

The National Bank of Poland holds the exclusive right to issue the currency of the Republic of Poland, including collector coins and banknotes.

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

On the obverse, all Polish coins feature:

- Face value
- National emblem
- Legend: Republic of Poland
- Year of issue



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 [www.nbp.pl/money](http://www.nbp.pl/money) website.

Occasional 2 zł coins in Nordic Gold are exchanged at face value at the cash desks of NBP Regional Branches.

Collector coins issued by the NBP are sold at the Internet auctions held in the Kolekcjoner service at the following website: [www.kolekcjoner.nbp.pl](http://www.kolekcjoner.nbp.pl) and at the Regional Branches of the NBP.

On 3 July 2013 the National Bank of Poland will be putting into circulation collector coins "Warta Poznań" of the "Polish Football Clubs" series with the face values of 5 zł and 2 zł.

The next coin of the "History of Polish Coin" series – Denarius of Boleslaw II the Bold – will be issued in September 2013.

Should you have any questions, please contact our consultants at the following phone numbers: +48 22 313 04 44 and +48 801 044 410.

# NBP

Narodowy Bank Polski

## Denarius of Boleslaw I the Brave

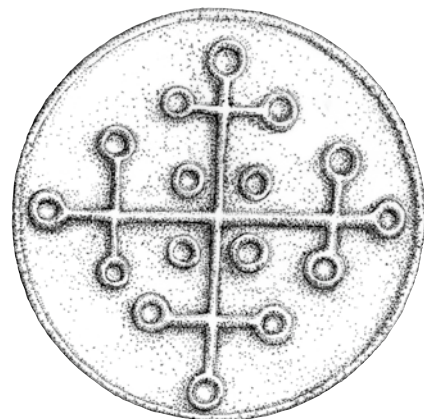


Series HISTORY OF POLISH COIN

We protect the value of money

## The first Polish coin

Until recently, it has been widely held that Mieszko I (approx. 960-992 AD) was the founder of the Polish coinage. But when it was proven that the coins with the name Misico had not been minted by Mieszko I, but by his grandson Mieszko II (approx. 1013-1025-1034 AD), it turned out that the first Polish ruler to have struck a coin was Bolesław Chrobry (Boleslaw I the Brave, 992-1025). As 17 different types of silver denarii were minted under the reign of the latter monarch, it was unknown for a long time, which of them was the oldest one. Among the coins were long-known and extremely valuable coins with the symbolic portrait of the prince and the name of the town of Gniezno, (GNEZDVN CIVITAS - the borough of Gniezno) or with a depiction of a peacock and the oldest reference to the name of Poland (PRINCES POLONIE - the ruler of Poland).



Finally, recently discovered and still very rare denarii – dating back to the end of the 10th century – featuring the depiction of an arrow emerging from a bunch of six twigs have been considered to be the oldest Polish coins. The image on the coin probably refers to Christian symbolism, as this was widely present also on other coins from that period. The arrow is the symbol of the God's Word, while the twigs symbolize a simplified Tree of Life.

Around this depiction, there is an inscription: BOLIZLAVO DVX (Boleslaw the Prince). On the original coin the words were mistakenly put in the reverse order (see the drawing on the box). In the currently issued coin, for educational purposes, the words are set in the right order. What attracts attention is an atypical form of the monarch's name – spelled with "i" in the middle and "o" at the end – but this was how Boleslaw was also named in some other writings from that period.

The tail of the coin, i.e. its reverse, features no inscription. The entire area of the coin is just a single depiction – a crosslet of the Byzantine type with crossed arms and small circles placed at their ends. Similar crosses appear on silver Byzantine coins from the 10th century. Polish coins, however, borrowed this motif from Danish coins. It is possible that Danish influence is linked to the marriage of Chrobry's sister with Danish King Harald Bluetooth.

Only few coins have survived (3 pieces), which might imply that the volume of the oldest Polish coinage was not extensive. The minting of coins was initiated in order to make an effect rather than for economic reasons. However, Boleslaw Chrobry's intention was to demonstrate not his autonomy but the fact that he belonged in the circle of the rulers of Christian Europe.

*Stanisław Suchodolski*

On 20 June 2013 the National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation a coin of the "History of Polish Coin" series commemorating Denarius of Boleslaw I the Brave, with the face value of 5 zł.



Face value 5 zł

Metal: Ag 925/1000

Finish: proof

Diameter: 24.00 mm

Weight: 7.07 g

Mintage: up to 20,000 pcs

Issuer: NBP

Coin designer: Dominika Karpińska-Kopiec

The coins, commissioned by the NBP, were struck by Mennica Polska S.A.