

● He was an enemy of all social ills, in particular alcoholism (when he was a student in Dorpat, he founded an anti-alcohol society called Milk Brothers' Circle, and later the Eleuterya society in Lvov). At the same time, he remained a champion of progressive social ideas (equal rights for women) and wanted to introduce "religion of reason" to bring down any forms of social inequality.

**Marek Słupek**  
Curator of the exhibition:  
**Benedykt Dybowski (1833-1930); the Constant Knight**  
**the Jacek Malczewski Museum in Radom**  
December 2009 – September 2010

● The National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation collector coins of the "Polish Travellers and Explorers" series commemorating the life of Benedykt Dybowski, of the following face values:

**2 zł** – struck in standard finish, in Nordic Gold alloy,  
on 13 October 2010;

**10 zł** – struck in proof finish, in silver,  
on 15 October 2010.

## The National Bank of Poland

holds the exclusive right to issue the currency  
of 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.

Since 1997, the NBP has issued the **Polish Travellers and Explorers coin series**. The "Benedykt Dybowski" theme is the ninth in the series.

Information on the issue schedule  
can be found at the  
[www.nbp.pl/monety](http://www.nbp.pl/monety)  
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](http://www.kolekcjoner.nbp.pl)

 | KOLEKCJONER

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

NBP

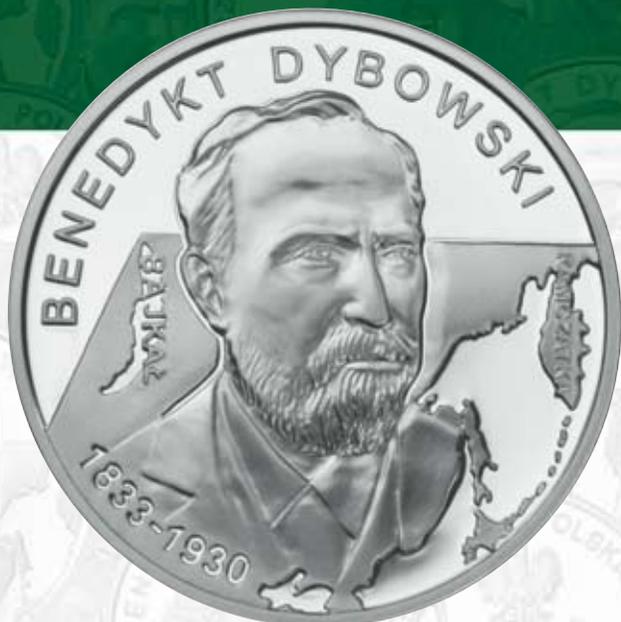
National Bank of Poland

# COINS



POLISH TRAVELLERS AND EXPLORERS

Benedykt Dybowski  
1833–1930



# The Polish Travellers and Explorers: Benedykt Dybowski

● Benedykt Dybowski was born in Adamaryni near Minsk on 12 May 1833. After he was tutored at home, he continued his education at a Minsk high school. Following graduation from school in 1853, he began to study at the Medical Faculty of the University of Dorpat (presently Tartu – translator's note). As a student he was awarded the Gold Medal for a paper on the freshwater fish of Estonia. In 1857, Dybowski had to move to Breslau (presently Wrocław) University for assisting in his friend's duel as second, and a year later to Friedrich Wilhelm University in Berlin, where in 1860 he gained a degree in medicine after he had successfully defended doctoral dissertation on the parthenogenesis in bees. In 1862, he had his Berlin diploma recognised in Dorpat with a paper on carp family fish of Livonia. In the meantime, Dybowski was temporarily arrested on 8 May 1861 for singing the patriotic song *Boże, coś Polskę* (*God save Poland*) in the Vilnius cathedral, but mass demonstrations led to his release.

● After his attempts to receive professorship at Cracow University were thwarted by tsarist authorities, Dybowski was appointed professor at the Faculty of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy of the Warsaw Main School. He pursued his scholarly career and at the same time was involved in underground activity. As an extraordinary commissioner of the Polish National Government for Lithuania and Ruthenia, Dybowski was involved in the organisation of the January Uprising of 1863 and in attempts to free the Uprising dictator Marian Langiewicz from prison. After being exposed and imprisoned himself, Dybowski and members of the Uprising's central authorities were classified first category enemies of the Tsar, which was tantamount to the death penalty. However, with his friends' help this sentence was commuted to 12 years of *katonga* (hard labour) and

accompanied with deprivation of civil rights and rights related to his social status (pertaining to him, inter alia, as a university professor).

