

● The National Bank of Poland is putting in circulation coins commemorating POLISH AUGUST 1980, of the following face values:

2 zł struck in standard finish in the Nordic Gold alloy
on 27 August 2010,

30 zł struck in proof finish in gold,
10 zł struck in proof finish in silver (pad printing)
on 30 August 2010.

The National Bank of Poland

holds the exclusive right to issue currency
in the Republic of Poland.

In addition to **coins and notes for general circulation**,
the NBP issues **collector coins and notes**.

Issuing collector items is an occasion to commemorate
important historic figures and anniversaries, as well
as to develop the interest of the public in Polish culture,
science and tradition.

Since 1996, the NBP has also been issuing **occasional 2 złoty**
coins, struck in **Nordic Gold**, for general circulation.

All coins and notes issued
by the NBP are legal tender in Poland.

COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010



Information on the issue schedule
can be found at the
www.nbp.pl/money
website.

Collector coins issued by the National Bank of Poland
are sold exclusively at the Internet auctions held
in the Kolekcjoner service at the following website:

www.kolekcjoner.nbp.pl

 | KOLEKCJONER

The coins were struck at the Mint of Poland in Warsaw.
Edited and printed: NBP Printing Office

NBP

National Bank of Poland

COINS



POLISH AUGUST 1980

P O L I S H A U G U S T 1 9 8 0

● In the mid-70s, the crisis of the command and control economy (a permanent ailment of Real Socialism) aggravated in the People's Republic of Poland. Edward Gierek's weakening team, despite intensive efforts by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and its leadership, could not prevent the sprouting of new opposition groups which took place in the years 1976–1980. These groups published clandestine press and books, managing to get their message heard not only amongst the educated classes, but also amongst workers (the Free Trade Unions).

● The election of Karol Wojtyła as Pope (16 October 1978) and his first pilgrimage to Poland (June 1979) had a tremendous impact on Poles' social awareness, increasing the nation's resistance to communism. The government's inept attempt at raising the prices of basic food products triggered off a wave of strikes which swept through the whole country from Lublin and Warsaw to Szczecin and Wrocław in July and August 1980. However, the Gdańsk Shipyard strike, which started on 14 August 1980, turned out to be of most importance. Initially, the workers demanded adequate pay rises and a reinstatement to work of crane operator Anna Walentynowicz. Starting from 16 August 1980, the shipyard workers' protest turned into a solidarity strike, joined by more and more institutions every day. Twenty-one demands were presented to the communist authorities, the most important of them being the demand for a right to strike and to form independent, self-governing trade unions. When the authorities gave their consent to the creation of an organization

independent from the communist party, agreements could finally be signed with the Interfactory Strike Committees in Szczecin (30 August), Gdańsk (31 August) and Jastrzębie (3 September). Lech Wałęsa, the leader of Gdańsk Shipyard workers, pronounced (while standing on top of a car) the establishment of free and self-governing trade unions.

● The authorities of the neighbouring countries soon became alarmed by the events of July and August 1980. Before the onset of the strike in the W. Lenin Shipyard in Gdańsk, the Minister of State Security of the German Democratic Republic ordered its subordinate units to be particularly vigilant of the events in Poland. Similar instructions were issued by the highest leadership of the communist party in Moscow, which appointed a special commission to investigate the situation in Poland, headed by Mikhail Suslov, on 25 August 1980. Even before the August agreements were signed, special services of the People's Republic of Poland (Ministry of Internal Affairs) had launched an operation code-named "Lato 80" ("Summer '80"). As it soon turned out, its aim was to prepare the introduction of martial law. All these decisions indicated that the communist block did not intend to allow "Solidarity" to stay on Poland's political and social map for very long. In the months that followed (the so-called 16 months of "carnival"), the workers' "Solidarity" became a role model for all social and occupational groups that formed new independent associations (Independent Students' Union, Individual Farmers' "Solidarity"). On the other hand, the existing associations,

