

COLLECTOR COINS



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TREASURES  
OF  
STANISŁAW AUGUST

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BOLESŁAW CHROBRY

NBP

Narodowy Bank Polski

# TREASURES OF STANISŁAW AUGUST

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The unique series of gold and silver collector coins with the face values of 500 zloty and 50 zloty – “TREASURES OF STANISŁAW AUGUST” – replicates the famous 18th century medallic series with the images of the kings of Poland, which was struck on the order of Stanisław August Poniatowski.

The royal medals, designed by two outstanding medallists: Jan Filip Holzhaeusser and Jan Jakub Reichel, were struck at the Warsaw mint in the years 1791-1797/1798. The design of the medals was based on portraits painted between 1768 and 1771 by Marcello Bacciarelli for the Marble Room at the Royal Castle in Warsaw. The coins issued by the National Bank of Poland are faithful replicas of the medals, preserving the diameter and height of relief of the originals. This applies to the portraits of the kings on the reverses. The obverses of the coins feature the reverses of the medals with biographies of the monarchs. The reverses of the medals have been reduced in size because they are accompanied by the name of the state along the rim, the image of the state emblem, the face value and the year of issue of the coins. The biographies of the monarchs and the inscriptions on the obverses of the medals accompanying the royal portraits are in Latin. The final text editing was most likely done by King Stanisław August himself. The names of the monarchs in Polish are presented on the sides of the coins, along with the name of the series “Treasures of Stanisław August”.

The gallery of portraits of Polish kings, painted on the order of Stanisław August Poniatowski, consisted of images of 23 monarchs. It included one royal portrait more than Bacciarelli’s series of 22 paintings. The additional portrait of Stanisław Leszczyński – featured on the medal – was most probably modelled on a painting by Jan Bogumił Plersch. Both series, the paintings and the medals, begin with the image of Bolesław Chrobry and end with the portrait of August III. Since the 18th century, the principal place in the Marble Room has belonged to the portrait of the full-length figure of Stanisław August in his coronation robes. The painting is several times larger than other portraits. It is therefore probable that the medallic series would have finished with a medal presenting the image of the ruling monarch. However, these plans were thwarted by the king’s abdication, emigration and early death at the beginning of 1798.

The series of coins “Treasures of Stanisław August” consists of 24 portraits of monarchs – of which 23 have been modelled on the royal series plus a portrait of Stanisław August based on the medals from the period. The series will be struck in silver and gold, as was the practice in the 18th century.

Starting from 2013, the National Bank of Poland will issue the coins from the series four times a year.

Tomasz Bylicki  
senior curator  
Historical Museum of Warsaw



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The first in Poland to be decorated with a royal crown,  
he, as the victor, delimited the borders of the state on the Elba, the Dnieper and the Ossa.  
Died in 1025 Anno Domini, aged 58, in the 33rd year of reign.

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# BOLESŁAW CHROBRY (992–1025)

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Due to the absence of the original, the portrait of Bolesław Chrobry is a work of imagination. It shows the monarch wearing a crown from a later period. The inscription on the first medal in the series, on which the coin with Bolesław Chrobry has been modelled, reads as follows: "The first in Poland to be decorated with a royal crown, he, as the victor, delimited the borders of the state on the Elba, the Dnieper and the Ossa. Died in 1025 Anno Domini, aged 58, in the 33rd year of reign, on the 3rd day of April".

This first king of Poland of the Piast dynasty, the son of Duke Mieszko I and Bohemian princess Dobrawa, born around 967 and crowned in 1025, created a powerful state, having conquered territories in the east (Red Ruthenia, temporarily Kiev) and west (Meissen, Upper Lusatia and Lower Lusatia). He elevated Poland into the European policy elite; at the Congress of Gniezno in 1000 Emperor Otto III presented him with the symbol of power, i.e. the lance of Saint Maurice, and placed his imperial crown on Bolesław's head as a pledge of coronation. The canonisation of Saint Adalbert in 999 enabled Bolesław to establish the organisation of the Polish church with an archbishopric in Gniezno and bishoprics in Kraków, Kołobrzeg and Wrocław. He waged wars against Bohemia and border German marches with changing fortunes. He started minting coins in his name with the name of Poland.

Marta Męclewska  
former curator of the Numismatic Cabinet  
of the Royal Castle in Warsaw

# BOLESŁAW CHROBRY COLLECTOR COINS

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FACE VALUE **500** ZŁ

metal: Au 999.9/1000

standard finish

diameter: 45 mm

weight: 62.2 g

mintage: up to 750 pcs.

designer: Robert Kotowicz

producer: Mennica Polska S.A.

commissioned by NBP



FACE VALUE **50** ZŁ

metal: Ag 999/1000

standard finish

diameter: 45 mm

weight: 62.2 g

mintage: up to 5000 pcs.

designer: Robert Kotowicz

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Bolesław Chrobry  
Boleslaus the Brave  
(992-1025)



Władysław Jagiełło  
Ladislas Jagiello  
(1386-1434)



Wacław II Czeski  
Vaclav II  
(1291-1305)



Władysław Warneńczyk  
Ladislas of Varna  
(1434-1444)



Władysław Łokietek  
Ladislas the Elbow-high  
(1320-1333)



Kazimierz Jagiellończyk  
Casimir Jagiellon  
(1447-1492)



Kazimierz Wielki  
Casimir the Great  
(1333-1370)



Jan Olbracht  
John Albert  
(1492-1501)



Ludwik Węgierski  
Louis I of Hungary  
(1370-1382)



Aleksander Jagiellończyk  
Alexander  
(1501-1506)



Jadwiga Andegaweńska  
(1384-1399)



Zygmunt I Stary  
Sigismund the Elder  
(1506-1548)





Zygmunt August  
Sigismund-Augustus  
(1548-1572)



Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki  
(1669-1673)



Henryk Walezy  
Henry Valois  
(1573-1575)



Jan III Sobieski  
John III Sobieski  
(1674-1696)



Stefan Batory  
Stephen Bathory  
(1576-1586)



August II Mocny  
Augustus II the Strong  
(1697-1706, 1709-1733)



Zygmunt III Waza  
Sigismund Vasa  
(1587-1632)



Stanisław Leszczyński  
(1705-1709, 1733-1736)



Władysław IV Waza  
Ladislav Vasa  
(1632-1648)



August III Sas  
Augustus III  
(1733-1763)



Jan Kazimierz Waza  
John Casimir Vasa  
(1648-1668)



Stanisław August Poniatowski  
(1764-1795)

Coin design to be presented



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 interest of the public  
in Polish culture, science, and tradition.

Information on the issue schedule can be found at: [www.nbp.pl/money](http://www.nbp.pl/money)  
Collector coins issued by the NBP are sold at the Internet auctions held in  
the Kolekcjoner service at the following website: [www.kolekcjoner.nbp.pl](http://www.kolekcjoner.nbp.pl)  
and at the Regional Branches of the NBP.

The next collector coin from the Treasures of King Stanisław August series  
– Waclaw II Czeski (Vaclav II) will be issued in June 2013.

[WWW.NBP.PL](http://WWW.NBP.PL)