

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.

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

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 91 59 and +48 22 185 13 03.

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Narodowy Bank Polski

700th Anniversary of the Consecration of St. Mary's Basilica in Kraków



Collector coins

700th Anniversary of the Consecration of St. Mary's Basilica in Kraków

On 22 May 2020, Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a silver coin "700th Anniversary of the Consecration of St. Mary's Basilica in Kraków", with a face value of 50 złoty.

The year 2020 marks the 700th anniversary of the consecration of the Gothic St. Mary's Basilica in Kraków. The history of the church goes back to the 1220s. According to chronicler Jan Długosz, the first parochial church was founded at the site in 1221–1222 by the Bishop of Kraków Iwo Odrowąż. He established the parish by transferring it from the Church of the Holy Trinity, allocated to the Dominican friars when they arrived in Kraków.

In 1290–1300, a new church in early Gothic style was erected partly on its foundations and consecrated in 1320 by Bishop Nanker. Over the following centuries the building underwent numerous alterations. An extended single-nave presbytery under a stellar vault was built in the second half of the 14th century. Stalls under canopies were added on both sides of the presbytery in the 16th century, and in the following century they were equipped with backrests decorated with low reliefs featuring scenes from the lives of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary.

In 1477–1489, Saint Mary's church was enriched with a grand altarpiece, a late Gothic sculptural masterpiece by Master Veit Stoss (Wit Stwosz). The polyptych (pentaptych) was consecrated to the Mother of God and her role in the work of salvation through the Messiah, Her Son Jesus.

In the 18th century, in the time of Mitred Prelate Jacek Łopacki, the church interior was



thoroughly modernised in the late Baroque style. In 1795, the church cemetery was deconstructed and St. Mary's Square was built on its grounds. Some of the extant epitaphs were transferred onto the church walls.

In the late 19th century, Tadeusz Stryjeński headed another extensive restoration of the temple. At that time, Jan Matejko designed painted decorations for the presbytery, which were created by Stanisław Wyspiański, Józef Mehoffer and other artists. The vault imitates a starry sky, and the walls are covered by paintings with ornamental and heraldic motifs, prayers to the Virgin Mary and figures of angels playing musical instruments or holding banderoles with the Litany of Loreto.

The last thorough renovation of the church interior was carried out at the turn of the 21st century.

Face value: 50 zł

Metal: Ag 999/1000

Finish: standard (glass insert)

Diameter: 45.00 mm

Weight: 62.20 g

Edge (side): plain

Mintage: up to 6,000 pcs



Designer: Sebastian Mikołajczak

Issuer: NBP

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

The Veit Stoss Altarpiece and the organ are currently under restoration.

Katarzyna Pakuła-Major

The obverse of the coin features – on the right – a fragment of a presbytery window from St. Mary's Basilica in Kraków with colourful stained glass representing a late-Gothic tracery with floral patterns. At the bottom, it features the figures of Mary and Joseph presenting the infant Jesus at the temple. In the middle, there is an image of the figure from the predella of the Veit Stoss Altarpiece representing the Jesse Tree.

The reverse of the coin features an image of St. Mary's Basilica in Kraków on the right, and a colourful stained-glass window on the left.