National Bank of Poland
Collector Coins

On November 17, the National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation collector coins depicting Brigadier General Stanisław Franciszek Sosabowski, with the following face values:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Face Value</th>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Finish</th>
<th>Diameter</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Mintage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 zł</td>
<td>925/1000 Ag</td>
<td>proof</td>
<td>32.00 mm</td>
<td>14.14 g</td>
<td>56 000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 zł</td>
<td>CuAl5Zn5Sn1 alloy</td>
<td>standard</td>
<td>27.00 mm</td>
<td>8.15 g</td>
<td>850 000 pcs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stanisław Franciszek Sosabowski was born on 8 May 1892 in Stanisławów, then part of the Austro-Hungarian partition of Poland. He graduated from primary school and a junior high school specializing in mathematics and natural sciences in his hometown. Following his father’s death in 1903 and due to his difficult financial situation he started to earn a living by giving private classes. As a 17-year old boy he joined the Polish Rifle Units. He passed his high school examinations with honours in 1910 and entered the Cracow Business and Commerce College. At the same time he continued his activity in the Units as an instructor. He returned to Stanisławów in 1911 and worked as a bank clerk. He also became the commander of the 24th Polish Rifle Unit in the city and later the commander of the South-Eastern District. Moreover, he organized the scouting movement and was the troop leader in his hometown until 1913. In August 1914 Sosabowski was conscripted as a chief warrant officer.

Obverse: An image of the Eagle established as the state Emblem of the Republic of Poland on the right-hand side; an inscription, ZŁ 10, below. In the centre, an image of the Combat Paratrooper Emblem. On the left-hand side, stylised: parachute canopy, and a jumping paratrooper’s silhouette against it. Above, stylised images of two airplanes. Below, an inscription, RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA, preceded and followed by six pearls. The Mint’s mark, , under the Eagle’s left leg.

Reverse: A bust of Brigadier-General Stanisław F. Sosabowski. On the left-hand side, an inscription, 1892 / 1967; on the right-hand side, against the background of the general’s bust, an image of the Combat Paratrooper Emblem. Below, a semicircular inscription, GEN. BRYG. STANISŁAW F. SOSABOWSKI.

On the edge: An inscription, NBP, repeated eight times, every second one inverted 180°, separated by stars.

Designer of the obverse: Robert Kotowicz
Designer of the reverse: Robert Kotowicz

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<tr>
<td>10 zł</td>
<td>silver</td>
<td>proof</td>
<td>32.00 mm</td>
<td>14.14 g</td>
<td>56 000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 zł</td>
<td>CuAl5Zn5Sn1 alloy</td>
<td>standard</td>
<td>27.00 mm</td>
<td>8.15 g</td>
<td>850 000 pcs</td>
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Obverse: An image of the Eagle established as the state Emblem of the Republic of Poland on the right-hand side; an inscription, ZŁ 2 zł, below, on the rim a circumscription, RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA, preceded and followed by six pearls. The Mint’s mark, , under the Eagle’s left leg.


On the edge: An inscription, NBP, repeated eight times, every second one inverted 180°, separated by stars.

Designer of the obverse: Ewa Tyc-Karpińska
Designer of the reverse: Robert Kotowicz

Coins struck by the State Mint in Warsaw.
Printed by NBP Printing Office

– Brigadier-General Stanisław Franciszek Sosabowski –
into the 58th Infantry Regiment of the Austro-Hungarian Army. He fought at Przemysl, in the Zaklikcyz region, the Dukelska Pass and in the Lublin region.

