

On the centenary of the formation of the Polish Legions, Narodowy Bank Polski issued a collector note with the face value of 20 zloty.

The banknote was put into circulation in 2014.

The front of the banknote features the image of Marshal Józef Piłsudski.

The back of the banknote depicts images of the Grand Cross (with Star) of the Order of Virtuti Militari awarded to Marshal Józef Piłsudski, as well as the badge of the First Brigade of the Polish Legions and the eagle badge of the Polish Legions.

The banknote commemorating the centenary of the formation of the Polish Legions is the first polymer (plastic) banknote issued by NBP, featuring a hologram depicting Belvedere Palace.

Narodowy Bank Polski holds the exclusive rights to issue the currency of the Republic of Poland, including collector coins and banknotes.

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

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 website.

Should you have any questions, please contact our consultants at the following phone numbers: +48 801 111 000 and +48 22 185 44 50.

Collector items issued by NBP are sold in the NBP regional branches and at the internet shop.

On 10 September 2014, Narodowy Bank Polski will be putting into circulation coins “The Treasures of King Stanisław August – Louis the Great” with the face value of 500 zł and 50 zł, as well as coins “History of Polish Coin – bracteate of Mieszko III the Old” with the face value of 10 zł

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

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The Centenary of the Formation of the Polish Legions



Collector Note

The Centenary of Formation of the Polish Legions

The word legion (from Latin legio – draft) long ago has been permanently incorporated into the military vocabulary. Accordingly, it has also entered the Polish language, when following the partition of the Polish state among its neighbours at the end of the eighteenth century, Polish patriots repeatedly created military forces aiming at regaining the country's independence. Those units attested to their readiness to fight for the motherland by adopting the proud name of a legion.

One of such formations were the Polish Legions, created on 16 August 1914 in the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. As internal relations in that state liberalised at the beginning of the 20th century, Polish independence activists led by Józef Piłsudski were able to intensify their activities. They prepared for war against Russia, which they perceived as the main enemy in Poland's quest to regain independence.

When in summer 1914 a pan-European war broke out, Piłsudski sent a small detachment of volunteers across the Austro-Russian border. He hoped that their presence would encourage the populace of central Poland to start an anti-Russian uprising but this plan did not materialize. The pro-independence cause was saved by the initiative of a coalition of Polish political parties in Galicia centred around the so-called Supreme National Committee. The committee established an organisational frame to channel the pro-independence zeal of Polish youth and upon the approval of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy it

created a Polish formation to operate within the Imperial army but in own uniforms and under own leadership.

At the peak of their strength (1915) the Legions consisted of ca. 12 thousand soldiers and officers echeloned in three brigades. They fought in 1914–1916 on the Austro-Russian front, fighting several battles which went down in history as a symbol of courage and patriotic spirit that animated them. The total casualties in that formation amounted to ca. 15 thousand dead and wounded.

Although disbanded in 1917, the Polish Legions have remained present in the national memory. This presence is due to the legend created by poets, writers, painters and composers who fought in large numbers in the ranks of the Legions. The March of the First Brigade composed in 1914 has been the official anthem of the Polish Armed Forces since 2007.

Andrzej Chojnowski

On 5 August 2014, Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a collector note "The Centenary of the Formation of the Polish Legions" with the face value of 20 zł.



Face value 20 zł

Dimensions: 147.00 mm x 67.00 mm

Volume: up to 50,000 pcs

Note designer: Andrzej Heidrich

Issuer: NBP

The banknotes, commissioned by NBP, were manufactured by the Polish Security Printing Works (PWPW S.A).