

● The National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation coins commemorating the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liquidation of the Lodz Ghetto, of the face value of

**2 zł** – struck in standard finish, in Nordic Gold alloy,  
on 17 August 2009

**20 zł** – struck in proof finish, in silver (oxidized),  
on 19 August 2009.

## The National Bank of Poland

holds the exclusive right to issue the currency  
in the Republic of Poland.

In addition to issuing coins and banknotes of general circulation, the NBP issues collector coins and banknotes. The issue of collector items is designed to both commemorate events, anniversaries and well-known personalities and to disseminate knowledge about Polish culture, science and tradition. Since 1996, the NBP has also been issuing the occasional Nordic Gold coins of general circulation of 2 złoty denomination.

All coins and banknotes  
issued by the NBP are legal tender in Poland.

COINS ISSUED IN 2009 COINS ISSUED IN 2009



Information on the schedule of issue  
and the sale of coins can be found at the websites:

[www.nbp.pl](http://www.nbp.pl)  
[www.numizmatyka.nbportal.pl](http://www.numizmatyka.nbportal.pl)

The coins have been struck at the Mint of Poland in Warsaw.

Edited and printed: NBP Printing Office

# NBP

National Bank of Poland

# COINS



65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the Liquidation  
of the Lodz Ghetto

# 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liquidation of the Lodz Ghetto

● 29 August 1944 marks the day of the last transport from the Lodz Ghetto, called Litzmannstadt Ghetto by the Germans. It is a very important date in the history of two nations – Jews and Poles. The Lodz Ghetto had the second largest Jewish population (after Warsaw) in occupied Poland and it was the longest existing ghetto in Europe. Between 1940 and 1944, over 200,000 people were deported to the ghetto by the Germans.

● Before World War II, Lodz was a multi-ethnic city, and its over 200,000 Jews were the largest national minority. In early 1940, the German occupation authorities established a ghetto in Lodz, where the Jews from Lodz and neighbouring towns, as well as 20,000 Jews from Austria, Czechoslovakia, Luxembourg and Germany were brought and forced to live. The ghetto was turned into a large factory making products for the Third Reich. Over 180,000 Jews died in the extermination camps and only 13,000, or only 5% of the city's former Jewish population, survived.

● The organization scheme of the Lodz Ghetto served as a model for establishing the Warsaw Ghetto, as well as other ghettos. In autumn 1941, the Germans began resettling the Jews from Prague, Vienna, Luxembourg and Germany's Berlin, Düsseldorf, Emden, Frankfurt,

Hamburg and Cologne. Within one month, 19,954 Jews from Western Europe were deported to the ghetto and, in the following months, another 18,000 Jews from provincial ghettos that had been liquidated.

● There were 100 factories and workshops in the ghetto (textile, leather, wood, metal and others). Following mass re-settlements from January to mid-September 1942 when over 72,000 Jews who either did not work or were incapable of working (the so-called redundant element) were transported to the extermination camp in Chelmno on Ner (Kulmhof am Ner), the ghetto was turned into a huge labour camp, with employment over 60,000. The most tragic event in the history of the ghetto, the so-called shpere<sup>1</sup>, or deportation of children under 10 and adults over 65, took place on 5-12 September 1942. After the mass re-location, slave labour was done by nearly all the remaining Jews.

● Hunger prevailed in the ghetto and death took a heavy toll. People were dying of strenuous work and widespread diseases. In addition, poor living and sanitary conditions caused the death of over 40,000 inhabitants.

<sup>1</sup> The term shpere, a Yiddish abbreviation of the German word Gehesperre – curfew, was used by the ghetto Jews to denote this event. (Translator's note)

● In line with the German policy, only people capable of working were allowed to stay in the ghetto. Those incapable of working were sent to death in Kulmhof am Ner. Over 80,000 Jews were exterminated by the Germans there. The first transport departed for Auschwitz on 9 August 1944. The Jews were led to believe that they were going inside the Third Reich. In reality, all the transports headed for the gas chambers of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. Over 67,000 inhabitants were deported from the Lodz Ghetto by 29 August 1944. According to estimates made by Arnold Mostowicz, a ghetto survivor himself, only 12,000-15,000 people survived. The ghetto ceased to exist. A commando of 800 people remained there to clean it and most of them survived.

● The drawing by Abraham Koplowicz, a fourteen-year-old boy who died in a gas chamber in 1944, was copied on the reverse of the 2 zł Nordic Gold coin by courtesy of Mr. Eliezer Grynfeld, Abraham Koplowicz's stepbrother.

**City of Lodz Office  
and National Bank of Poland**

COINS ISSUED IN 2009 COINS ISSUED IN 2009 COINS ISSUED IN 2009 COINS ISSUED IN 2009 COINS ISSUED IN 2009 COINS ISSUED IN 2009 COINS ISSUED IN 2009



FACE VALUE **20** ZŁ

metal **925/1000 Ag (oxidized)** ■ finish **proof** ■ diameter **38.61 mm**  
weight **28.28 g** ■ mintage (volume) **50,000 pcs**

**OBVERSE:** At the top and on the right-hand side, an image of the Eagle, established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. Underneath, the inscription, 20 ZŁ, against the stylized image of a fragment of a brick wall. On the left-hand side, the stylized image of a twig of an oak tree. In the rim, the inscription, RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA, and the notation of the year of issue, 2009. The Mint's mark, M/W, under the Eagle's left leg.

**REVERSE:** An image of the Star of David placed in the centre of the crown of the stylized image of an oak tree. At the top, the semicircular inscription, 65. ROCZNICA LIKWIDACJI (65<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF LIQUIDATION). At the bottom, the image of barbed wire fencing. Above the fencing, the inscription, GETTA w ŁODZI (OF LODZ GHETTO).

Coin designer: **EWA TYC-KARPIŃSKA**



FACE VALUE **2** ZŁ

metal **CuAl5Zn5Sn1 alloy** ■ finish **standard** ■ diameter **27.00 mm**  
weight **8.15 g** ■ mintage (volume) **1,000,000 pcs**

**OBVERSE:** An image of the Eagle, established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. On the sides of the Eagle, the notation of the year of issue, 20-09. Below the Eagle, the inscription, ZŁ 2 ZŁ. In the rim, the inscription, RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA, preceded and followed by six pearls. The Mint's mark, M/W, under the Eagle's left leg.

**REVERSE:** A stylized image of the logo of the commemoration of the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liquidation of the Litzmannstadt Ghetto by the Germans placed against the Star of David. Below the logo, the inscription, 65. ROCZNICA/ LIKWIDACJI/GETTA/ W ŁODZI (65<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF LIQUIDATION OF LODZ GHETTO).

**ON THE EDGE:** The inscription, NBP repeated eight times, every second one inverted by 180 degrees, separated with stars.

Coin designer: **EWA TYC-KARPIŃSKA**