

All Polish collector coins feature:

- face value
- image of the Eagle established as the state emblem of the Republic of Poland
- inscription: Rzeczpospolita Polska
- year of issue



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.

Information on the issue schedule can be found at the www.nbp.pl/monety website.

Should you have any questions, please contact our consultants at the following phone numbers: +48 22 185 45 96 and +48 22 185 13 03.

Collector coins issued by NBP are sold in the NBP regional branches and at the internet shop.

On 29 May 2017, Narodowy Bank Polski will be putting into circulation collector coins of the series "The Polish Thermopylae" – Zadwórze, with a face value of 20 zł.

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Discover Poland

The Holy Trinity Chapel at Lublin Castle



Collector coins

“Discover Poland” – the Holy Trinity Chapel at Lublin Castle

The historic Holy Trinity Chapel at Lublin Castle is an invaluable example of the coming together of two cultural traditions – the Latin West and the Byzantine East.

The Gothic brick chapel was erected on the initiative of Casimir the Great in the second half of the 14th century as part of the development of the royal castle built in the same period. The slim Gothic body of the church is divided into two floors – a lower one (a basement), and a higher one consisting of a nave with a central pillar at which vaulting ribs converge, and a narrower polygonal presbytery, closed on the East side. In 1418, on the initiative of the Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland, Ladislas Jagiello, the interior of the chapel was covered with Byzantine and Russian frescos, which are well-preserved until now. The King was known for his attachment to the tradition and culture of Eastern Christianity since his mother, a Russian Princess, had grown up in the Orthodox tradition.

The painters brought by Jagiello faced a real challenge. In the Gothic interior, differing diametrically from the space of Byzantine churches, they made polychromes based on the Byzantine iconographic canon. This required a precise distribution of images inside the temple. The ideologically most important place – the centre of the presbytery vault – features the composition of *Christ Pantocrator* surrounded by symbols of the Evangelists. Above we can see a dove – a symbol of the *Holy Spirit*, complementing the theme of the Holy Trinity. On the keystone of the vaulting ribs, as it were at the feet of the *Pantocrator*, Jagiello's Coat of Arms is visible. The *Holy Trinity* is surrounded by choirs of angels deployed almost across the entire area of the presbytery and nave vaults.

In the upper zone of the chapel walls, the most important events in Christ's and Mary's life are depicted, corresponding to the most important feasts in the Liturgical Year of the Church. The canonical scenes of the *Communion of the Apostles* and the *Ascension* are also painted in the presbytery. On the other hand, the *Mandylion* visible on the top of the chancel arch wall communicates the content of the dogma on the incarnation and unity of the Saviour's natures. Among the paintings, the hagiographical scenes covering mainly the lower parts of the Western and Northern wall are also of significance.



A separate theme is the founder's theme, i.e. two scenes portraying the King. The first one, located at the entrance to the chapel, is the *Founder's Prayer*. Jagiello is kneeling in front of Christ and Mary on the throne. The King's intercessor is St Nicolaus. The second foundation scene is located on the chancel arch wall, on its Northern side. The king is portrayed on horseback as the *victorious rider*, which reflects the Medieval theology of power.

The precise dating of the polychromes is possible owing to the fragmentarily preserved foundation label in the Church Slavonic language. The paintings were finished on St Lawrence's Day (10 August) in 1418 by "*Andrew's hand*". Andrew was the main master leading the group of painters executing the order. Despite differences in the standard of workmanship, depending on the individual style and technical skills of the given painter, the paintings in the castle chapel in Lublin demonstrate a harmonised entirety compatible with the Byzantine iconographic canon. They have been perfectly tuned to the Gothic interior of the Western church. It is this merger that most fully manifests the meeting of two great cultural traditions – the Byzantine East and the Latin West.

The period of prosperity of the royal castle, which had witnessed the election of Ladislas Jagiello as the King of Poland in 1386 and numerous stops of the royal court while travelling between Vilnius and Cracow, ended with the Swedish and Cossack wars. In the 19th century, the ruined structure was replaced by a new building which fulfilled the role of a prison. The Holy Trinity Chapel and an even older defence tower are the only elements of the former impressive complex that have survived.

Face value: 5 zł

Alloy: ring MN25, core CuAl6Ni2

Finish: standard

Diameter: 24.00 mm

Weight: 6.54 g

Edge (side): irregularly milled; on the side an inscription: "NBP", repeated eight times, every second one inverted by 180°, separated by stars

Mintage: up to 1,200,000 pcs

Coin designer: Dobrochna Surajewska

Issuer: NBP

The coins, commissioned by NBP, were struck by Mennica Polska S.A.

The multicolour polychromes of the chapel were covered by layers of plaster and limestone. They were forgotten for a long time, and only in 1899 were they accidentally discovered. The restoration work carried out with varying luck and numerous breaks dragged on until 1997.

The Holy Trinity Chapel is the most significant monument of Lublin. In 2015, it was honoured with the European Heritage Label. In 2017, the city is celebrating the 700th anniversary of the granting of municipal rights and 2018 will mark the 600th anniversary of completing the frescoes in the chapel. Thus, our monument has accompanied the city almost since the beginnings of its history.

Andrzej Frejlich, PhD

On 22 May 2017, Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation coins of the series "Discover Poland" – the Holy Trinity Chapel at Lublin Castle, with a face value of 5 zł.