

**NBP**

Narodowy Bank Polski

Collector coins



# Treasures of Stanisław August

**Sigismund-Augustus  
(1529/1548–1572)**

# Treasures of Stanisław August

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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



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The only son of Sigismund the Elder and Bona Sforza, during his father's life he was elected as king at the age of ten, after the death of his father he acquired Courland as a fief of the Commonwealth and he joined Lithuania and Poland in a lasting union, the last King of Poland from the Jagiellonian dynasty. He died childless in Knyszyn on the 18th of July Anno Domini 1572, at the age of 52, in the 24th year of his reign.

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# Sigismund-Augustus (1529/1548–1572)

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The thirteenth coin of the series depicts Sigismund-Augustus, the son of Sigismund the Elder and Bona Sforza d'Aragona, from 1529 the last independent Grand Duke of Lithuania, the King of Poland formally crowned in 1530 (vivente rege election of 1529) and reigning from 1548, following the death of his father. He was the last king from the male line of the Jagiellonian dynasty. He acquired Livonia as a fief and joined Poland and Lithuania in a union; he was distinguished by his tolerant attitude in matters of faith, he cared about the prestige of the state and was a patron of the arts.

The reverse of the coin presents the bust of the king transferred from a medal (based on a painting by Marcello Bacciarelli), in profile facing right, with a mustache and a split beard, in a Spanish costume – a small stiff hat with ostrich feathers, a ruff and a coat with an impressive sable fur collar, and a chain with the Order of the Golden Fleece on his neck.

The obverse of the coin carries a slightly shortened version of the text from the reverse of the medal (in translation): *The only son of Sigismund the Elder and Bona Sforza, during his father's life he was elected as king at the age of ten, after the death of his father he acquired Courland as a fief of the Commonwealth and he joined Lithuania and Poland in a lasting union, the last King of Poland from the Jagiellonian dynasty. He died childless in Knyszyn on the 18th of July Anno Domini 1572, at the age of 52, in the 24th year of his reign.*

Sigismund-Augustus was born in 1520. He was married three times. In 1543, he married Elizabeth of Austria (died in 1545). In 1547, he married Barbara Radziwiłł (crowned in 1550, died in 1551) against the will of his parents and of the Polish Sejm. In 1553, Sigismund-Augustus married Catherine of Austria (they separated in 1563, she died in 1572). As a result of wars with Russia, in 1561 he acquired Livonia as a fief of the Kingdom of Poland, along with the secular Duchy of Courland and Semigallia established there and ruled by Duke Gotthard Kettler, the last Master of the Livonian Order of Knights. He began the development of the Polish fleet. He carried out many economic and military reforms, and the survey and so-called recovery of property – estates previously given to magnates were restored to the state treasury. The most important political act during his reign was the Union of Lublin signed in 1569. It resulted in the establishment of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, also known as the Commonwealth of Both Nations – from that point on Poland and Lithuania had a single ruler, a common foreign policy, a common Sejm and a single currency, while retaining separate laws, treasuries, offices and armies. The King died childless in 1572 in Knyszyn and was buried in a solemn ceremony at Wawel Castle.

Marta Męcłewska

## SIGISMUND-AUGUSTUS Collector coins

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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 AUGUST \*

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: 7 December 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 AUGUST \*

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: 7 December 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)  
Date of issue: 7 XII 2017



Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki  
(1669-1673)



Henryk Walezy  
Henry Valois  
(1573-1575)



Jan III Sobieski  
John III Sobieski  
(1674-1696)



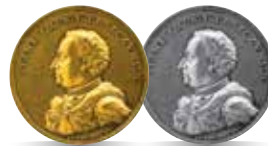
Stefan Batory  
Stephen Bathory  
(1576-1586)



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)

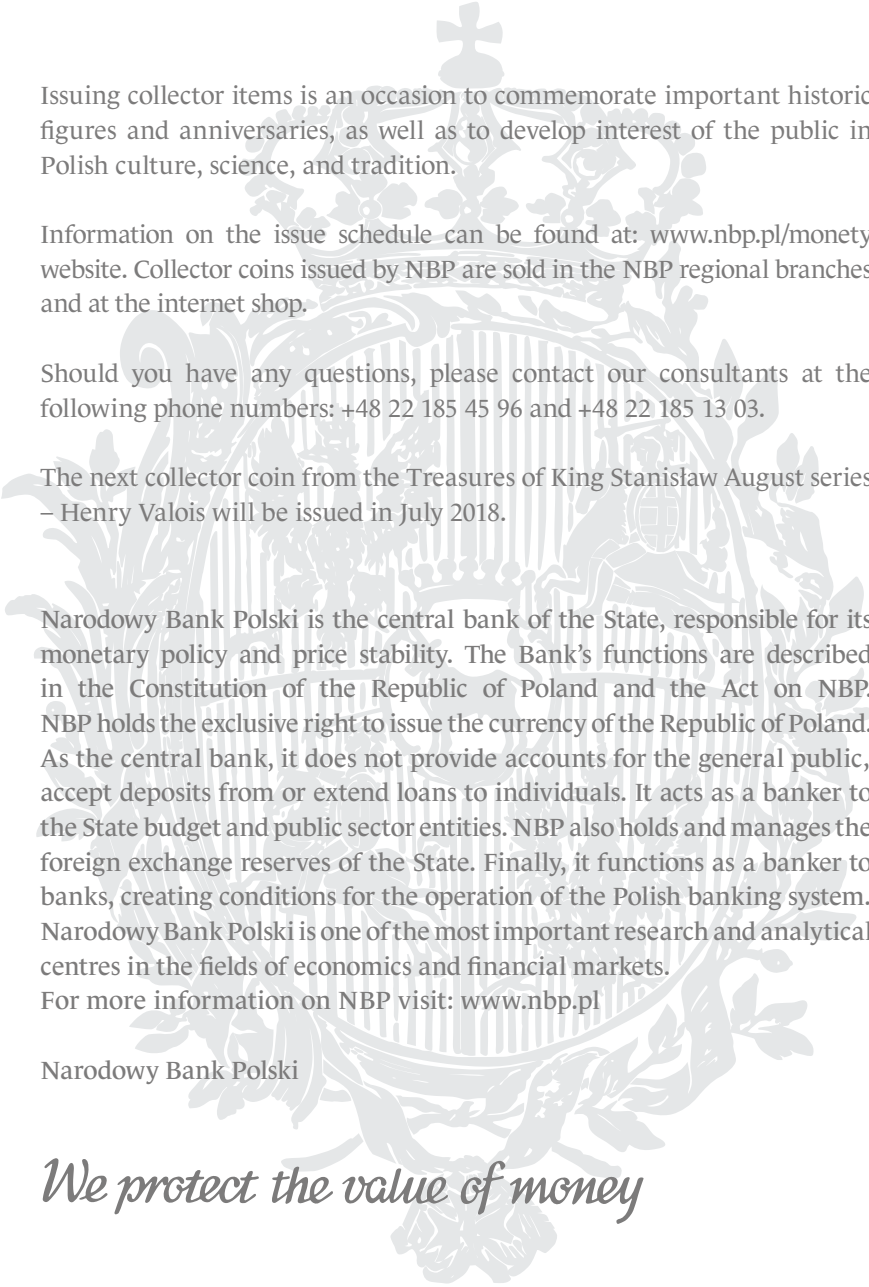


Jan Kazimierz Waza  
John Casimir Vasa  
(1648-1668)



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](http://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 – Henry Valois will be issued in July 2018.

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](http://www.nbp.pl)

Narodowy Bank Polski

*We protect the value of money*