



PANS Eaglet

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The Largest Polish Coin Ever Minted: The 100 Ducat of Sigismund III Vasa

By Christina Slobodnik

Perhaps one morning over a steaming coffee, you may wonder about some of the most intriguing Polish coins ever minted. What do they look like? What are they worth? Certainly one of the most interesting ones is the 'UFO' coin, which is the world's first levitating coin, created by the Mint of Poland.

But one of the most significant coins minted is the 100 Ducat of Sigismund III Vasa, the largest and one of the most beautiful coins in Polish history. The pure size and weight may contribute to the coin's importance, but the sheer art molded into a circular slab of gold is enough on its own to inspire awe.

The 100 gold ducat first came about when Poland decided to commemorate their victory over the Turks at the quick and bloody Battle of Khotyn in the Ukraine. The war lasted from 1620 to 1621, beginning with a staggering Polish defeat and resulting in a failed assassination on Sigismund III, the Ottoman retreat, and the death of their Sultan.

The dies used to strike the coins were designed and engraved by the Danzig medalist Samuel Ammon, and the 100 ducat was then first minted in 1621 at the Bydgoszcz Mint, in one of the royal cities of the Commonwealth, after which the mint was named.

Weighing 349.49 grams, with a diameter of 70 millimeters (or 2.7 inches), the coin is a sizable addition to Polish numismatic history... in every sense of the word.



In the pictures above, the intricate detailing of the coin is clear, with careful attention to Sigismund and his ornamental armor. The year 1621 and the initials 'SA' are engraved below the bust, to credit

Samuel Ammon as the engraver. On the outer rim of the coin, is the inscription 'ESIGISMVNDVS· III· D: G: POLONI· ET· SVECIAE· REXE'.

The reverse of the coin was given as much regard, with special attention paid to the crowned coat of arms of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth which graces the center of the coin and catches the eye. The date again appears, with '16' on one side of the crown's cross, and '21' on the other. The outer rim includes an inscription of similar appearance to the obverse. It reads 'EMAGNVS DVX LITVAN: RVSS :-: PRVSS: MAS: SAM: LIVON: ZC: E'. The Latin words 'EMAGNVS DVX' stand for Grand Duke, and the remainder of the phrase translates into the lands beneath the ruling hand of Sigismund III Vasa, which include Lithuania, Ruthenia, Prussia, Masovia, Samogitia, Livonia, and the like. This not only signifies a time period of cultural and religious diversity, but also of national identity and the people's unfailing love of liberty.

Several factors make the 100 ducat of Sigismund III Vasa valuable. For one,

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Let's Say 'Thank You' to All Our Show Volunteers



By Mark Benvenuto

It takes a good deal of work to put together a successful coin show, but the

only six remain in existence, and there are many more than six numismatic enthusiasts and historians who would like to add this particular coin to their collections. The ducat can also be considered a prime example of baroque medallic art, and was not used for circulation, but as a royal gift to ambassadors and guests of the crown.

One of the coins was sold on January 9, 2018 at the CNG Triton XXI auction for \$2,160,000. This made the 100 ducat of Sigismund III Vasa the most expensive Polish coin ever sold in auction.

The 100 ducat is an exceptionally rare coin, but its value does not only lie in the craftsmanship, metal or face value. The coin also holds a place in history. It is a trophy of Polish victory over the Ottoman empire at the Battle of Khotyn. It holds its own story, and is both a memorable and beautiful detail among the many within the vast tale of Poland, and that is why we appreciate it.

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PANS has done it. On August 24th, our folks managed to put together an excellent one-day show just off of 13 Mile Rd. – a new location for us.

The dealers gave positive feedback, which is always a plus, as we wouldn't have much of a hobby without them. We appear to have had pretty steady foot traffic throughout the day. We had door prizes that were well received. We had some fantastic items for the kids in attendance. It turns out we also made something of a profit on the show, which is another big plus. Beyond all that, we apparently have some closet gourmands in our crowd, since we received plenty of good comments about both the Polish lunch offering, as well as the Italian lunch offering that was available.

