

NBP

Narodowy Bank Polski

Collector coins



Treasures of Stanisław August

John Casimir Vasa
(1648–1668)

Treasures of Stanisław August

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



The second son of Sigismund III, born of Constance of Austria; having fought bravely for 20 years, with varying degrees of success, after the wars waged against the Cossacks, Tatars, Swedes, Russians, Hungarians and – alas – against the Poles, discouraged by the misfortunes – he renounced the crown. He died childless in Nevers, France, A.D. 1672, aged 61, on 16 December.



John Casimir Vasa (1648–1668)

The eighteenth coin of the series features John Casimir of the Vasa dynasty, son of Sigismund III, King of Poland and Sweden, and Constance Habsburg of Austria, half-brother of Ladislas IV. John Casimir was elected to the Polish throne in November 1648 and received the crown in Kraków in January 1649. Appointed Cardinal in 1646, he had resigned from the position before he was elected king. In 1660, he renounced his rights to the Swedish throne and remained only the titular King of Sweden. The turbulent reign of John Casimir came to an end when he abdicated in 1668 and retired to France. He is held in bad repute that has not been improved by the recognition of his military talents.

The reverse of the coin features the bust of the king transferred from a medal (according to a painting by Marcello Bacciarelli), with the profile facing left, with a long wig, a moustache and a wispy beard, wearing a Reiter armour, a jabot tied with a ribbon, a stock tie, and an ermine coat with the Order of the Golden Fleece.

The obverse of the coin features the text engraved on the reverse of the medal (in translation): *The second son of Sigismund III, born of Constance of Austria; having fought bravely for 20 years, with varying degrees of success, after the wars waged against the Cossacks, Tatars, Swedes, Russians, Hungarians and – alas – against the Poles, discouraged by the misfortunes – he renounced the crown. He died childless in Nevers, France, A.D. 1672, aged 61, on 16 December.*

John Casimir Vasa was born in Kraków in 1609. Drilled in the art of war in his youth, as a king he faced Bohdan Khmelnytsky's insurrection, then battled against Russia, and despite his great victory at Beresteczko (1651) lost the Ukrainian lands on the Dnieper River to Russia (1654). The Swedish invasion in 1655 and the alliance made by part of the crown nobility with Swedes brought about a massive destruction of the country. Numerous battles led by the king, and in particular the defense of the monastery of Jasna Góra, lifted the nation's spirit and the war was concluded with the signing of the Truce of Oliwa (1660). It was then that the Duchy of Prussia was granted sovereignty under the Treaties of Welawa and Bydgoszcz. The following years saw continued fighting with Russia and the lost civil war with Hetman Lubomirski. The attempts to introduce state reforms failed. Faced with so much adversity, after the death of his wife Marie Louise de Gonzague and his two infant children, John Casimir renounced his right to the throne in 1668 and retired to France, where he served as the Abbot of the Benedictine Abbey of Saint-Germain-des-Prés. He died in Paris in 1672 and was buried in Wawel Cathedral. His heart was committed to a beautiful tomb in the Saint-Germain-des-Prés church in Paris.

Marta Męclewska

JOHN CASIMIR VASA Collector coins

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 *

JAN KAZIMIERZ WAZA *

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: 26 January 2021



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 *

JAN KAZIMIERZ WAZA *

mintage: up to 5,000 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: 26 January 2021





Bolesław Chrobry
Boleslaus the Brave (992–1025)
Date of issue: 12 III 2013



Władysław Jagiełło
Ladislas 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



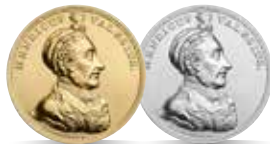
Zygmunt I Stary
Sigismund the Elder (1506–1548)
Date of issue: 12 VII 2017



Zygmunt August
Sigismund-Augustus
(1548–1572)
Date of issue: 7 XII 2017



Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki
(1669–1673)



Henryk Walezy
Henry Valois (1573–1575)
Date of issue: 12 VII 2018



Jan III Sobieski
John III Sobieski
(1674–1696)



Stefan Batory
Stephen Bathory (1576–1586)
Date of issue: 17 I 2019



August II Mocny
Augustus II the Strong
(1697–1706, 1709–1733)



