

● The National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation coins of the series „History of the Polish Cavalry” depicting a Cheval-Léger of the Imperial Guard of Napoleon I:

2 zł – struck in standard finish, in Nordic Gold,
on 1 March 2010;

200 zł – struck in proof finish, in gold,

10 zł – struck in proof finish, in silver,
on 3 March 2010.

The National Bank of Poland

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

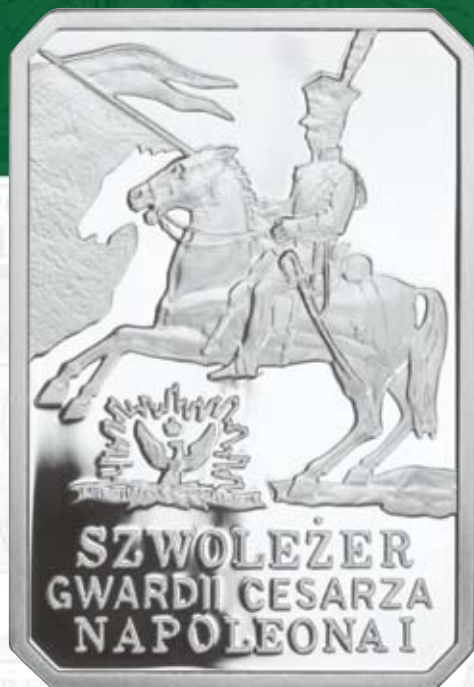
In addition to **coins and notes for general circulation**,
the NBP issues **collector coins and notes**.

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.

Since 1996, the NBP has also been issuing **occasional 2 zloty**
coins, struck in **Nordic Gold**, for general circulation.

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

COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010



Since 2006, the NBP has been issuing coins
of the series „History of the Polish Cavalry”.
The „Cheval-Légers of the Imperial Guard of Napoleon I”
is the fourth theme in the series

Information on the issue schedule
and on how to purchase
the coins can be found at the
www.nbp.pl/money
websites.

Collector coins issued by the National Bank of Poland
are sold exclusively at the Internet auctions held
in the Kolekcjoner service at the following website:

www.kolekcjoner.nbp.pl



The coins were struck at the Mint of Poland in Warsaw.
Edited and printed: NBP Printing Office

NBP

National Bank of Poland

COINS



HISTORY OF THE POLISH CAVALRY

Cheval-Légers
of the Imperial Guard
of Napoleon I

History of the Polish Cavalry: Cheveau-Légers of the Imperial Guard of Napoleon I

● At the beginning of the 19th century, the fortunes of the Polish soldier were intertwined with the history of the Napoleonic France. Poles vested their hopes to regain independence in Napoleon and saw the only chance to make their plans come true by joining his military campaigns. On the wave of this sentiment a very special military formation was created - the Polish 1st Regiment of Cheveau-Léger of the Imperial Guard (*Régiment de Cheveau-Légers Polonais de la Garde Impériale*), unit composed of Poles, yet being part of the Napoleon's Army, financed by the Emperor's Treasury. On 6 April 1807 in Finckenstein (Kamieniec Suski) Napoleon issued a decree on establishing the Regiment. Warsaw was designated as the place of the Regiment's formation and its first military exercises. The Regiment was supposed to be a military unit for the elites - volunteer noblemen, who had to get equipped with uniforms, weapons and horses at their own expense. Colonel Wincenty Krasieński was appointed the Regiment's Commander and his deputies were French officers. In accordance with the Emperor's Decree there were 51 officers and 976 rank-and-file in the Regiment. The first company was ready to march out to France in June 1807. The Regiment's parade in Warsaw aroused great enthusiasm, especially as the Cheveau-Légers distinguished themselves with their uniforms, which were modelled after the uniforms of the National Cavalry from the times of King Stanisław August. Thanks to perfectly chosen colours of their attire, the Regiment of Cheveau-Légers inspired admiration wherever they showed up, making a particular impression on ladies.

● The Regiment was deployed to France in parts, and following the outbreak of the Peninsular War, on 6 June 1808 the Regiment of Cheveau-Léger started their service in Spain in extremely difficult conditions.
 ● The battle at the Pass of Somosierra on 30 November 1808 became legendary. The Regiment of Cheveau-Légers commanded by Jan Leon Kozietulski performed an unparalleled exploit - under continuous fire of artillery they charged up the Somosierra pass where four artillery batteries had been entrenched. The charge took place over a distance of 2.5 km and lasted just about 8 minutes. Defenders fled in panic, opening the road for Napoleon's Army to Madrid. Out of the total of two hundred Cheveau-Légers taking part in the charge, eighteen were killed and thirty-nine were wounded.
 ● In subsequent years, the Regiment fought on all the European fronts, participating in forty five battles and major engagements in the Spanish campaign (1808), Austrian campaign (1809), Russian campaign (1812), Saxon campaign (1813) and French campaign (1814). Light cavalymen became famous for their valour and heroic courage. Thanks to their characteristic uniforms they were easily distinguished by all enemy soldiers who, as far as they could, avoided encounters with the Polish Regiment of the Imperial Guard. Even the Cossacks inspiring awe among the soldiers of the Grand Army, preferred to get out of their way.
 ● In November 1809 under the Emperor's decree the Cheveau-Légers were armed with lances and the formation was renamed the Regiment of Cheveau-Léger Lanciers of the Guard. The Polish Light Cavalymen learned to use this weapon with great skill.

