

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.

On 16 January 2023, Narodowy Bank Polski will be putting into circulation a gold coin with a face value of 200 złoty and a silver coin with a face value of 20 złoty – “160th Anniversary of the January Uprising”.

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Narodowy Bank Polski

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## The German Labour Camp for Polish Children in Łódź (1942-1945)



Collector coins

# The German Labour Camp for Polish Children in Łódź (1942-1945)

On 8 December 2022, Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a silver coin “The German Labour Camp for Polish Children in Łódź (1942-1945)”, with a face value of 10 zloty.

“The longer we stayed there, the more discipline was tightened up, the easier it was to notice that everything was geared towards torturing and tormenting us,” recalled Stefan Marczewski, one of the camp’s teenage prisoners. Around 2,000 to 3,000 children aged up to 16 years old passed through the camp located next to the Łódź ghetto.

Łódź wasn’t chosen by accident. It was the most populous Polish city incorporated within the boundaries of the Third Reich and remained a key centre for deportation operations in the so-called Reichsgau Wartheland and for Germanization activities. The idea for the establishment of the camp had already emerged in the summer of 1941. It was modelled on the juvenile concentration camp in Moringen (Mohringen/Solling) in Lower Saxony. In June 1942, the Germans carved out a five-hectare plot of land from the Litzmannstadt Ghetto, in the quarter of today’s Górnicza, Emilii Plater, Bracka and Przemysłowa streets. The first prisoners were registered in December 1942. The Germans referred to the camp as the Preventive Camp of the Security Police for Polish Youth in Łódź (*in German: Polen-Jugendverwahrlager der Sicherheitspolizei in Litzmannstadt*). However, the camp did not serve any educational functions, nor was it a prevention centre or a site of protection. From 1943, it also had its agricultural branch, in Dzierżazna near Biała, not far from Łódź (German: Arbeitsbetrieb Dzierżazna über Biala in Litzmannstadt), where some of the female prisoners were sent. However, male prisoners, who accounted for as much as 75 per cent of the overall number of detainees, remained in the main camp.



**Face value: 10 zł**

Metal: Ag 925/1000

Finish: proof

Diameter: 32.00 mm

Weight: 14.14 g

Edge (side): plain

Mintage: up to 9,000 pcs



Designer: Robert Kotowicz

Issuer: NBP

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

The camp’s prisoners were subjected to very harsh rules, like in regular concentration camps. The children were starved and had to engage in excruciating forced labour. They worked under extreme pressure, in very bad conditions, and were often beaten and humiliated by the supervising personnel. On 18 January 1945, one day before the Red Army entered Łódź, the guards fled the camp, leaving the imprisoned children in locked barracks.

After the war, residential buildings were constructed in the area of the former camp, and in the nearby park a monument to the Martyrdom of Children was built. German bestiality towards the youngest citizens of the Polish state is evidenced by the fact that

almost one hundred prisoners of the camp died or were murdered and buried in nameless graves at the Roman Catholic cemetery of St. Adalbert at 81 Kurczaki Street. Today we commemorate their martyrdom, paying tribute to all the defenceless victims of the Second World War.

The reverse of the coin depicts an image of a child symbolising the victims of the camp.

*Artur Ossowski  
Institute of National Remembrance, Branch in Łódź*