

NBP

Narodowy Bank Polski

Collector coins



Treasures of Stanisław August

**Sigismund the Elder
(1506–1548)**

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 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 Narodowy Bank Polski 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 Plesch. 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.

Tomasz Bylicki
senior curator
Historical Museum of Warsaw



Casimir's penultimate son, distinguished by sagacity, triumph and wealth, a contemporary and equal of Emperor Charles V and Francis I of France. Died AD 1548, aged 81, in the 42nd year of his reign, on 1 April.



Sigismund the Elder (1506–1548)

The twelfth coin in the series depicts Sigismund I, the fifth son of Casimir Jagiellon and Elisabeth of Austria. Sigismund became the Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland in 1506. Following the coronation of his son in 1529, he was dubbed “the Elder”. A partisan of a peaceful solution to political conflicts, he enjoyed the respect of both his subjects and foreign rulers. His reign ushered Poland into its golden age – a period of economic and cultural prosperity.

The reverse of the coin depicts the bust of the king modelled on a medal designed after a painting by Marcello Bacciarelli. The bust faces right, the king is wearing a crown and has a short beard over a ruff. He is clad in armour covered with a richly embroidered coat clipped with a decorative buckle and adorned with a jewelled Order of the Golden Fleece on a chain. This is the first medal in a series struck by Jan Jakub Reichel, the new court medal minter of Stanisław August (his predecessor in this post, Jan Filip Holzhaeusser, died in 1792).

On the obverse of the coin we can read a slightly shortened version of the text engraved on the reverse of the medal (in translation): *Casimir’s penultimate son, distinguished by sagacity, triumph and wealth, a contemporary and equal of Emperor Charles V and Francis I of France. Died AD 1548, aged 81, in the 42nd year of his reign, on 1 April.*

Sigismund was born in 1467. He married Barbara Zapolya (1512) and, after her death, Bona Sforza d’Aragona (1518). In 1499–1506 he held the title of Prince of Głogów. Elected King of Poland in December 1506, Sigismund was crowned in Kraków in January 1507. He reorganised and strengthened the Treasury and ensured increased Crown revenue from duty collection and the salt works. In 1515, he concluded an alliance with the Habsburgs. In 1526, the king incorporated the fiefdom of Masovia into the Polish Crown. He carried out an election *vivente rege* of his son Sigismund Augustus in 1529, and soon afterwards established in Poland the election *viritim* (all noblemen being entitled to vote on the condition of presenting themselves at the election site). As a result of wars fought in 1507–1508 and 1512–1522 (and despite the victory at Orsza in 1514), Lithuania lost Smoleńsk to Muscovy. Following the war with the Teutonic Order (1519–1520), in 1525 Sigismund accepted the liege homage from Albrecht Hohenzollern, the Prince of Prussia (previously the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order). The king modernized the monetary system and integrated the Prussian coin into it in 1526. Sigismund was a generous patron of Renaissance art and remodelled Wawel Castle. He died in 1548 and was buried in Kraków on Wawel Hill.

Marta Męcłewska

SIGISMUND THE ELDER Collector coins

Face value: 500 zł

metal: Au 999.9/1000

finish: standard

diameter: 45 mm

weight: 62.2 g

On the edge, the inscription:

SKARBY STANISŁAWA AUGUSTA *

ZYGMUNT I STARY *

mintage: up to 600 pcs

Designer: reverse –

Anna Wątróbska-Wdowiarska

Obverse and inscriptions

on the reverse – Robert Kotowicz

Producer: Mennica Polska S.A.

commissioned by NBP

Date of issue: 12 July 2017



Face value: 50 zł

metal: Ag 999/1000

finish: standard

diameter: 45 mm

weight: 62.2 g

On the edge, the inscription:

SKARBY STANISŁAWA AUGUSTA *

ZYGMUNT I STARY *

mintage: up to 6000 pcs

Designer: reverse –

Anna Wątróbska-Wdowiarska

Obverse and inscriptions

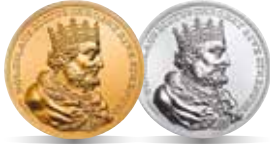
on the reverse – Robert Kotowicz

Producer: Mennica Polska S.A.

commissioned by NBP

Date of issue: 12 July 2017





Bolesław Chrobry
Boleslaus the Brave (992-1025)
Date of issue: 12 III 2013



Władysław Jagiełło
Ladislav Jagiello (1386-1434)
Date of issue: 3 III 2015



Wacław II Czeski
Vaclav II (1291-1305)
Date of issue: 22 V 2013



Władysław Warneńczyk
Ladislav of Varna (1434-1444)
Date of issue: 15 IX 2015



Władysław Łokietek
Ladislav the Elbow-high (1320-1333)
Date of issue: 13 IX 2013



Kazimierz Jagiellończyk
Casimir Jagiellon (1447-1492)
Date of issue: 3 XII 2015



Kazimierz Wielki
Casimir the Great (1333-1370)
Date of issue: 3 III 2014



Jan Olbracht
John Albert (1492-1501)
Date of issue: 14 VI 2016



Ludwik Węgierski
Louis I of Hungary (1370-1382)
Date of issue: 10 IX 2014



Aleksander Jagiellończyk
Alexander (1501-1506)
Date of issue: 7 XII 2016



Jadwiga Andegaweńska
Jadwiga of Anjou (1384-1399)
Date of issue: 4 XII 2014



Zygmunt I Stary
Sigismund the Elder (1506-1548)
Date of issue: 12 VII 2017



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)

