

NBP

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

In addition to **coins and notes for general circulation**, the NBP issues **collector coins and notes**. 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.

Since 1996, the NBP has also been issuing **occasional 2 złoty** coins, struck in **Nordic Gold**, for general circulation.

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

Information on the issue schedule and par value sale of the 2 zł NG coins can be found at the www.nbp.pl/money website.

Collector coins issued by the NBP are sold exclusively at the Internet auctions held in the Kolekcjoner service at the following website:

www.kolekcjoner.nbp.pl

 KOLEKCJONER

and at the Regional Branches of the NBP.

On 14 November 2011, the National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation a coin of the “Cities in Poland” series commemorating Cracow, with the face value of 2 zł - struck in standard finish in Nordic Gold.



face value 2 zł • metal CuAl5Zn5Sn1 alloy • finish standard
diameter 27.0 mm • weight 8.15 g • mintage (volume) 800,000 pcs

Obverse: An image of the Eagle established as the emblem of the Republic of Poland. At the sides of the eagle, the notation of the year of issue: 20-11; below the Eagle, an inscription: ZŁ 2 ZŁ. Along the rim, an inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland), preceded and followed by six pearls. The Mint's mark: M/W, under the Eagle, on the right-hand side.

Reverse: At the centre, a stylised image of the Church of St Michael the Archangel in Cracow. At the top, an inscription: KLASZTOR/PAULINÓW/NA SKAŁCE/KRAKÓW (Pauline Monastery of Skalka in Cracow). At the bottom a stylised water reflection of a fragment of the Basilica.

On the edge: The inscription: NBP, repeated eight times, every second one inverted by 180 degrees, separated with stars.

Obverse designer: **Ewa Tyc-Karpińska**

Reverse designer: **Andrzej Nowakowski**

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

Cities and towns in Poland

In 2009 the NBP launched a series of coins “Cities and towns in Poland”. The coin commemorating Cracow is the fourteenth one in the series.



KRAKÓW

14 November 2011



The Pauline Monastery in Skalka in Cracow

The Cracow Skalka is a Baroque sanctuary, comprising the Church of Saint Michael the Archangel with the crypt for the “Nationally Meritorius” citizens, the Pauline monastery and the Saint Stanislaus pond.

The present look of the compound is an effect of a number of architectural modifications effected throughout the centuries. The first records of the Romanesque rotunda on that place date back to the 10th century. According to historical evidence and the findings of archeological excavations, in the times when Christianity was making the first inroads into the Polish land, an enclosed settlement might have stood there on the rocky hillock on the left bank of the Vistula river, including a church constructed on the site previously associated with pagan cults. The name of this hill – Skalka – went into use already in the 13th century.

The place is associated with Saint Stanislaus of Szczepanów (Stanisław ze Szczepanowa), a Cracow bishop, who met his martyrdom and death there on 11 April 1079, following a conflict between himself and the king Bolesław II the Bold (Bolesław Śmiały). On the order of the king the bishop was slain while celebrating the Liturgy in the Saint Michael church. Following a thorough canonization process, Pope Innocent IV proclaimed him a saint martyr on 8 September 1253.

The construction of the Gothic temple and the arrival of the Pauline Fathers (The Order of Saint Paul the First Hermit) marked the next stage in the history of Skalka.

Under the reign of the king Casimir III the Great (*Kazimierz Wielki*) (1333–1370) a new church was erected on the hill in the Gothic style, to include the original Romanesque rotunda edifice, as confirmed by the early iconography. Throughout several centuries the responsibility for the guardianship over the place of Saint Stanislaus’ martyrdom was vested in the diocese clergy. In 1472 the Cracow canon, father Jan Długosz invited the Pauline Fathers from the Jasna Góra (Luminous Mount) Marian shrine to settle in Skalka. The project met with approval of king Casimir IV Jagiellon (*Kazimierz Jagiellończyk*) and the Cracow Bishop Jan

Rzeszowski. The Paulines took possession of the church on the hill, and moved into the monastery funded by Jan Długosz.

The next epoch saw major architectural changes. The former monastery underwent reconstructions. The work had commenced prior to 1636 and continued until 1723. As a result, the multi-storey Baroque building was constructed in the shape of a square, with four turrets on the corners and a small courtyard in the middle. In the period 1733–1751 the currently existing Baroque temple was constructed.

The crypt for the “Nationally Meritorius” is a very special part of Skalka. The crypt underneath the church served first as a burial place for the late Pauline monks. In the years 1876–1880 on the initiative of Professor Józef Łepkowski it was reconstructed and transformed into a necropolis which contained tombs of many outstanding figures representing Polish culture. In 1880 the founder of the Pauline Monastery in Skalka, father Jan Długosz was posthumously awarded with the symbolic ceremonial burial in its crypt. In the subsequent years the “national Panthéon” witnessed the interments of a number of Polish most illustrious luminaries, i.a.: Lucjan Siemieński, Wincenty Pol, Józef Ignacy Kraszewski, Teofil Lenartowicz, Adam Asnyk, Henryk Siemiradzki, Stanisław Wyspiański, Jacek Malczewski, Karol Szymanowski, Ludwik Solski, Tadeusz Banachiewicz and Czesław Miłosz. A well-deserved mention should go to father Ambroży Fedorowicz, the 19th and 20th century Pauline prior who vastly and positively contributed to the development of Skalka at that time. Thanks to his determination, under the direction of the Cracovian architect Karol Knaus the compound underwent an extensive remodeling in the period 1888–1897. In that period the imposing entrance gate was constructed to the courtyard of the monastery.

Skalka is a place which at all times evokes the magnificent heritage of the Polish people. The figures of patron saints, first of all Saint Stanislaus, stand silent witnesses to the Christian roots of the Polish history, whereas the names of the late representatives of culture and science provide evidence of the potential of Poles’ mind and spirit.