including creative societies (Polish Literary Society, Polish Journalists' Association and others) were given the right to choose their authorities democratically – for the first time since the beginning of the People's Republic of Poland with its "nomenklatura" system (under which appointments to positions were only possible with the party's approval). However, the introduction of martial law on 13 December 1981 put an end to the emerging "Samorządna Rzeczpospolita" ("Self-governing Republic of Poland"), dampened the society's energy and hope for freedom and a victory of good over evil. Throughout the entire period – the years 1980–1981, martial law and the subsequent years (until 1989), the 10-million strong "Solidarity" movement enjoyed the support of the Catholic Church. Priests accompanied striking shipyard workers in the Tricity area and steel mill workers in Warsaw. Crosses were being placed on the walls of factories, schools and hospitals to symbolise the independence of workers, the true hosts of their work place, from the party. In the 1980s, churches and religion classrooms saw the birth of independent culture – prominent scientists gave lectures on the true history and distinguished Polish priests, spearheaded by the blessed Jerzy Popiełuszko, preached patriotism and forgiveness.

Jan Żaryn

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FACE VALUE **30 ZŁ**

metal **Au 900/1000** ■ finish **proof** ■ diameter **16.0 mm** ■ weight **1.7 g**
mintage (volume) **30,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: In the centre, a stylised image of the Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers in Gdańsk. Against this background at the bottom, an image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. On the left-hand side, inscription: 30, on the right-hand side, inscription: ZŁ. In the rim, inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland) and the notation of the year of issue: 2010. The Mint's mark: M/W under the Eagle's left leg.

REVERSE: In the centre, stylised inscription: SOLIDARNOSĆ (Solidarity). Below, inscription: 1980. Above, semicircular inscription: POLSKI SIERPIEŃ (Polish August).

Designer of the coin: **URSZULA WALERZAK**



FACE VALUE **10 ZŁ**

metal **Ag 925/1000 and red paint** ■ finish **proof** ■ diameter **32.0 mm**
weight **14.14 g** ■ mintage (volume) **50,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: At the top, against the background of the Polish flag with a stylised inscription: SOLIDARNOSĆ (Solidarity), an image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. On the left side of the Eagle, inscription: 10 ZŁ, on the right, the notation of the year of issue: 2010. In the centre, against the background of the stylised images of people with their arms raised in a gesture of victory, a separated round surface with the logo of the 30th anniversary of the formation of the Independent Self-governing Trade Union "Solidarity". Around the logo, inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland). The Mint's mark: M/W under the Eagle's left leg.

REVERSE: In the centre, against the background of letter S in which images of people with their arms raised in a gesture of victory were placed, stylised inscription: 1980, vertically. On the left-hand side, inscription: POLSKI (Polish), on the right-hand side, inscription: SIERPIEŃ (August).

Designer of the coin: **URSZULA WALERZAK**



FACE VALUE **2 ZŁ**

metal **CuAl5Zn5Sn1 alloy** ■ finish **standard** ■ diameter **27.0 mm**
weight **8.15 g** ■ mintage (volume) **1,400,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: An image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. On the sides of the Eagle, the notation of the year of issue: 20-10. Below the Eagle, an inscription: ZŁ 2 ZŁ. In the rim, inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland), preceded and followed by six pearls. The Mint's mark: M/W under the Eagle's left leg.

REVERSE: Puzzle pieces, constituting a fragment of stylised inscription: SOLIDARNOSĆ (Solidarity). On the right-hand side at the bottom, inscription: 80. At the top, semicircular inscription: POLSKI SIERPIEŃ (Polish August).

ON THE EDGE: The inscription, NBP, repeated eight times, every second one inverted by 180 degrees, separated with stars.

Designer of the obverse: **EWA TYC-KARPIŃSKA**
Designer of the reverse: **URSZULA WALERZAK**