

● The National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation coins commemorating Krzeszow, with the following face values:

**2 zł** – struck in standard finish, in Nordic Gold,  
on 24 November 2010;

**20 zł** – struck in proof finish in silver (with ceramic  
element),  
on 29 November 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.

COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010



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

Collector coins issued by the National Bank of Poland  
are sold in the Kolecjoner service (Internet auction/Online shop)  
at the following website:  
[www.kolecjoner.nbp.pl](http://www.kolecjoner.nbp.pl)

 **KOLEKCJONER**  
and at the NBP regional branches.

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

# NBP

National Bank of Poland

# COINS



# Krzeszow

# K r z e s z o w

## Cistercian Abbey in Krzeszow

● The church and abbey of the Cistercian Order in Krzeszow are rated among the finest and most precious monuments of Baroque architecture in Lower Silesia. Krzeszow has a long history as a place of worship and a centre of religious activity. Benedictine monks settled here as early as mid-13th century, and towards the end of the century, owing to the foundation of Bolko I the Strict, the Duke of Jawor, the Cistercians were brought from nearby Henrykow to the newly built monastery.

● Thanks to the Duke's landed endowment, the Cistercians came into possession of vast landed estate comprising – at its heyday – several dozen villages and two towns, Chelmsko and Lubawka. The Cistercian Order was a thriving community in the second half of the 16th century and 17th century, when – after the destruction of the Hussite Wars – the monks managed to regain the land they had lost and restore the estate's economy. The monastery was again turned into a hub of religious life, and the mausoleum of the Piast dukes of Swidnica and Jawor was established in the church. After the Silesian wars, in 1741 Krzeszow was incorporated into the territory of Prussia,

which resulted in a gradual loss in significance. In 1810, under the edict of King Frederick III of Prussia the monastery was dissolved and its property seized by the State.

● After World War I, the Benedictines resettled in the deserted monastery and their order was again raised to an abbey; during World War II, the monastery was suspended again, and its buildings seized by the Nazi authorities and used as a transitional camp or place of confinement. Towards the end of the war, the collection of the Prussian State Library was moved from Berlin to the abbey. After the Red Army entered the region of Lower Silesia, the collection was taken over by Polish authorities and deposited at the Jagiellonian University's library in Krakow.

● After the war, Krzeszow Abbey was resettled by Benedictine nuns from Lwow while the Cistercians returned to this place in 1970.

● The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, built in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, is rated today as one of the best known and finest places of worship in Lower Silesia, primarily on account of the picture of Our Lady of Grace, in the main altar. The picture, painted in tempera on larch wooden panel, is certainly one of Krzeszow's most valuable and famous

relics; it is the oldest image of the Mother of God in Poland (dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century) and one of the oldest in Europe. In 1997, a solemn coronation of the picture was performed by Pope John Paul II, and a year later the church was raised by the Pope to the dignity of a Minor Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

● The Cistercian monastery, together with the Church of St. Joseph from the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the so-called guest house of the Abbott and auxiliary facilities form a unique architectural complex that is undoubtedly of European rank. Its individual buildings constitute a stylistically harmonious and, at the same time, a very functional whole.

● The coins feature, first of all, the late Baroque facade of the church decorated with sculptures by Ferdinand Maximilian Brokoff. Such presentation highlights the beauty and grand style of the sacred architecture and the intensity of the Baroque ornaments. Particularly impressive is Immaculata, a sand sculpture of Sacred Immaculate Mary, the patron of the universal church, which is a clear reference to the medieval picture in the main altar.

Wojciech Tygielski

COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010



FACE VALUE 20 ZŁ

metal Ag 925/1000 and ceramic element ■ finish proof  
■ diameter 38.61 mm  
weight 28.28 g ■ mintage (volume) 50,000 pcs

**OBVERSE:** In the centre, a stylised image of the sculpture of Sacred Immaculate Mary, placed above the main portal of the Minor Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Krzeszow. In the background, the interior of the Basilica. On the right, an image of the Eagle established as the State emblem of the Republic of Poland. Above the Eagle, an inscription: ZŁ20. At the bottom, a semicircular notation of the year of issue: 2010 and an inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland). The Mint's mark, M/W, under the Eagle's left leg.

**REVERSE:** A stylised image of the facade of the Minor Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Krzeszow. The middle part of the image made from ceramics. At the bottom, a stylised inscription: KRZESZÓW.

Coin designer: ROBERT KOTOWICZ



FACE VALUE 2 ZŁ

metal CuAl15Zn5Sn1 alloy ■ finish standard ■ diameter 27.0 mm  
weight 8.15 g ■ mintage (volume) 1,000,000 pcs

**OBVERSE:** An image of the Eagle established as the State emblem of the Republic of Poland. At the sides of the Eagle, notation of the year of issue: 20-10, and 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 Minor Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Krzeszow. On the right, a semicircular inscription: KRZESZÓW.

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

Obverse designer: EWA TYC-KARPIŃSKA  
Reverse designer: ROBERT KOTOWICZ