The 600th anniversary of the battle of Grunwald, one of the most famous battles of medieval Europe, is also celebrated in Lithuania. The Bank of Lithuania will commemorate the event by issuing collector coins of 1 Litas, 50 Litas and 500 Litas denominations.

### Collector Coins

**Grunwald**

- **Face Value:** 1 Litas
- **Metal:** Cu-Ni
- **Finish:** Standard
- **Diameter:** 22.30 mm
- **Weight:** 5.25 g
- **Mintage:** 1,000,000 pcs

**Klushino**

- **Face Value:** 50 Litas
- **Metal:** Ag 925/1000
- **Finish:** Proof
- **Diameter:** 28.28 mm
- **Weight:** 28.28 g
- **Mintage:** 10,000 pcs

- **Face Value:** 500 Litas
- **Metal:** Au 999.9/1000
- **Finish:** Proof
- **Diameter:** 31.10 mm
- **Weight:** 31.10 g
- **Mintage:** 5,000 pcs

### By Issuing “Grunwald” and “Klushino” Collector Coins

The National Bank of Poland launches a new series – “Great Battles” – by issuing collector coins to commemorate the 600th anniversary of the battle of Grunwald. The Bank has also issued collector coins of 1 Litas, 50 Litas and 500 Litas denominations to mark the anniversary of the battle of Grunwald.

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 exclusively at the Internet auctions held in the Kolekcjoner service at the following website: [www.kolekcjoner.nbp.pl](http://www.kolekcjoner.nbp.pl)

The coins were struck at the Mint of Poland in Warsaw.

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Battle of Grunwald 1410

The battle of Grunwald (Battle of Tannenberg), fought on 15 July 1410, was one of the greatest such developments in medieval Europe. The Polish and Lithuanian forces under the command of King Władysław Jagiełło consisted of approximately 45,000 armed soldiers, mainly cavalry. The Teutonic Knights, headed by the Grand Master Ulrich von Jungingen, had about 16,000 cavalrymen and 6,000 of infantry. The moment when the battle commenced was chosen by the Polish king. Jagiełło purposely delayed the combat and thus test the Teutonic Knights, who had been standing in the battle order from the morning. At about noon, the battle began with two shots from the Knights’ cannons, and the Lithuanian and Ruthenian troops clashed with the heavily-armed Teutonic cavalry after wiping out the artilleries. After an hour of fight, the Lithuanian troops dispersed in an impenetrable forest. After a short and vain siege, Jagiełło’s army returned to Poland.

The result of the battle of Grunwald was the peace agreement concluded in Toruń in 1411. Although its terms were incomparable with the victory, it satisfied Poland and Lithuania. Jagiełło gave them the territories for which the war had been waged.

Battle of Klushino 1610

The battle of Klushino was the apogee of the nine-year Polish–Muscovite conflict. Pursuing the dynamic plans of King Sigismund III Vasa, Poland engaged in an open conflict with its eastern neighbour. The support which King Charles IX of Sweden provided to the tsar made King Sigismund III begin a military action in the territory of the Moscow state in September 1609. The first goal was to capture Smolensk. In May 1610, the tsar started preparations to secure the town, he gathered over 35,000 troops under the command of his brother Dmitri Shuisky, and 8,000 of foreign allies, headed by Jacob de la Gardie, who marched into Klushino and set up a fortified camp. The Polish army of 7,000 men led by Hetman Stanisław Żółkiewski, mostly cavalry, i.e., hussars and Cossacks with lighter arms, began their march towards the town. On 4 July 1610, after a while of marching, they reached Klushino.

As the hussars attacked the left wing of the Muscovite army. One strike followed another, as after a clash the troops would withdraw to make way for the charge of the next company. Hours of bloody battle passed and continuous attacks of the cavalry brought no result. Then, an attack was unleashed on the Cossacks, which consisted of the Muscovite troops which fiercely resisted.

The sustained charges, in which Hetman Żółkiewski tied all his forces, finally brought the desired result. Dmitri Shuisky eventually decided to use his reserves – setor cavalry using the so-called canacis. The tactics meant that each unit approached the enemy as closely as possible and then its first row would fire from pistols and withdraw to the back of the unit so that another row could fire. The moment was used by the Polish army – only the first row had the time to fire when the hussars caught the veters. The impetus of the charge pushed them towards the remaining troops: the further charge of the hussars broke the resistance of the Muscovite army, whose tight mass began to give ground, and the Muscovite camp was taken. Thanks to the coordinated charge of the infantry, shieldfire and cavalry strikes, Moscow’s defence on the right wing was broken. The foreign infantry withdrew from combat, hiding in the forest and in their camp. After approximately five hours of combat Klushino was the master of the battlefield.

As a result of the battle, the boyars elected Polish Prince Władysław to be the Russian tsar and Hetman Żółkiewski seized Moscow.

Witold Głębowicz
Polish Military Museum in Warsaw

The National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation collector coins of the series “Great Battles”, commemorating the 600th anniversary of the battle of Grunwald and the 400th anniversary of the battle of Klushino, of the following face values

2 zł – struck in standard finish, in Nordic Gold alloy (with angle effect)

on 1 July 2010.

10 zł – struck in proof finish in silver (with a shiny fragment of a matt relief) – Grunwald

on 2 July 2010.