



NARODOWY BANK POLSKI

Collector coins



Treasures of Stanisław August

John III Sobieski
(1674-1696)

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



Elected on the 20th day of May Anno Domini 1674, crowned on the 2nd day of February Anno Domini 1676 – as a subject [of King Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki], he beat the Turks at Chocim, as king he defeated them, freed Vienna from the siege – distinguished for his valour, learning and eloquence – as a subject he took part in internal disturbances, on becoming king he was tormented by the same misfortune. He died in Wilanów Anno Domini 1696, at the age of 72, in the 22nd year of his reign, on the 17th of June.



John III Sobieski (1674–1696)

The twentieth coin of the series shows John III Sobieski of the Janina coat of arms, the Grand Hetman of the Crown, elected king after the victory of Chocim in May 1674 and crowned on 2 February 1676. He gained fame in Europe after the victory at Vienna and is considered one of the greatest commanders and rulers in the history of Poland. He had reform plans regarding foreign and domestic policy and he wanted to secure the succession of his eldest son James (Jakub) to the Polish throne.

The reverse of the coin features a bust of the king (according to a painting by Marcello Bacciarelli), transferred from a medal, facing right, with Sarmatian-style shaved hair and abundant moustache, in a laurel wreath; in armour with a lion epaulette and a fur-lined cloak, with the cross and star of the French Order of the Holy Spirit.

On the obverse of the coin, the text from the reverse of the medal (in translation, slightly shortened) reads: *Elected on the 20th day of May Anno Domini 1674, crowned on the 2nd day of February Anno Domini 1676 – as a subject [of King Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki], he beat the Turks at Chocim, as king he defeated them, freed Vienna from the siege – distinguished for his valour, learning and eloquence – as a subject he took part in internal disturbances, on becoming king he was tormented by the same misfortune. He died in Wilanów Anno Domini 1696, at the age of 72, in the 22nd year of his reign, on the 17th of June.*

John Sobieski, the son of James (Jakub), the castellan of Kraków, and Zofia Teofila née Daniłowicz, was born in 1629 in Olesko, in Red Ruthenia. He was thoroughly educated. After studying at the Academy of Kraków and completing the Grand Tour, he took up military service in the country, fighting against Cossack leader Khmelnytsky and the Russians. In 1655, he surrendered to the Swedes, but in 1656 he returned under orders of Polish commanders and took part in numerous wars with the Russians, Cossacks, Tatars and the Turks. In 1668, he became the Grand Hetman of the Crown. At that time, he also gained the reputation of a hero and was dubbed the “Lion of Lechistan”, in particular due to the victory at Chocim (1673). He was in favour of an alliance with France, he made plans to regain Ducal Prussia and strengthen Poland’s presence on the Baltic Sea. In the spring of 1683, he signed a treaty with Austria and, as commander-in-chief, achieved a great and famous victory over the Turkish army of Kara Mustafa, which had been besieging Vienna. The following years brought an unfavorable peace with Russia (1686), unsuccessful expeditions to Moldavia and troublesome struggles with the opposition from the Polish magnates. He married Marie Casimire de la Grange d’Arquien (to whom he fondly referred as “Marysieńka” /Little Mary/), and had eight children with her. In addition to political talents, he also showed a passion for fine arts and literature, supported architects, painters and sculptors, as well as scientists (astronomer Johannes Hevelius called the newly discovered constellation Sobieski’s Shield). He built a palace and a garden in Wilanów. He died in 1696. He was first buried in the Capuchin Church in Warsaw, and then, in 1734, at Wawel Castle.