Thanks go to all our volunteers who made the show a success – one of the most successful in the state, apparently. Thanks to Mike Rosik for the photos here. And of course, thanks to our president, Les Rosik, who orchestrated the entire thing. Well done, everyone.

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Photos of Our Recent Show By Mike Rosik



Above and below, something for kids of all ages.



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A Presentation to the Governor



Member Steve Bieda recently made an official presentation of the Michigan Innovation Dollar to Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Bieda had been appointed as Official Liaison to the U.S. Mint in April 2022 and worked with the U.S. Mint on the development of both the theme and the final design.

\$

► Spot prices as of 30 September, 2025
 Gold: \$ 3,863.00/troy ounce
 Silver: \$ 46.67/troy ounce
 Copper: \$ 4.83/pound
 Platinum: \$ 1,598.00/troy ounce
 Palladium: \$ 1,277.00/troy ounce
 SUS-Złoty exchange: 3.62

Have you been able to join us on the web? Try: www.pans-club.org. Or, on Facebook? If not, please go to Facebook, find PANS, and see what events are coming up for our society.

Once again, come to the meetings and win

Your PANS meets once a month, except for July and August, and is generous in raffling off one Polish coin per meeting. Why not attend a meeting, and see if you can add something to your growing collection?

Send in your finds.

Have you found any Polish coins of note, perhaps squirreled away in some dealer's stock of foreign coins? If you have found a hidden treasure, or one hiding in plain sight, e-mail Mark a photo and a brief write-up of how you came upon it. The PANS members will most likely be interested in hearing about it.

Remember folks, please pay your dues for 2025! That's \$20 for the year - \$30 if you'd like the PANS Eagle mailed quarterly.

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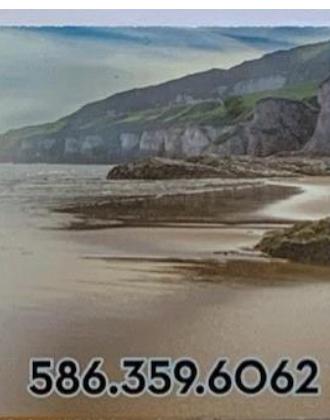
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Join Our Club

We meet on the first Saturday of the month at 12:00 PM at the American Polish Cultural Center located at 2975 East Maple Road (15 Mile Road) at Dequindre Road in Troy, Michigan. Visit the PANS Club website at www.pans-club.org for details. We currently have 10 meetings per year (August through May) with 2 months off during the summer. The Polish American Numismatic Society also plans a Christmas Oplatek Dinner during the Holiday Season. Meeting agendas include business matters and informative lectures from renowned guest speakers on topics including error and variety coins, significant coins in Polish history, Hamtramck scrip, coin photography. Open and lively member discussions about US and Polish numismatics are encouraged. Of course, the meeting would not be complete without coffee and delicious Polish pastries. The Polish American Numismatic Society hosts two very successful public coin show at the American Polish Cultural Center. Our primary show always takes place on the third Sunday of February. PANS also hosts a second show in August. Shows have been co-hosted with other clubs in the region. If you have any interest in numismatics, please attend a meeting and sign up as a member. PANS dues are only \$20.00 per year or \$30 per year if you would like the PANS Eaglet newsletter sent to your mail on a quarterly basis. PANS Club Membership is a great way to meet collectors with similar interests and knowledgeable dealers willing to share their experiences in a hobby that we all enjoy. To become a member-in-good-standing, plan to attend a minimum of 5 meetings per year and perform club-related duties at PANS Club sponsored Coin Shows.

Membership Application I hereby make application for membership in the Polish American Numismatic Society, subject to the rules and regulations set forth in the Constitution and By-laws.

SIGNATURE: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE/ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

RECOMMENDED BY: _____

DATE ACCEPTED: _____

FIRST YEAR DUES PAID: _____

I COLLECT: _____

Attend a meeting or mail to: PANS, PO BOX 80515, ROCHESTER, MI 48308