

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 items issued by NBP are sold in the NBP regional branches and at the online shop.

On 12 October 2017 Narodowy Bank Polski will be putting into circulation collector coins “200th Anniversary of the Death of Tadeusz Kościuszko”: a gold coin with a face value of 200 zł and a silver coin with a face value of 10 zł.

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The Enduring Soldiers
Accused by the Communists

Witold Pilecki
“Witold”



Collector coins

The Enduring Soldiers Accursed by the Communists – Witold Pilecki “Witold”

Witold Pilecki was born in an aristocratic family (coat of arms of Leliwa) in Olonets in Karelia on 13 May 1901. During his youth he was active in the Scout movement. In the years 1918-1921 he served in the Polish Army. He fought in the Polish-Soviet War and was twice awarded with the Cross of Valour. In the newly independent Poland he managed the Sukurcze estate near Lida (today in Belarus) which was recovered by the Pilecki family.

At the initiative of Marshal Edward Śmigły-Rydz, Pilecki began to cooperate with the Polish counterintelligence, known as the “second department”.

He fought in the Polish defensive war in September 1939, after which he co-organized one of the first anti-German resistance groups: the Secret Polish Army, which joined the Home Army. On 19 September 1940 he voluntarily went to the Auschwitz death camp on behalf of the Secret Polish Army. The goal of his mission was to gather intelligence on the ground and establish a conspiracy self-help and armed resistance movement among the prisoners (Military Organization Union), which was supposed to liberate the camp with help from outside.

During his mission he was the first person to inform the world of the ongoing German genocide. After two years and seven months of imprisonment, he managed to escape from the camp in order to continue the implementation of his plan to liberate the prisoners. Due to his volunteer mission in Auschwitz he was recognized in the West as one of the bravest men in German-occupied Europe.

During the Warsaw Uprising in 1944, he led the defence of a fortified area that became known as Witold’s Redoubt (Starynkiewicz Square) and which was never seized by the Germans. After being liberated from the German Oflag in Murnau,



Pilecki convinced General Władysław Anders that he should return to the Soviet-occupied Poland and establish an underground intelligence-gathering group subordinated to the Polish Armed Forces in the West. Thanks to his activity, the world learned about the extent of the country’s subjugation to Stalin. At the critical moment Pilecki declined the possibility to escape to the West, saying: “Somebody has to stay here regardless of the consequences”. He was arrested in May 1947 by the Stalinist security services and subjected to brutal interrogation. He was sentenced to death on trumped up charges and executed at the prison’s torture chambers at Rakowiecka street in Warsaw on 25 May 1948. A former fellow prisoner at Auschwitz Józef Cyrankiewicz, who was the Prime Minister at the time, didn’t stand up for Pilecki.

Pilecki’s statement that when compared with Communist repressions “Auschwitz was merely child’s play” allow

On 28 September 2017 Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a silver coin from the series “The Enduring Soldiers Accursed by the Communists” – Witold Pilecki “Witold” with a face value of 10 zł.

Face value 10 zł

Metal: Ag 925/1000

Finish: proof; pad printing

Diameter: 32.00 mm

Weight: 14.14 g

Edge: plain

Mintage: up to 15,000 pcs

Designer of the obverse: Dobrochna Surajewska

Designer of the reverse: Urszula Walerzak

Issuer: NBP

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



us to compare the two totalitarianism of the 20th century. Meanwhile, his request to his wife to buy and read to their children the book “Imitation of Christ” by Thomas à Kempis constitutes the Rittmeister’s lasting message and legacy. The place of burial of the Polish hero hasn’t been identified to this day (it was probably the “hole of death” at the Powązki Cemetery in Warsaw, known as the Meadow – Łączka). Those responsible for his death – the Communist authorities, brutal investigators, prosecutors, judges – have never been punished. In 2006, Pilecki was posthumously awarded with the Order of the White Eagle, and in 2013 promoted to the rank of Colonel.

Tadeusz Phużański

The reverse of the coin features the images of Witold Pilecki “Witold”, a military eagle, a white-and-red-flag with the symbol of Fighting Poland and the inscription “They acted as they should”.

The obverse of the silver coin features prison bars torn apart.