● On 10 August 1864, Benedykt Dybowski started off his journey as a deportee. First, he got to a labour camp in a boatbuilder's village of Sivakova and shortly set about to organising a health resort in Daranus. Kultuk, a settlement located near Lake Baikal, was Dybowski's another deportation destination. Here, he started to research the fauna of Lake Baikal and Dauria. Two trips to the Far East were part of this scheduled research project. In 1869, Dybowski joined the expedition of General Skolkov to Amursky kray (territory), Primorsky kray, Vladivostok and Korea. In 1872-1875, he made another trip by himself. He was joined by fellow deportees, Viktor Godlevski and Mikhal Yankovski, on a boat called Hope to travel down the Argun, Amur and Ussuri Rivers to the Sea of Japan.

● Dybowski and Godlevski had been reprieved in 1877, and after 12 years they returned home. A year later, the Polish scholar took a government job as a physician in Kamchatka. In 1883, he was back in Poland again to head the Faculty of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy of Lvov (presently Lviv) University. He settled in Lvov, where he had actively pursued his teaching career before he retired in 1906.

● Benedykt Dybowski died in Lvov on 30 January 1930. He was buried with honours in the section of January Uprising insurgents of the Lyczakowski cemetery.

● He left behind a rich scientific legacy of 343 papers, containing pioneering works from a number of areas of biological sciences, and also ichthyology, ornithology, anthropology, ethnology etc. It is worth recalling

that together with François-Alphonse Forel he is regarded as a founder of limnology – a science dealing with the study of inland waters with respect to their physical, chemical and biological properties (such as thermics, currents, chemical composition, sedimentation, ice regime, as well as qualitative and quantitative aspects of the presence of living organisms). When studying the fauna of Lake Baikal, the Polish scientist also carried out research on hydrology and studied biology of species (inter alia, the Baikal seal and a fish called the golomyanka – accurately describing the manner in which the latter reproduces). Moreover, Dybowski described over 100 new species of Gammarus, amphipod crustacean genus, and several species of fish, and also isolated the Lake's three fauna complexes. As a propagator of Darwinism, he tried to prove the existence of evolutionary processes triggered by environmental change and geographic isolation. Dybowski's legacy also includes diaries that constitute a testimony of his times and almost a photographic record of the history of his department.

● In addition, Dybowski used anthropometric techniques to examine indigenous Siberian people, while collecting objects that evidenced the material and non-material (vocabulary of dialects) heritage of their culture. He was a devoted social worker: he did not only provide medical aid to the peoples of the Zabaykalsky region, the Far East and Kamchatka, but also tried to improve their living conditions via, inter alia, acclimatization of reindeer on the Bering Island. Dybowski earned the nickname "Good White God" from the island's indigenous people for his commitment to social issues.

COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010



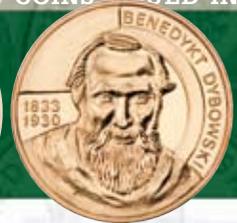
FACE VALUE **10** ZŁ

metal **Ag 925/1000** ■ finish **proof** ■ diameter **32.0 mm**  
weight **14.14 g** ■ mintage (volume) **60,000 pcs**

**OBVERSE:** At the top, an image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. Below the Eagle, the stylised image of a book with the inscription: DARWIN, on its spine, and the stylised images of Gammarus, amphipod crustacean genus, and a fish called the golomyanka in formaldehyde solution against the background of a book page with fragments of the image of Dybowski's sika deer and images of two Siberian chipmunks. On the right-hand side, the stylised fragment of the map of Lake Baikal and its catchment area. On the left-hand-side, an inscription: 10 ZŁ. At the top, a semicircular 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, a stylised image of the bust of Benedykt Dybowski against the background of the stylised fragments of maps – on the left-hand side, a map representing Lake Baikal, and on the right-hand side, a map representing the Kamchatka Peninsula. At the bottom, a semicircular inscription: 1833-1930, on the left-hand side. At the top, a semicircular inscription: BENEDYKT DYBOWSKI.

Coin designer: **EWA TYC-KARPIŃSKA**



FACE VALUE **2** ZŁ

metal **CuAl5Zn5Sn1 alloy** ■ finish **standard** ■ diameter **27.0 mm**  
weight **8.15 g** ■ mintage (volume) **1,200,000 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, an 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:** In the centre, a stylised image of the bust of Benedykt Dybowski. On the left-hand side, an inscription: 1833/1930. On the right-hand side, a semicircular inscription: BENEDYKT DYBOWSKI.

**ON THE EDGE:** An inscription, NBR, repeated eight times, every second one inverted by 180 degrees, separated by stars.

Coin designer: **EWA TYC-KARPIŃSKA**