JOHN III SOBIESKI 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 III SOBIESKI *

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: 9 February 2022



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 III SOBIESKI *

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: 9 February 2022





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



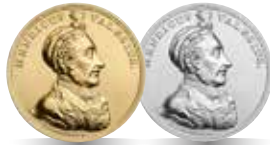
Zygmunt I Stary
Sigismund the Elder (1506–1548)
Date of issue: 12 VII 2017



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



Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki
(1669–1673)
Date of issue: 2 XII 2021



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



Jan III Sobieski
John III Sobieski (1674–1696)
Date of issue: 9 II 2022



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



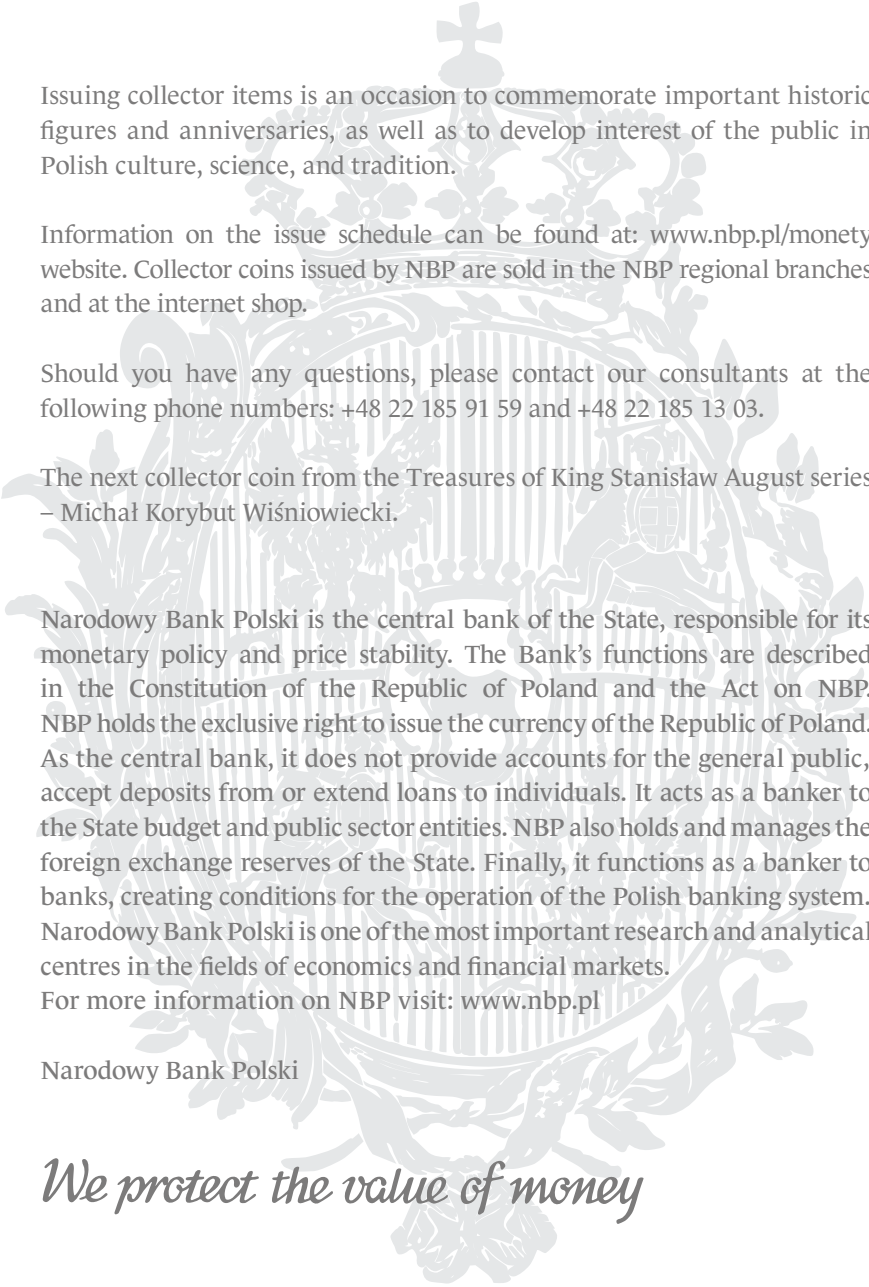
August III Sas
Augustus III
(1733–1763)



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 – Augustus II the Strong.

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 Polish money