

All Polish collector coins feature:

- face value
- image of the Eagle established as the state emblem of the Republic of Poland
- inscription: Rzeczpospolita Polska
- 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 the [www.nbp.pl/monety](http://www.nbp.pl/monety) website.

Should you have any questions, please contact our consultants at the following phone numbers: +48 22 185 45 96 and +48 22 185 13 03.

Collector coins issued by NBP are sold in the NBP regional branches and at the online shop.

On 24 April 2018, Narodowy Bank Polski will be putting into circulation a collector coin of the series “The Great Polish Economists” – Fryderyk Skarbek, with a face value of 10 złoty.

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](http://www.nbp.pl)

Narodowy Bank Polski

*We protect the value of money*

NBP

Narodowy Bank Polski

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Military Effort of Polish Americans



Collector coins

# 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Military Effort of Polish Americans

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when the Polish lands had long been divided into three partitions, the United States and Canada admitted consecutive groups of Polish emigrants who sought political freedom and better economic conditions in these countries.

The estimated population of the Polish ethnic community in the United States before WWI was three million people (including the third generation of immigrants). In Canada, the population of Polish immigrants was estimated at 60 thousand. As more immigrants arrived, Polish parishes, socio-political organisations and educational and cultural institutions were established there.

The activity of the Polish immigrants in America bore fruit during WWI. Thanks to the efforts of the National Department of the Polish Central Relief Committee, gathering the biggest Polish American organisations (the National Polish Association, the Polish Roman Catholic Union, the Polish Women's Alliance of America and the Polish Falcons Alliance of America), the contemporary Polish American community proved its patriotism and dedication to its work for Poland. In 1917-1919, over 20 thousand Polish volunteers from the United States and Canada joined the ranks of the Polish Army in France, the so-called Blue Army, which existed from 4 June 1917 onwards.

A mobilisation on such a scale, led by Doctor Teofil Starzyński (President of the Polish Falcons Alliance of America), was unprecedented in the history of the Polish diaspora. The preparatory campaign lasted four months (June-September 1917), and the enlistment itself took 16 months (October 1917-February 1919). The transport of the first 1,200 volunteers trained in Canada set sail from New York to Bordeaux on 16 December 1917. A total of 20,720 recruits were deployed from America to France.



The steady inflow of volunteers from America permitted the subsequent formation of the Polish Army in France, as until December 1917 it had numbered a mere 820 soldiers. On 10 January 1918, the 1<sup>st</sup> Polish Rifle Regiment, 70 percent of which constituted volunteers from America, was formed. On 10 April 1918, the Polish troops in France numbered 204 officers and 10,638 rank-and-file soldiers, which permitted the organization of one infantry division comprising cavalry, artillery, technical units, auxiliary troops and air force, from 10 August 1918 onwards.

The influx of volunteers from America and the rapid development of the Blue Army in 1918 politically strengthened the Polish National Committee operating in Paris, which was symbolically confirmed by the signatures of Ignacy Jan Paderewski and Roman Dmowski affixed on the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919.

During the warfare in France, on the Ukrainian front and in the Polish-Bolshevik war for Poland's independence,

On 12 April 2018, Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a silver coin "100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Military Effort of Polish Americans" with a face value of 10 złoty.

Face value: 10 zł

Metal: Ag 925/1000

Finish: proof

Diameter: 32.00 mm

Weight: 14.14 g

Edge (side): plain

Mintage: up to 15,000 pcs

Designer: Robert Kotowicz

Issuer: NBP

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



1,832 volunteers from America were killed, and a further 2,011 were wounded.

It is worth noting that the volunteers from America deserve our historical gratitude not only for their sacrifice of health and life, but also for the financial aid received from Poles living there. Between 1914-1920 they contributed over USD 16 million (currently the equivalent of approx. USD 400 million) for the Polish cause, including the military.

Both sides of the silver coin feature figures from the Warsaw Memorial to the Military Effort of Polish Americans, the work of the sculptor Andrzej Pityński. The central part of the reverse of the coin features a Blue Army cavalryman on horseback during attack. In the bottom left field there is the eagle of the volunteers from America holding a sash with the inscription "ARMIA POLSKA" (Polish Army) in its claws. The obverse of the coin depicts a dynamic figure of a Blue Army soldier holding a banner with the Polish eagle.

*Teofil Lachowicz*