

● On **15 July 2011**, the National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation coins commemorating the uhlan of the 2nd Republic of Poland, with the following face values:

200 zł struck in proof finish, in gold,

10 zł struck in proof finish, in silver,

2 zł struck in standard finish, in Nordic Gold.

The National Bank of Poland

holds the exclusive right to issue the currency
of 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 złoty**
coins, struck in **Nordic Gold**, for general circulation.

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

COINS ISSUED IN 2011 COINS ISSUED IN 2011



Since 2006, the NBP has been issuing coins
of the series „History of the Polish Cavalry”.
„The Uhlán of the 2nd Polish Republic”
is the fifth theme in the series.

Information on the issue schedule can be found at the
www.nbp.pl/money
website.

Collector coins issued by the National Bank of Poland
are sold in the Kolekcjoner service (Internet auction/Online shop)
at the following website:
www.kolekcjoner.nbp.pl



and at the NBP regional branches.

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

The Uhlán of the 2nd Polish Republic

History of the Polish Cavalry: The Uhlán of the 2nd Polish Republic

- In the armed forces of the 2nd Polish Republic cavalry was beside infantry and artillery one the three main branches of the armed forces.
- Its beginnings are related to the revival of the Polish State in the autumn of 1918. First cavalry units were formed from Polish units fighting at various fronts of the 1st World War. Formally, cavalry was divided into uhlans, cheveux-legers (as a reference to the tradition of Polish Legions) and mounted rifle regiments. In 1918–1921 cavalry actively participated in the fighting for the establishment of the frontiers of the Polish state. During the Polish-Bolshevik war, it achieved many victories, e.g. on 31 August 1920 at Komarów, in the last great cavalry battle in the world's military history, it defeated the units of the 1st Cavalry Army under Siemion Budionny.
- At the beginning of the 1920s cavalry was divided into independent cavalry units comprising twenty seven uhlans' regiments, three cheveux-legers' regiments and ten horse-drawn artillery battalions as well as attached cavalry (supportive of division level units), comprising 10 mounted rifle regiments.
- In 1924, the mounted units were reorganised and formally designated as cavalry. The reform resulted in the formation of four cavalry divisions and five independent cavalry brigades. These changes aimed at transforming cavalry into mobile forces able to carry out large-scale operations.
- In 1920, in order to provide new units with a cadre, a training centre was set up in Grudziądz, transformed into the Cavalry Training

Centre in 1928. The centre consisted of several schools training officers and junior officers for the cavalry corps. It was the biggest military training establishment of this type in Europe. It also included an Olympic Team preparing the alumni and the Centre's cadre for participation in the most prestigious horse riding competitions – the Olympic Games and international contests. The members of the team gained many laurels and won Olympic medals for Poland in Paris, Amsterdam and Berlin. The Centre established the so-called Polish style of horse riding – a horse-riding technique enabling the rider to perfectly control the horse.

- Cavalry was among the most often reorganized branches of the armed forces in the 2nd Polish Republic – after numerous changes in 1937 it was finally reduced to 11 brigades, whose names were formed in a unified fashion based on the regions in which they were stationed.

- Cavalry consisted of units moving on horseback but fighting as infantry. The horse was only a means of transport – in interwar Poland the automotive industry was just developing and roads were poor. The basic weapon used by a cavalryman was a carbine and a sabre. During ceremonial parades, the uhlans were equipped with lances with pennants in the colours of their units. Although they were trained in lance wielding, it was not envisaged that this weapon would be used in actual combat. The sabre, a weapon that acquired an almost

symbolic status for the Polish uhlan, did not have much combat use anymore, either, although works were carried out in order to improve its design. As a result, in 1934 the cavalry was equipped with the world's last scientifically designed combat sabre, produced in the Ludwików steel works. Apart from personal weapons, cavalry units used machine guns and anti-tank rifles as well as mortars and artillery. They were also supposed to be supported in battle by armoured cars.

- Cavalry enjoyed wide popular respect. It was considered to have inherited the traditions of Polish winged hussars – victors from Kircholm, Klushino and Vienna. Military service in cavalry was regarded as prestigious and cavalry officers were the army's elite.

- On the eve of the Second World War cavalry was already obsolete. Therefore a motorisation of its units was started – the first one to be transformed was the 10 Cavalry Brigade, which was put under the command of the commander of the Armoured Force.

- In September 1938 Polish uhlans were able to move quickly and efficiently during combat. They fought on foot using rifles and machine guns, and used horses as means of transport. Nevertheless, the campaign saw several charges at German units – e.g. at Krojanty, Wólka Węglowa and Krasnobród.

Witold Głębowicz
Museum of the Polish Armed Forces in Warsaw

COINS ISSUED IN 2011 COINS ISSUED IN 2011



FACE VALUE **200** ZŁ

metal **Au 900/1000** ■ finish **proof** ■ diameter **27.00 mm**
weight **15.50 g** ■ mintage (volume) **5,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: In the upper part of the field, image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. Above the Eagle, semicircular inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland). At the sides of the Eagle, notation of the year of issue: 20-11. Under the Eagle, on the right, inscription: 200/ZŁ. Below, stylised images of: a sabre with the inscription "Honor i Ojczyzna" (Honour and the Motherland) and a fragment of a lance. Under the Eagle's left leg, the Mint's mark, M/W.

REVERSE: In the centre, against the background of stylised silhouettes of mounted uhlans, a stylised image of a mounted uhlan holding a sabre. Above, semicircular inscription: UŁAN II RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ (Uhlán of the 2nd Polish Republic).

Coin designer: **ROBERT KOTOWICZ**



FACE VALUE **10** ZŁ

metal **Ag 925/1000** ■ finish **proof**
length **32.00 mm** ■ width **22.40 mm**
weight **14.14 g** ■ mintage (volume) **50,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: Along the left edge of the coin, inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA (Republic). Along the upper edge of the coin, inscription: POLSKA (of Poland). At the top on the right, inscription: 10/ZŁ. In the centre, against the background of stylised shapes of horses, image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. Below the Eagle, stylised images of elements of a uhlan's weapons and equipment: lances, a sabre, a carbine and a saddle. Below, notation of the year of issue: 2011. Under the Eagle's left leg, the Mint's mark: M/W.

REVERSE: Along the left edge of the coin, inscription: UŁAN II (Uhlán of the 2nd). Along the right edge of the coin, inscription: RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ (Polish Republic). In the centre, stylised image of a mounted uhlan holding a sabre. Above, stylised images of: a fragment of a sabre with the inscription "Honour and the Motherland" and another fragment of a sabre featuring the hit.

Coin designer: **ROBERT KOTOWICZ**



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: 20-11; under the Eagle, an inscription: ZŁ 2 ZŁ. Along 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 stylised pennant, stylised image of a mounted uhlan wielding a lance. Above, semicircular inscription: UŁAN II RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ (Uhlán of the 2nd Republic).

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

Obverse designer: **EWA TYC-KARPIŃSKA**
Reverse designer: **ROBERT KOTOWICZ**