

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](http://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 online shop.

On 12 July 2018, Narodowy Bank Polski will be putting into circulation collector coins with a face value of 50 złoty and 500 złoty from the series “Treasures of Stanisław August” – Henry Valois and a silver coin of the series “History of Polish Coin” – ‘boratynka’, ‘tymf’ of John Casimir Vasa, with a face value of 20 złoty.

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## The Polish Thermopylae – Hodów



Collector coins

# The Polish Thermopylae – Hodów

## At the meeting point of cultures – at the meeting point of history

Hodów, a village near Pomoryany, about 80 km from Lviv (in the borderland between Halych Land and Podolia; at the present a village in Ternopil Oblast (province) in Ukraine). It is here that on 11 June 1694 a historical battle took place between a cavalry group of the Polish Crown army and the Tatar troops intending to launch a sabotage raid on the Ruthenian Voivodship.

## Thermopylae of the Zahorowski’s “elears” (irregular light cavalry)

Polish forces consisted of cavalry banners from the garrison: Okopy Świętej Trójcy (Holy Trinity Trenches) (at the mouth of the Zbruch River near Kamianets-Podilskyi), among which there were almost 100 hussars and maybe 300 medium-cavalrymen (pancerni). They were commanded by Konstanty Zahorowski. The Okopy forces were supported by 200 Mikołaj Tyszkowski’s cavalrymen from other border fort – Szaniec Panny Marii (Virgin Mary Rampart). Zahorowski’s subordinates distinguished by excellent defensive skills and fortitude. Enemies called them “undefeated men”.

## “Undefeated men” against thousands of Tatars

The group of cavalry from Okopy, called by their contemporaries “elears from Okopy”, cut across the path of the Tatar invasion near Hodów. Due to the number of the enemy’s troops, estimated by some witnesses at 40 thousand soldiers, the “elears from Okopy” garrisoned rural buildings from where they defended themselves against the Tatars, on



foot and using long firearms. Interestingly, when they had run out of bullets, they loaded their arms with heads of Tatar arrows, which hailed down in a huge amount during several-hour-long exchange of fire. According to contemporary reports, all Polish soldiers were wounded during the defence. Despite this, the soldiers from Okopy did not surrender, and the Tatars withdrew, discouraged by the conduct of Zahorowski’s subordinates. Thus their sabotage raid had proved futile.

## Polish Thermopylae, yet victorious ones

The valiant defenders of Hodów were compared, even in their own times, to the 300 Spartans defending Thermopylae. John III Sobieski, the King of Poland, commissioned a monument commemorating their victory. “They fulfilled their need to demonstrate

On 5 June 2018, Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a silver coin of the series “The Polish Thermopylae” – Hodów, with a face value of 20 zloty.

## Face value 20 zł

Metal: Ag 925/1000

Finish: proof

Diameter: 38.61 mm

Weight: 28.28 g

Edge (side): plain

Mintage: up to 18,000 pcs



Obverse designer: Urszula Walerzak

Reverse designer: Dominika Karpińska-Kopiec

Issuer: NBP

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

a steadfast attitude as Spartans did against Persians”, as a hussar, Kazimierz Dłużewski, commented on the soldiers’ attitude.

## Explore the coin

The reverse presents a hussar companion sent to “elears from Okopy”. The image of the hussar in full armour, wearing a leopard pelt, with a wheel lock arquebus and 2 wheel lock pistols (according to the guidelines of Stanisław Jabłonowski, Great Crown Hetman, from 1693, on armour and weaponry of Polish hussars from “trench banners”) has been placed against the background of a rough drawing depicting fortification of Okopy Świętej Trójcy.

The obverse of all coins of the “The Polish Thermopylae” series depicts Athena, the Goddess of just war and wisdom.

*Zbigniew Hundert, Ph.D.*