With a heavily injured leg in September 1915, he stayed at various hospitals until May 1916. He was promoted to second lieutenant in January 1916 for bravery shown on the battlefield. Due to his health condition, he was sent to work at the General Government in Lublin. There he led a secret Polish organization that assisted soldiers and officers in joining the Polish Armed Forces and the Polish Military Organization. He joined the Polish Army in November 1916. In December 1917, he was promoted to the rank of captain. In January 1918, in Krakow, he headed the Liquidation Committee of the former General Government in Lublin and was then delegated to work at the General Headquarters field in September 1919. The Polish Legions Infantry Division was established on his initiative. General Michal Tokarzewski-Karasewicz, commander of Poland’s Victory Services sent Sosabowski to France in mid-November 1939 to establish contacts with General Władysław Skirski, Commissar of the Polish Legions Infantry Division (in British). After a short stay in London, he joined the Ministry of Military Affairs and later headed a unit in the 4th Department (responsible for supplies and communication) of the General Headquarters. As a military expert, he was a conference participant in Spa in 1920. He was promoted to major on 9 November 1920. From that day on until 15 March 1921 he was a member of the Polish Military Purchase Mission in Paris. During the Polish-Bolshevick War, he reported for duty in the front units following a call by the State Defence Council. However, due to his temporary injury and involvement in the staff works, he did not participate in combat. In the autumn of 1922 he commenced a year-long study at the Military Academy. After its completion in November 1923, he was formally delegated to the 15th Infantry Regiment. In fact, he returned to his work at the General Headquarters, where he continued working with the 4th Department until 1925. While dealing with the logistic reserves of supplies, in that period, he published several articles on the state economy and defense. He also worked on the editorial board of "Polska Zbrojna". Having been promoted to certified lieutenant-colonel on 20 April 1927, he was transferred to the post of the battalion commander of the 75th Infantry Regiment in Chorzów. In the following Commandor in Rybnik and later the deputy commander of the 3rd Highland Regiment in Bielsko. Having gained experience in such units, he was transferred to the Military Academy in 1930 to work as a lecturer and a head of a staff of the logistic section. In his work at the Academy, he wrote course books for heads of subunits, including: "Wychowanie żołnierza obywatela" (Educating a soldier-citizen). He received the first prize of the Military Scientific and Educational Institute for his work entitled "Kwatermistrzostwo w polu" (Quartermastery in the field) published in 1935. During his work at the Academy he earned the reputation of an outstanding, independent and responsible officer. In January 1937, after sending many requests to headquarters, Sosabowski was offered to the army and took command of the 9th Legions Infantry Regiment in the 3rd Legions Infantry Division in Zamość. He kept this post until the beginning of 1939. The Polish troops were to be pulling out of the Rhenish banks (who died in an accident in 1936) he was transferred to Warsaw on his own request. From January 1939 he commanded the 21st "Children of Warsaw" Infantry Regiment. From November 1939 he was promoted to the rank of certified colonel. During the celebrations of the 3 May 1939, he led the last infantry parade to be held in Warsaw before the war. In the September campaign the 21st Regiment fought as part of Modlin Army which next defended Warsaw where Colonel Sosabowski commanded "Grochów" Defence Section from September 14th. He was awarded the Virtuti Militari Cross Class V for his bravery on the battlefield. He described his experiences from these times in an article published in London in 1941 under the title: "Z dziejów obrony Warszawy, wrzesień 1939" (The defense of Warsaw, September 1939).

After the capitulation of Warsaw General Sosabowski was taken into captivity. He managed to escape and as early as in October 1939 joined an underground organization called Poland’s Victory Services. He became the commander of the 21st "Children of Warsaw" Infantry Regiment. In August 1940, the French General Headquarter field in September 1992. In 1994 General Sosabowski was appointed Inspector of Stage and Watch Units. The General received the Cross of Valour for his command of the Brigade in the "Market Garden" operation. At the end of war, General Sosabowski remained abroad. In 1947 he joined the Polish Settlement Corps, where he worked as the Inspector of Stage and Watch Units until 1948. He was later demobilized and deprived of any means of living. From December 1948 he worked as a storekeeper at an electric appliance factory, until his retirement in 1966.

He was one of the founders of the Polish Air Force Association that gathered his former subordinates. He was also a member of the Government Committee of former Polish General Headquarters- in-Chief. He wrote articles and books (including his memoirs "Najkrótsza drogę" (The Shortest Way) and "Droga drogą urogam" (The road led through the fallow), delivered presentations on the history of the 1st Independent Parachute Brigade. He also addressed his country from the London studios of Radio Free Europe.

General Stanisław Sosabowski died on 25 September 1967 in Hillington near London. His ashes were brought to Poland and buried at the Powązki Military Cemetery in Warsaw on November 14, 1967.

General Stanisław Sosabowski was awarded the following as well as many other decorations: the Order of Polonia Restituta Class V, the Virtuti Militari Cross Class V, the Golden Cross of Merit with Swords, the Independence Cross, the Cross of Valor, the Order of the Romanian Crown Class V with Swords, the Yugoslavian Order of White Eagle Class IV and the Order of St. Sava Class IV and the CBE. The 6th Pomeranian Airborne-Assault Brigade was named after General Stanisław Sosabowski and his bust was unveiled at its headquarters field in September 1992.

All collector coins are legal tender in Poland.