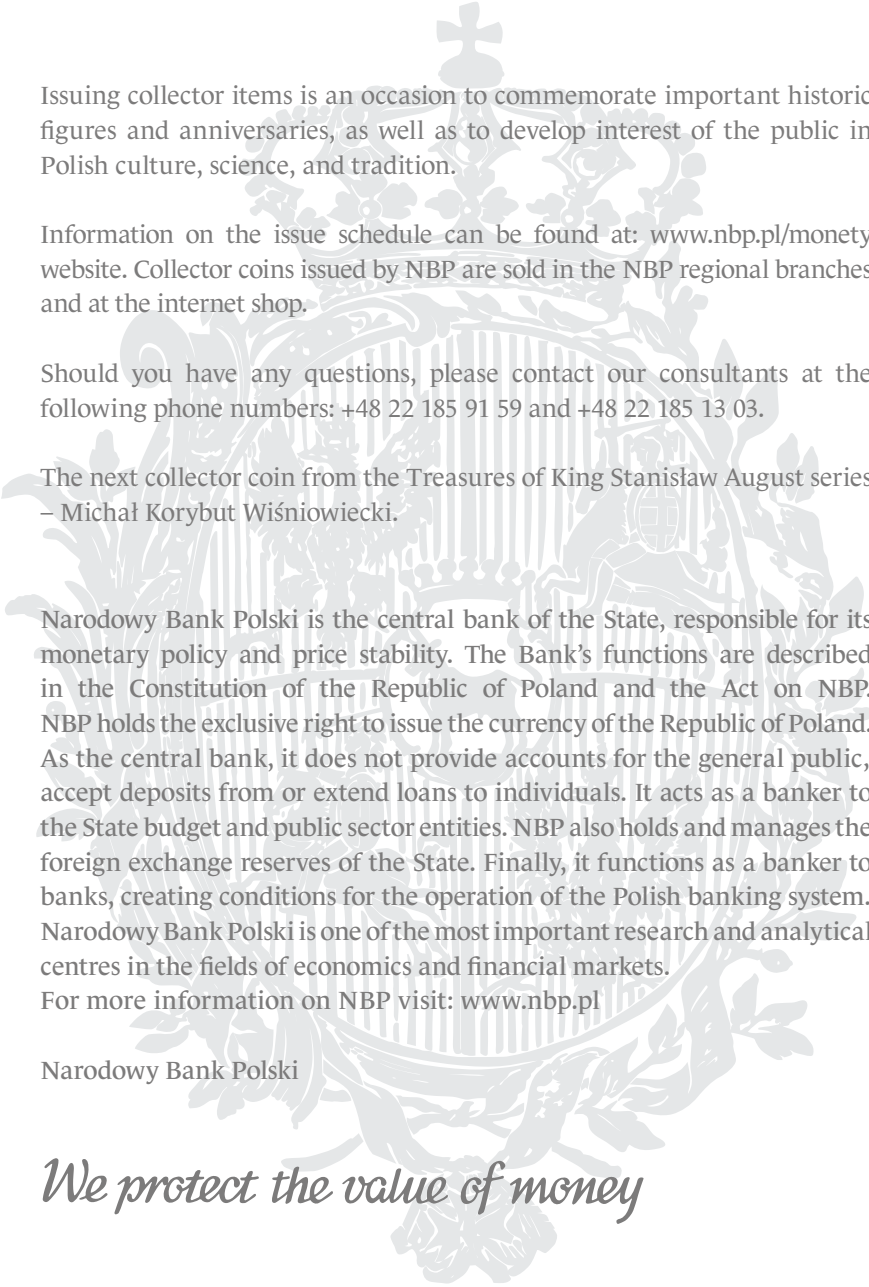


Jan Kazimierz Waza
John Casimir Vasa
(1648-1668)



Stanisław August Poniatowski
(1764-1795)

Coin design to be presented



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

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.

The next collector coin from the Treasures of King Stanisław August series – Sigismund-Augustus will be issued in December 2017.

Narodowy Bank Polski is the central bank of the State, responsible for its monetary policy and price stability. The Bank's functions are described in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland and the Act on NBP. NBP holds the exclusive right to issue the currency of the Republic of Poland. As the central bank, it does not provide accounts for the general public, accept deposits from or extend loans to individuals. It acts as a banker to the State budget and public sector entities. NBP also holds and manages the foreign exchange reserves of the State. Finally, it functions as a banker to banks, creating conditions for the operation of the Polish banking system. Narodowy Bank Polski is one of the most important research and analytical centres in the fields of economics and financial markets. For more information on NBP visit: www.nbp.pl

Narodowy Bank Polski

We protect the value of money