

Collector Coin



face value	100 zł
metal	900/1000 Au
finish	proof
diameter	21.00 mm
weight	8.00 g
mintage	3,400 pcs

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: 20-04; under the Eagle an inscription: ZŁ 100 ZŁ, and: circumscription in the rim: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA. The Mint mark: $\frac{m}{w}$ under the Eagle's left talon.

Reverse: Bust of King Przemysł II, with semi-circumscription: PRZEMYSŁ II on the left-hand side, and: 1295-1296, on the right-hand side.

Designer of obverse: Ewa Tyc-Karpińska

Designer of reverse: Robert Kotowicz



On 20th February 2004, the National Bank of Poland puts into circulation a collector coin of the face value of 100 zł, struck in gold, in proof finish, depicting the bust of King Przemysł II. The coin is a continuation of the "Polish Kings and Princes" series, initiated in 1979.

Przemysł II, son of Przemysł I, Duke of Poznań, and Elisabeth, daughter of Henryk II Pobożny (Henry II the Pious), Duke of Wrocław, was born on 14th October 1257, four months after his father's death. Great Poland was ruled at the time by his paternal uncle, Bolesław Pobożny (the Pious), Duke of Kalisz, whose power extended over the whole province, including Przemysł's I Duchy of Poznań. Bolesław Pobożny assumed wardship over his young nephew. Since he had no sons of his own, he used his best endeavours to train Przemysł in the art of government, preparing him for the assumption of power in Great Poland, the very substantial domain he would inherit. Unlike Kujavia, Mazovia, and Silesia, which were all fragmented, Great Poland was a united province. Bolesław entrusted his nephew with important political tasks, such as the nominal leadership

Coin struck by the State Mint in Warsaw.

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Design: DECORUM

Przemysł II
– Polish Kings and Princes –

of the expedition against Brandenburg in 1272, when Drezdenko Castle, a strategic position on the River Noteć, was regained. But he did not wish to share power with Przemysław, and kept on procrastinating the young prince's appointment to his father's Duchy of Poznań, even though Przemysław had reached fifteen, then considered the age rightfully entitling the prince to come to power.

In 1274 the Brandenburgians burned down Poznań. The ambitious young prince did not want to wait any longer for his inheritance, and with the support of a group of lords, rose in rebellion against his uncle. Taking advantage of difficulties Bolesław was in, Przemysław exacted the transfer of power in his father's Duchy of Poznań. He offered assistance to Henryk IV Probus, Duke of Wrocław, and immediately found himself involved in a conflict between the dukes of Silesia. In 1279, following the death without issue of Bolesław Pobożny, Przemysław inherited his domains and re-united all the Great Poland's territories. However, Henryk IV Probus showed no gratitude for recent favours. In 1281 he imprisoned Przemysław, forcing him to cede the Land of Wieluń. Three years later, Henryk IV Probus gave his support to a rebellion of the Great Poland's knights against their rightful Duke and invaded the Land of Kalisz.

In 1282 at Kępno, Przemysław entered a treaty with Mściwoj II (Mestwin II), Duke of Gdańsk, whereupon Przemysław was to inherit Gdańsk and its vicinal Pomerania after Mestwin's death. This alliance stopped further aggression by Brandenburg in Pomerania. In 1287 at Słupsk, Przemysław and Mestwin made an anti-Brandenburg alliance with Bogusław IV, Duke of Western Pomerania. Przemysław also gained back the Lands of Kalisz and Ruda. In 1290, under Henryk IV Probus's will, he assumed power in Kraków. However, he soon lost Kraków to Władysław Łokietek (the Short), Duke of Sieradz, and in turn to the Czech King Waclaw II (Venceslas). Przemysław entered a trilateral treaty with Władysław Łokietek of Sieradz, and Kazimierz (Casmir) of Łęczyca, Dukes of Kujavia, for the conquest of Little Poland.

In 1293 he married Margaret, daughter of Albrecht III, Margrave of Brandenburg. Thanks to this marriage, Przemysław faced no opposition from the margraves of Brandenburg to his assuming power in Pomerania, the province he inherited under Mestwin's II will in 1295.

Przemysław became the most powerful prince of the Piast line. This gave him a realistic chance of re-uniting all the Polish territories, all the more so as there was growing support for re-unification, chiefly from the senior clergy, the knights and population of the towns.

Not waiting for his restoration to power in Kraków, Archbishop Jakub Świnka crowned Przemysław King of Poland on 26th June 1295 in Gniezno Cathedral. It was Poland's first coronation since the reign of Bolesław Śmiały (the Bold). It highlighted the principle of unity in the land. Although it did not lead to the full re-unification of all the territories of Poland, it nevertheless restored the Kingdom of Poland. There was opposition to the coronation, at home and abroad. Some of the lords of Great Poland, especially the Nałęcz and the Zaręba families, regarded it as a threat to their interests and entered an alliance with the margraves of Brandenburg. On their instigation and with the Zaręba family acting as accomplices, the King was assassinated at Rogoźno on 8th February 1296. He was buried at the Poznań Cathedral.

Przemysław II was married three times, and left a daughter Rixa Elisabeth by his second wife.

The Rogoźno atrocity caused an upsurge of anti-German sentiments in Poland and most probably made the people of Great Poland withdraw their support for the successor to the province established under Przemysław's will, Henryk III of Głogów, in favour of Władysław Łokietek, who was well-known for his anti-German position.

Compiled by 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 coins are legal tender in Poland.