On **15 March 2012**, the National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation coins commemorating Poles rescuing the Jews - The Families of Ulma, Kowalski, Baranek, with the following face values:

- **20 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.

Information on the issue schedule can be found at the [www.nbp.pl/monety](http://www.nbp.pl/monety) 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](http://www.kolekcjoner.nbp.pl)

Poles rescuing the Jews - The Families of Ulma, Kowalski, Baranek

The coins were struck at the Mint of Poland in Warsaw. Edited and printed: NBP Printing Office
The Kowalski family from Ciepielów near Radom

In the autumn of 1942, Adam and Bronisława Kowalski sheltered two Jewish neighbours (Eika Cukier and Berek Pineches) in their house. Jews were also hiding in other houses in Ciepielów. The tragedy of these families is the best illustration of an awful act cannot pass away.

On 6 December 1942, German military policemen, informed by local Volksdeutsches, surrounded suspected houses. Members of the Kowalski family (not only parents but also children aged from 1 to 16: Tadeusz, Henryk, Stefan, Zofia and Janina) were burnt alive in a wooden house belonging to the Obuchiewicz family, together with their neighbours and the hiding Jews. On the whole, 31 Poles and an unknown number of Jews were murdered in Ciepielów on that day.

The Baranek family from Siedliska near Mięchów

On 15 March 1943, during an inspection carried out by Sonderdienst (German auxiliary police) in the house of Wincenty and Lucja Baranek, two shelters were discovered with four Jews, most likely from the Goldman family. The Jews were immediately killed, and Wincenty and Lucja Baranek, together with their sons (9-year-old Tadeusz and 13-year-old Henryk), were shot in the back of their heads. Germans ordered the villagers, under the threat of massive repression, to bring Lucja’s absent mother, Katarzyna Kopeć, to Mięchów the next day. She was shot there.

The Ulma family from Markowa near Łascut

Józef Ulma, together with his wife Wiktoria, sheltered 8 Jews from the Schall and Goldman families in the attic of their house for 18 months. On 24 March 1944, upon denunciation by a local Blue policeman, all members of the Ulma family (including six children aged from eighteen months to eight years: Władysław, Stanisława, Marian, Franciszek, Barbara, Antoni), along with the Jews, were killed on the spot by officers of the German military police and of the General Government police forces. In 1995, Wiktoria i Józef were posthumously awarded the medal “Righteous among the Nations” by the Yad Vashem Institute in Israel. In 2003, the Catholic Church posthumously awarded the medal “Righteous among the Nations” by the Yad Vashem Institute in Israel.

Of all crimes committed by the genocidal Nazi regime in occupied Europe, murders of civilians (children, women, elderly people and whole families) were particularly vicious. During the World War II, nearly 6 million Jews were murdered. However, German occupiers frequently applied the method of inhumane, collective responsibility to the Poles as well; they would pacify villagers for helping the partisans, residents of Warsaw during the uprising of 1944, and Polish families daring to provide help for persecuted Jews. Already in October 1941, death penalty for Jews escaping from ghettos and those providing help for them was introduced at the territory of the General Government. The German policemen were taking the decision on execution at their own discretion and the victims were usually killed on the spot. Death penalty started to be applied towards Poles providing help for Jews beginning from the last months of 1942. Alongside exterminations in ghettos, the Jewish who managed to hide were being hunted down. According to comprehensive documentation, in the years 1942-1945 about 700 Poles were killed for attempting to help Jews, and in at least 40 cases this “collective guilt” was attributed to whole families: adults and children.

The Kowalski family from Ciepielów near Radom

Józef Ulma, together with his wife Wiktoria, sheltered 8 Jews from the Schall and Goldman families in the attic of their house for 18 months. On 24 March 1944, upon denunciation by a local Blue policeman, all members of the Ulma family (including six children aged from eighteen months to eight years: Władysław, Stanisława, Marian, Franciszek, Barbara, Antoni), along with the Jews, were killed on the spot by officers of the German military police and of the General Government police forces. In 1995, Wiktoria i Józef were posthumously awarded the medal “Righteous among the Nations” by the Yad Vashem Institute in Israel. In 2003, the Catholic Church posthumously awarded the medal “Righteous among the Nations” by the Yad Vashem Institute in Israel.