

● On **27 January 2011** the National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation coins of the “Animals of the World” series depicting the European badger, of the following face values:

20 zł – struck in proof finish, in silver,

2 zł – struck in standard finish, in Nordic Gold.

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 2011 COINS ISSUED IN 2011

Since 1993, the NBP has issued the “Animals of the World” series. The coin depicting the European badger is the eighteenth theme of the series.

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 in the Kolekcjoner service (Internet auction/Online shop)
at the following website:

www.kolekcjoner.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



ANIMALS OF THE WORLD

European Badger

(*Meles meles*)



Animals of the World: European Badger (*Meles meles*)

- The European badger, also known as the stock, is a stockily-built animal with an elongated neck and distinctive head markings. It has strong, long claw-tipped limbs, the general colour of the back and sides is silver grey, while its paws are black. The snout and forehead are white, small, dark ears are white tipped, with large black stripes on both sides of the head. The badger is found almost in entire Eurasia, as well as in Jordan, Israel, Syria and Iran. In Europe, its range does not include northern Scandinavia, Mediterranean isles and the north of the European part of Russia.

- Badgers inhabit various areas, ranging from forests to field and forest mosaics, though it prefers the fertile deciduous forests. It adapts to anthropogenic environmental changes in the agricultural landscape and suburban areas. In Western Europe, it can also be found in cities. It is the largest predator among domestic martens. The badger weighs about 10 kg in the spring. Badgers accumulate fat reserves during the summer and autumn. Their body weight increases then by 60-70% relative to the spring, and sometimes even doubles. The badger is well adapted to digging burrows, known as setts. The winter dens used as places of refuge and breeding feature a complicated structure (many entrances, underground tunnels of considerable length, numerous chamber holes). These are built and passed on from generation to generation. Some setts are known to have been continuously inhabited for decades and even centuries.

- In Poland, badgers form colonies (clans) consisting of one or more pairs of adults and their offspring. The colonies vary in size across the country. A typical colony is composed, on the average, of 3.5 to 4.7

individuals. The cubs account for 40-55% of the population. Colonies in western Europe are larger than those in Poland, and they can include from 10 to over 30 individuals.

- Clans of badgers live in territories with sizes ranging from several sq kilometres to over 20 sq kilometres. The territories of clans are separate or only slightly overlap. Within the structure of field and forest mosaic in central Poland, the size of these areas fluctuates seasonally: in the spring they are quite small, in summer and early autumn they increase, as the badgers begin to go beyond the woods and feed on fruit in orchards. Towards the end of autumn, they concentrate their activity in the area around the main burrow.

- In natural forests, such as the Białowieża forest, badgers consume earthworms in the spring, and also amphibians in the summer and fall. In areas with field and forest mosaic, their diet is more varied. Whilst earthworms are the main food source in the spring, fruits, cereal and small rodents play a bigger role in the summer.

- Outside temperature affects the pattern of both seasonal and daily activity, as well as the duration of badgers staying in their burrows during the winter. Most of the day badgers retire in their dens. Although badgers may be active even when the inhabited area is covered with snow, both a period of activity and diurnal migration are the shortest in winter, and they gradually become longer in March and April to reach a maximum in summer and early autumn. Badgers tend to be active at night, but in the areas sparsely penetrated by people they can wander through their territory even in daylight.

- Gestation is prolonged in badgers (lasting 7-15 months) and depends on the date of oestrus and the age of the sows. Main heat occurs in March, followed by the second one at the end of summer. The latter occurs in the young two-year sows mating for the first time and in those which failed to mate earlier. Offspring is born only to one sow in a group on average (2-5 cubs per litter). The cubs in central Poland are born in March. They emerge from the den at the end of May for the first time. In May, June and July badgers leave their shelters well before nightfall, and then their behavior and denning patterns may be observed.

- The density of badger population depends on the availability of food and opportunities to hide. In various parts of the country, it varies from 0.2 to over 2.5 individuals per 1 square kilometre of forest on average, depending on the region of the country. In Poland, the population of badgers is estimated at around 70,000 in early spring, to grow up to approximately 120,000 in the summer. In natural conditions, the badger can live up to over 10 years, but the average life expectancy is usually about 2 years.

- Skin and fat of badgers are very valuable, but hunters should spare these animals. Even more so, that they are a true asset of our forests, and so many (both in Poland and Western Europe) are killed on roads.

Prof. Jacek Goszczyński, doctorus habilitatus
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COINS ISSUED IN 2011 COINS ISSUED IN 2011 COINS ISSUED IN 2011 COINS ISSUED IN 2011 COINS ISSUED IN 2011 COINS ISSUED IN 2011 COINS ISSUED IN 2011



FACE VALUE **20** ZŁ

metal **Ag 925/1000** ■ finish **proof** ■ diameter **38.61 mm**
 weight **28.28 g** ■ mintage (volume) **80,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: An image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. Below the Eagle, notation of the year of issue: 2011; below the inscription: ZŁ 20 ZŁ. On both sides of the legs of the Eagle, stylised images of the national flag of the Republic of Poland. At the top, a semicircular inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland). The mint's mark, M/W, below the Eagle's left leg.

REVERSE: In the centre, stylised images of two European badgers in a den. At the bottom, from left to right, a semicircular inscription: BORSUK Meles meles (European badger).

Obverse designer: **EWA TYC-KARPIŃSKA**
 Reverse designer: **GRZEGORZ PFEIFER**



FACE VALUE **2** ZŁ

metal **CuAl5Zn5Sn1 alloy** ■ finish **standard** ■ diameter **27.0 mm**
 weight **8.15 g** ■ mintage (volume) **1,500,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: An image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. Below the Eagle, notation of the year of issue: 2011; below the inscription: ZŁ 2 ZŁ. On both sides of the legs of the Eagle, stylised images of the national flag of the Republic of Poland. At the top, a semicircular inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland). The mint's mark, M/W, below the Eagle's left leg.

REVERSE: In the centre, stylised image of the European badger against the stylised images of plants. At the top, on the right, a semicircular inscription: BORSUK Meles meles (European badger).

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

Obverse designer: **EWA TYC-KARPIŃSKA**
 Reverse designer: **GRZEGORZ PFEIFER**