Zygmunt III Waza
Sigismund Vasa (1587–1632)
Date of issue: 23 I 2020



Stanisław Leszczyński
(1705–1709, 1733–1736)



Władysław IV Waza
Ladislav Vasa (1632–1648)
Date of issue: 3 XII 2020



August III Sas
Augustus III
(1733–1763)

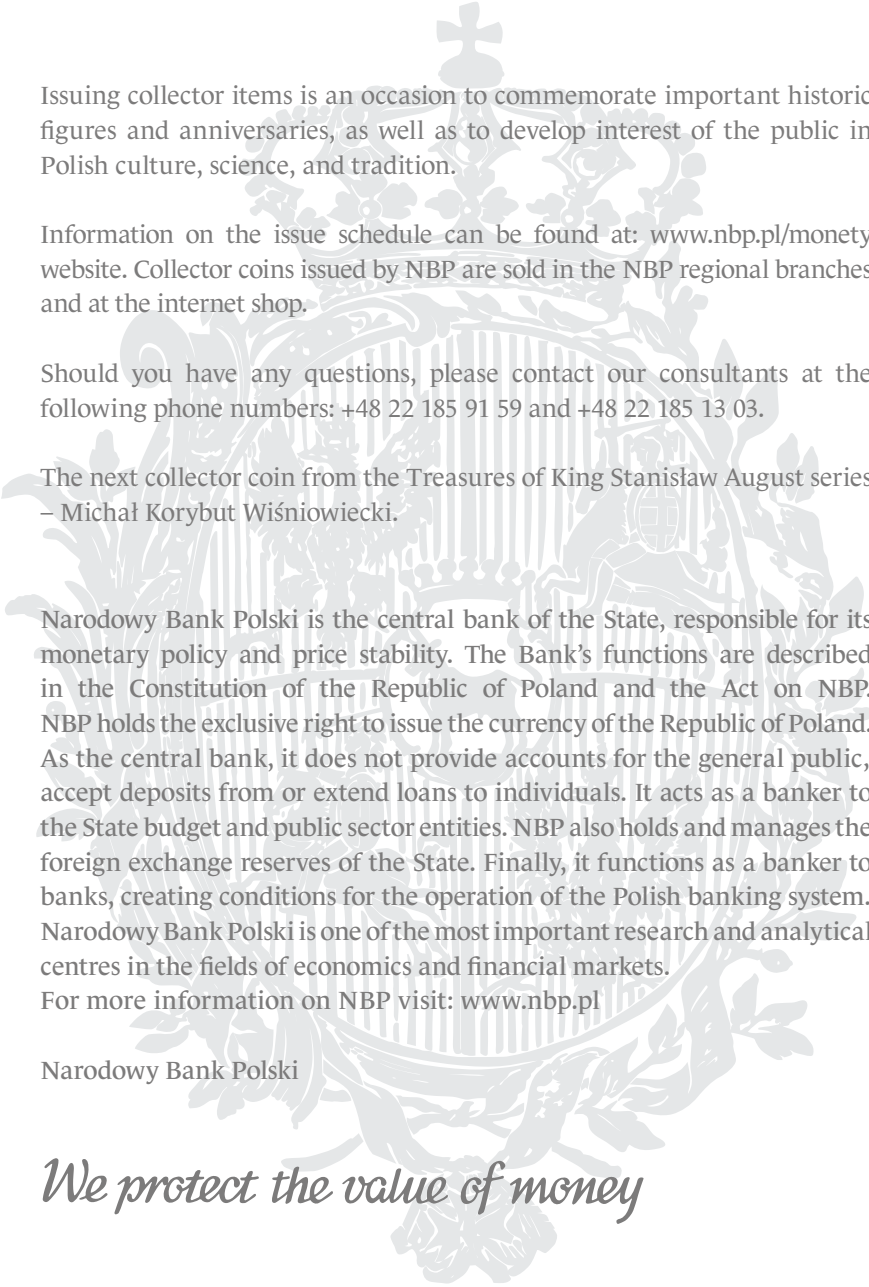


Jan Kazimierz Waza
John Casimir Vasa (1648–1668)
Date of issue: 26 I 2021



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 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 91 59 and +48 22 185 13 03.

The next collector coin from the Treasures of King Stanisław August series – Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki.

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

Narodowy Bank Polski

We protect the value of money