one of Europe's finest architectural and municipal layouts was designed for Nancy. Scholars like Voltaire and Montesquieu were guests at his court at Lunéville, and the Academia Stanislai (academy of science) he founded in Nancy earned a European reputation as a seat of learning. The military college he founded at Lunéville educated a large number of Polish officers and politicians. A group of Polish émigrés, adherents to the country's reform, clustered around Leszczyński. In 1743 one of the most interesting political treatise of the age, '*Głos wolny wolność ubezpieczający*' [Free Voice to Make Freedom Safe], postulating a programme of thorough reform in Poland, was published anonymously in his circle. Traditionally its authorship is ascribed to Leszczyński; however, the latest research indicates that he merely acted as its publisher.

Stanisław Leszczyński died on 23rd February 1766 at Lunéville, and was laid to rest in the Church of Notre-Dame de Bon-Secours in Nancy. In 1814 his remains were brought back to Poland, and subsequently were transferred to the St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Church in St. Petersburg. Finally, after many incidents, they were laid to rest in the royal crypt at Wawel Cathedral. Twice elected King of Poland but never allowed to rule, Stanisław Leszczyński is a man whose

achievement is not easy to assess. At the turn of the 19th century Leszczyński the diplomat, political writer, philosopher, and patron of the arts and sciences commanded the highest respect and was popular both in Poland and France. He was noted and admired for his intellectual accomplishment, for his qualities as a reformer and statesman. Though quick-witted and intelligent, loyal in friendship and in politics, he was also ready to compromise.

- Compiled by the NBP on the basis of the following books:
1. Poczet królów i książąt polskich [The Kings and Princes of Poland], Czytelnik 1978
  2. Kuczyński, Stefan K. (ed.): Księga królów i książąt polskich (A Book of the Kings and Princes of Poland), Świat Książki 1999
  3. Dybkowska, Alicja, Jan Żaryn, & Małgorzata Żaryn: Polskie dzieje od czasów najdawniejszych do współczesności [Polish History from the Most Ancient to Contemporary Times], PWN 1994; and encyclopaedia reference works.

All collector's coins are legal tender in Poland.



face value	<b>100 zł</b>
metal	<b>900/1000Au</b>
finish	<b>proof</b>
diameter	<b>21.00 mm</b>
weight	<b>8.00 g</b>
mintage	<b>2 500 pcs</b>

**Obverse:** Image of the Eagle, established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland; on both sides of the Eagle the notation of the year of issue: 20-03; under the Eagle an inscription: ZŁ 100 ZŁ, circumscription in the rim: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA. The Mint mark:  $\frac{W}{W}$ , under the Eagle's left talon.

**Reverse:** Bust of King Stanisław Leszczyński. On the right, an eagle with the banner from the title page of the treatise '*Głos wolny wolność ubezpieczający*' [Free Voice to Make Freedom Safe]. Dates of reign: 1704-1709 / 1733-1736, below the eagle.