

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 91 59 and +48 22 185 13 03.

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

NBP

Narodowy Bank Polski

On 25 June 2019, Narodowy Bank Polski will be putting into circulation a silver coin with a face value of 20 zł – “450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Union of Lublin”.

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Narodowy Bank Polski

*We protect the value of money*

Great Actresses

## Helena Modrzejewska



Collector coins

# Great Actresses – Helena Modrzejewska

Helena Modrzejewska (1840–1909) was a remarkable actress, a great legend of the Polish theatre and a star of two continents. She was famous for her beauty, talent and generosity. Not only was she an extraordinary artist, but also an ardent patriot and philanthropist.

Modrzejewska was born in Kraków; gossip had it that her father was Duke Eustachy Sanguszko. She made her debut thanks to the recommendation of actor Gustaw Zimajer, who enabled her to make a debut appearance in 1861 in Bochnia. He was soon to become the father of her children (their daughter died tragically in childhood, and their son Rudolf – also known as Ralf Modjeski – became an acclaimed American bridge constructor). After four years of acting in provincial theatres, Modrzejewska ran away from Zimajer, and from 1865 was a successful actress in the Kraków theatre. In 1868-1876 she performed in Warsaw, where she quickly rose to stardom. Together with her husband, Count Karol Chłapowski, she moved to America. As Helena Modjeska, she acted in many American theatres, giving triumphant artistic tours. However, she did not forget her home country and travelled every year to give guest performances – usually to Lvov and her native Kraków, where she became engaged in raising money for the construction of a new theatre (currently the Juliusz Słowacki Theatre). Later on, she performed on this stage on many occasions, enthralling the audience with her famous roles, e.g. the Shakespearean Lady Macbeth, Maria in *Warszawianka* by Wyspiański, *Maria Stuart* by Słowacki according to Schiller and *The Lady of the Camellias* by Dumas. Modrzejewska gave



her last performances in Poland in Kraków in 1903. She died at her mansion in California and was buried at the Rakowicki Cemetery in Kraków.

The reverse of the coin features an image of Helena Modrzejewska from a portrait by Frank Fowler

On 11 June 2019, Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a silver coin with a face value of 20 zł of the series "Great Actresses" – Helena Modrzejewska.

**Face value 20 zł**

Metal: Ag 925/1000

Finish: proof, porcelain insert

Dimensions: 40.00 x 28.00 mm

Weight: 28.28 g

Edge: plain

Mintage: up to 16,000 pcs

Designer: Anna Wątróbska-Wdowiarska

Issuer: NBP

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



from 1884; on the left – the actress's autograph, in the bottom right corner – her colourful stage fan.

The obverse shows a fragment of the stage curtain designed by Henryk Siemiradzki from the Juliusz Słowacki Theatre in Kraków, depicting a group of Inspiration, Beauty and Truth, Tragedy (in a black robe), Comedy (with an antique mask in her hand), and Jester playing with puppets.

Diana Poskuta-Włodek