● One of the main tasks of the Cheveau-Légers - apart from fighting in the battles - was to serve as personal guards of the Emperor. Every day they deployed a squadron charged with round-the-clock escort service and protection of the Emperor. It was to them that Napoleon owed his life, being saved on three occasions during the Russian campaign in 1812 and during the fights in France in 1814.
 ● After Napoleon's defeat and surrender of Paris defended also by the Cheveau-Légers, the Regiment returned to Poland and entered Warsaw on 8 September 1814. The formation was finally dissolved on 16 February 1815.
 ● The last great moment of the Napoleonic epic was service of the Cheveau-Légers in the Volunteer Squadron on Elba, accompanying Napoleon in his exile. They were at the origin of the new Imperial Army thanks to which Napoleon tried to regain power. His defeat at Waterloo on 18 June 1815 put an end to his dreams.
 ● The Cheveau-Légers went down in the history of Poland as fearless, loyal and steadfast, the bravest of the brave and, at the same time, full of chic and fantasy.
 ● At the times of the Second Republic of Poland the tradition of the 1st Regiment of Cheveau-Léger of the Imperial Guard was perpetuated by the 1st Regiment of Cheveau-Léger (Light Cavalymen) of Józef Piłsudski.

Witold Głębowicz
Polish Army Museum in Warsaw

COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010



FACE VALUE **200** ZŁ

metal **Au 900/1000** ■ finish **proof** ■ diameter **27.0 mm**
 weight **15.50 g** ■ mintage (volume) **10,500 pcs**

OBVERSE: On the left-hand side, at the top, an image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. To the right of the Eagle, at the top, the notation of the year of issue: 2010. Below the Eagle, on the left-hand side an inscription: 200/ZŁ. On the right-hand side, stylized images of parts of the Cheveau-Léger's uniform and gear: a lance with a pennant, a sabre, a carbine, a cartridge belt with an image of the Eagle, and a pistol. On the right-hand side, an outline of a cap with a cockade and a plume. The Mint's mark: M/W, under the Eagle's left leg.

REVERSE: In the centre, against a stylized fragment of an image of Cheveau-Légers on horsebacks, a stylized image of a Cheveau-Léger on horseback, holding a lance with a pennant. At the bottom, an inscription: SZWOLEŻER/GWARDII CESARZA/NAPOLEONA I (Cheveau-Léger / of the Imperial Guard/ of Napoleon I). Below, a stylized image of the Eagle from the trumpet banner of the Cheveau-Légers' regiment.

Coin designer: **ANDRZEJ NOWAKOWSKI**



FACE VALUE **10** ZŁ

metal **Ag 925/1000** ■ finish **proof** ■ length **32.0 mm** ■ width **22.4 mm**
 weight **14.14 g** ■ mintage (volume) **100,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: Against an outline of a stylized image of the Napoleonic Eagle, at the top, on the left-hand side, an image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. Above the Eagle, the notation of the year of issue: 2010. In the centre, stylized images of parts of the Cheveau-Léger's uniform and gear: a cap, a pistol, a carbine, a shabrack and a saddle. At the bottom, an inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland). The Mint's mark: M/W, under the Eagle's left leg.

REVERSE: In the centre, a stylized image of a Cheveau-Léger on horseback holding a lance with a pennant. Underneath, on the left-hand side, a stylized image of the Eagle of the trumpet banner of the Cheveau-Légers' regiment. At the bottom, an inscription: SZWOLEŻER/GWARDII CESARZA/NAPOLEONA I (Cheveau-Léger / of the Imperial Guard/ of Napoleon I).

Coin designer: **ANDRZEJ NOWAKOWSKI**



FACE VALUE **2** ZŁ

metal **CuAl5Zn5Sn1 alloy** ■ finish **standard** ■ diameter **27.0 mm**
 weight **8.15 g** ■ mintage (volume) **1,400,000 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: 20-10. Below the Eagle, an inscription: ZŁ 2 ZŁ; in the rim, an inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland), preceded and followed by six pearls. The Mint's mark: M/W, under the Eagle's left leg.

REVERSE: In the centre, against a stylized fragment of an image of mounted Cheveau-Légers, a stylised image of a mounted Cheveau-Léger raising a sabre. At the top, a semi-circular inscription: SZWOLEŻER GWARDII CESARZA (Cheveau-Léger of the Imperial Guard). At the bottom, a semicircular inscription: NAPOLEONA I (of Napoleon I).

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

Reverse designer: **ANDRZEJ NOWAKOWSKI**
 Obverse designer: **EWA TYC-KARPIŃSKA**