

COLLECTOR COINS



TREASURES
OF
STANISŁAW AUGUST

WACŁAW II CZESKI

NBP

Narodowy Bank Polski

TREASURES OF STANISŁAW AUGUST

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 medallionic 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 Pleresch. 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 medallionic 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.

Tomasz Bylicki
senior curator
Historical Museum of Warsaw



Son of Bohemian king Přemysl Ottokar III, son-in-law of Přemysl I [II] king of Poland, he died in Prague Anno Domini 1305, after five years of ruling Poland, at the age of 33, on 24 June.



WACŁAW II CZESKI (1300–1305)

The second medal in the series, on which the coins have been modelled, depicts King Wacław II Czeski (Vaclav II). The series of medals, in similarity to the series of paintings by Marcello Bacciarelli from the 18th century, does not portray several crowned kings of Poland from the Piast dynasty who ruled after Bolesław I Chrobry. The Age of Enlightenment did not value Mediaeval history.

Wacław II Czeski is shown from the profile, in a crown on a soft hat, in an ermine robe, with an ornate chain on his neck.

On the reverse, there is the following inscription (here in translation): *Son of Bohemian king Přemysl Ottokar III, son-in-law of Přemysl I [II] king of Poland, he died in Prague Anno Domini 1305, after five years of ruling Poland, at the age of 33, on 24 June.*

Wacław II Czeski from the Bohemian dynasty of Přemyslids was born in 1271; he became the king of Bohemia in 1283. Taking active part in the political power struggles of Polish parties related to the succession of the Duchy of Krakow following the death of Leszek the Black, he managed to take control of Lesser Poland and accepted the title of Duke of Krakow and Sandomierz in 1291. Next, he was paid homage by the following duchies: Duchy of Bytom, Duchy of Cieszyn, Duchy of Opole, Duchy of Racibórz, and later the Duchy of Legnica and Wrocław. He also took control of Greater Poland and Gdańsk Pomerania, thus winning over Władysław Łokietek (Ladislaus the Elbow-high) in his aspirations to win the crown. In 1300, archbishop Jakub Świnka crowned him the king of Poland in Gniezno. He married Elizabeth Richeza, daughter of King Přemysl II, thus consolidating his power as the king. He introduced a monetary reform in Bohemia by minting Prague groschen, which have become the universal tender in Central and Eastern Europe for two and a half centuries.

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

WACŁAW II CZESKI COLLECTOR COINS

FACE VALUE 500 ZŁ

metal: Au 999.9/1000

standard finish

diameter: 45 mm

weight: 62.2 g

mintage: up to 750 pcs.

designer: Urszula Walerzak

producer: Mennica Polska S.A.

commissioned by NBP

issue date: 22 May 2013



FACE VALUE 50 ZŁ

metal: Ag 999/1000

standard finish

diameter: 45 mm

weight: 62.2 g

mintage: up to 5000 pcs.

designer: Urszula Walerzak

producer: Mennica Polska S.A.

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Bolesław Chrobry
Boleslaus the Brave
(992-1025)



Władysław Jagiełło
Ladislav Jagiello
(1386-1434)



Wacław II Czeski
Vaclav II
(1291-1305)



Władysław Warneńczyk
Ladislav of Varna
(1434-1444)



Władysław Łokietek
Ladislav 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)



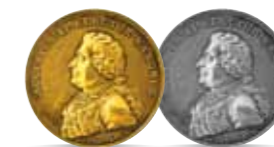
Henryk Walezy
Henry Valois
(1573-1575)



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
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
and at the Regional Branches of the NBP.

The next collector coin from the Treasures of Stanisław August series
– Władysław Łokietek (Ladislaus the Elbow-high) will be issued
in September 2013.

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