The National Bank of Poland holds the exclusive right to issue the currency in Poland.

Whereas the NBP issues coins and banknotes of general circulation, since 1966 it has also been issuing collector coins.

In 2006, the first Polish collector banknote was put into circulation. The issue of collector items is destined both to commemorate events, anniversaries and well-known personalities and to disseminate knowledge about Polish culture, science and tradition.

Since 1996, the NBP has also issued the occasional Nordic Gold coins of general circulation of 2 zloty denomination.

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

Since 1997 the NBP has issued a series of coins „Polish Travellers and Explorers”. In this series silver coins of 10 zloty denomination and Nordic Gold coins of 2 zloty denomination are minted. The subject “Bronisław Piłsudski” is the eighth in this series.

Information on the Issue Schedule and how to purchase the coins can be found at:

www.nbp.pl
www.numizmatyka.nbpportal.pl

The coins were struck by the State Mint in Warsaw.

Printed by NBP Printing Office
Bronisław Piłsudski is considered a distinguished ethnographer and ethnomusicologist, as well as a politician who left a vast collection of scientific work, which was widely acknowledged by contemporary cultural anthropologists and ethnomusicologists all over the world. Moreover, he helped to preserve the cultural identity and integrity of the local peoples by sending memoranda to the tsarist authorities. He also established schools for the Ainu. Piłsudski gathered ethnographic collections for the museums in St. Petersburg and Vladivostok. In that, he was supported by Russian scientific societies, thanks to which the conditions of his exile were relaxed and in 1899 he took up work as a custodian at the museum in Vladivostok. He also participated in the expedition led by Wacław Siemaszewski to the island of Hokkaido aimed at conducting research into the culture of the Hokkaido Ainu (1903). Afterwards, he settled back in Sakhalin. Preoccupied with studying the indigenous culture, he remained on friendly terms with the natives of the island. The Nivkh dubbed him “Akan” – the big brother; his wife - with whom he had a son and a daughter - was Ainu. Their descendants still live in Japan.

Friendly and family relations with the natives allowed Piłsudski to describe their customs and traditions. He came to know the secrets of shamanism and the cult of the bear. He collected texts of prayers, legends and songs, as well as materials to compile dictionaries using the innovative method of phonographic recording; he also documented the culture in photographs. Piłsudski’s life in exile was influenced by different circumstances, yet it was marked by an abundance of emotions and involvement in the life of the natives. He left his Ainu family and Sakhalin in 1905, when he illegally went to Japan. He spent 8 months there studying the Ainu culture. He then left for the United States and in the fall of 1906, he returned to Poland to settle in Galicia – first in Cracow, later in Zakopane and Lviv. His ethnographic research conducted in the Podhale region in the years 1906-1914 is also worth noting. At the outbreak of World War I, he left for Vienna and subsequently for Switzerland and France, where he worked in the office of the Polish National Committee. He committed suicide on 17 May 1918 in Paris and was buried in the Montmartre cemetery. In 2000, a symbolic tombstone was erected in honour of Piłsudski in the “Pęksowy Brzyzek” Cemetery in Zakopane.

Bronisław Piłsudski left a vast collection of scientific work, which was only partially published during his life in French, Japanese, German, Polish and Russian languages. There were attempts to combine the materials during the interwar period, but that was only possible at the end of the 20th century with the establishment of the International Committee for the Preservation and Assessment of the Scientific Legacy of Bronisław Piłsudski and the publishing of his collected works (The Collected Works of Bronisław Piłsudski). A monument in honour of Bronisław Piłsudski was erected in Sakhalin, a mountain in Sakhalin named after him and there is also the Bronisław Piłsudski scientific institute which publishes a yearbook entitled “Inwizjenta Insituta Nasledija Bronisława Piłsudskogo.” A periodical entitled “Piłsudskiana” was named after him and there is also the Bronisław Piłsudski scientific institute which publishes a yearbook entitled “Inwizjenta Insituta Nasledija Bronisława Piłsudskogo.”

**Polish Travellers and Explorers:** Bronisław Piłsudski (1866-1918)

**COINS ISSUED IN 2008**

**Obverse:** On the left-hand side, an image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. In the middle, images of a man and a woman holding a child in her arms, in Ainu costume, against the background of stylised images of mountains. On the right-hand side and vertically, a stylised fragment of an ornament from Ainu costume. Below the figures and in the centre, an inscription: 1866-1918. Underneath, a stylised image of a pine tree. The Mint’s mark under the Eagle’s bust. On the left-hand side, a figure of a seated man in Ainu costume against the background of stylised images of mountains. On the right-hand side, a semi-circular inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA preceded and followed by six pearls. The Mint’s mark under the Eagle’s bust. On the left-hand side, a figure of a seated man in Ainu costume against the background of stylised images of mountains. On the right-hand side, a semi-circular inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA preceded and followed by six pearls. The Mint’s mark under the Eagle’s bust. On the left-hand side, a figure of a seated man in Ainu costume against the background of stylised images of mountains. On the right-hand side, a semi-circular inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA preceded and followed by six pearls. The Mint’s mark under the Eagle’s bust.

**Revers:** A stylised image of Bronisław Piłsudski’s bust. On the left-hand side, a stylised fragment of an ornament from Ainu costume. On the right-hand side and vertically, an inscription: BRONISŁAW PIŁSUDSKI, and a horizontal inscription: 1866-1918. Underneath, a stylised image of a pine tree.

Coin designer: ROUSANKA NOWAKOWSKA

**Reverse:** A stylised image of Bronisław Piłsudski’s bust. On the left-hand side, a stylised fragment of an ornament from Ainu costume. On the right-hand side and vertically, an inscription: BRONISŁAW PIŁSUDSKI, and a horizontal inscription: 1866-1918. Underneath, a stylised image of a pine tree.

Coin designer: ROUSANKA NOWAKOWSKA