

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/money](http://www.nbp.pl/money) 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 online shop.

On 8 November 2017 Narodowy Bank Polski will be putting into circulation collector coins of the series “100th Anniversary of Regaining Independence by Poland” – Roman Dmowski, a gold coin with a face value of 100 złoty and a silver coin with a face value of 10 złoty.

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Narodowy Bank Polski

*We protect the value of money*

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## FIVE CENTURIES OF THE REFORMATION IN POLAND



Collector coins

# FIVE CENTURIES OF THE REFORMATION IN POLAND

On 31 October 1517, the Augustinian monk Martin Luther announced 95 theses against the sale of indulgences. This event is seen as the symbolic beginning of the Reformation, which quickly spread across Europe. In Poland and in Lithuania, Lutheranism became established in the first half of the 16th century, while denominations such as Calvinism and the Czech Brethren became popular a little later. In the 1560s the so-called Polish Brethren emerged from the community of Polish Calvinists.

The peaceful coexistence of different faiths had a long tradition in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Groups such as Orthodox Christians and Jews enjoyed religious freedom, as well as Tatars and Crimean Karaites in the territory of Lithuania. The last rulers of the Jagiellonian dynasty tried to stop the expansion of Protestantism, but their edicts were not enforced. In fact, the rulers themselves indirectly contributed to the establishment of Lutheranism in our part of Europe – Sigismund the Elder approved the transformation of the Teutonic State into a Lutheran duchy, and Sigismund Augustus accepted the creation of a Lutheran Courland.

In the second half of the 16th century, Poland was an oasis of religious peace, and Protestantism dominated among the noble elites. Only the heirless death of Sigismund



## Face value 20 zł

Metal: Ag 925/1000

Finish: proof, microprinting

Diameter: 38.61 mm

Weight: 28.28 g

Edge: plain

Mintage: up to 20,000 pcs

Designer: Anna Wątróbska-Wdowiarska

Issuer: NBP

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



Augustus and the need to choose a new monarch led the nobles to secure the Commonwealth against religious conflicts.

The obverse of the jubilee coin features a fragment of the text of the so-called Warsaw Confederation, signed in January 1573 at the Convocation Sejm. Several articles of that legal act were devoted to ensuring religious freedoms for the various Christian denominations. From that point on it was prohibited to use violence or to force someone to change their religion.

The reverse of the jubilee coin features the image of the Lutheran Bishop Juliusz Bursche, with a Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta. The Bishop was distinguished by his faithful service to Poland. In spring 1919, he participated in the Paris Peace Conference as the Polish expert on the issue of Cieszyn Silesia and East Prussia. In the years 1919-1920, he led the Polish plebiscite committee in Warmia. It was because of his allegiance to Poland that he died a martyr's death at the Moabit Prison in Berlin in February 1942.

*Professor Edward Opaliński*

On 23 October 2017, Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a silver collector coin – “Five Centuries of the Reformation in Poland”, with a face value of 20 złoty.