



Polar Coin – Northern Lights

The third and final coin in the series to commemorate the International Polar Year is issued on 23 February.

Like the previous Polar coins, the theme is conditions in Greenland, this time scientific research. The first coin showed a polar bear standing on a split ice floe, thereby highlighting environmental problems and climate change. Focusing on geography and the natural environment, the second coin showed a dog sledge, the traditional method of transport in this vast area, and also the method used by the Sirius patrol in connection with its reconnaissance in north-eastern Greenland. The face of the coin shows a profile of the Queen identical to the portrait on ordinary 10-krone coins.

Three versions of the coin

Like the previous two Polar coins, the new coin will be minted in three different versions. It will be issued as a 10-krone coin in an edition of 1.2 million to be distributed via banks and used as ordinary coins in circulation. These coins will therefore be minted in the same size and the same yellow alloy, aluminium bronze, as the ordinary 10-krone coins.

In addition, the coin will be minted in collector's editions in silver and gold with denominations of 100 and 1,000 kroner, respectively.



Silver - specifications:

Diameter.....	38,0 mm
Weight.....	31,1 g
Alloy.....	999‰ Ag (fine silver)
Rec. retail price	DKK 300



Gold - specifications:

Diameter.....	22,0 mm
Weight.....	8,65 g
Alloy.....	900‰ Au (Greenlandic gold)
Rec. retail price	DKK 2,500

A small polar bear in the legend on the gold coin indicates that the coin is made from Greenlandic gold. For some years, this symbol has been used by jewel designers to indicate that the gold originates from Greenland. The small polar bear will therefore be found only on the gold coin, which thus differs from the other versions of the coin in this respect.

The gold came from the Nalunaq mine in Kirkespirdalen in the municipality of Nanortalik, which commenced commercial operations in 2004. Some of the first gold from the mine



was used for the wedding rings of the Danish Crown Prince and Princess. Unfortunately, the mine has not been profitable, and at the end of 2008 it was decided to discontinue operations. In connection with the issuance of the first Polar coin, The Royal Mint had, however, purchased the gold coin blanks needed for all three Polar coins. Consequently, the final coin will also be minted in Greenlandic gold.

Motif designed by Morten Stræde

The motif on the reverse of the new coin was designed by the sculptor Morten Stræde, who reflects on his work:

"My idea with this coin is to give a very compact impression of some of the scientific research based in Greenland. Many interesting projects are underway, and new results are emerging, partly on the basis of research projects in connection with the International Polar Year. These include the recently published findings about the release of manganese gases in the Polar regions at previously unexpected times.

"It goes without saying that it is extremely difficult to present this extensive scientific research in a relief, and having to fit the motif into the tiny area available on a 10-krone coin does not make the task easier. I have chosen to focus on research around the magnetic North Pole, on ice core research and finally on mineralogy.

"The elusive Northern Lights that are linked to the magnetic North Pole and the stable minerals found in the underground are thus depicted on the coin. The minerals on the lower part of the coin are all found in Greenland. Three minerals are shown: tugtupite, gold and eudialyte.

"Cliffs and icebergs on the middle part of the coin separate the Northern Lights and the minerals. The vertical hatching on the cliffs and icebergs serves a twofold purpose. Firstly, it enhances the contrast in the modelling; secondly, it is a reference to the vertical cores through the ice cap.

"The modelling of the three fields of the coin differs. The Northern Lights are open with a light touch, the minerals are shown in their basic crystalline forms, and the landscape in the middle is modelled so as to resemble a direct experience of a Polar landscape – the surface of the water, the curve of the sky and the sharp structural diversity of the mountains and the ice.

At the bottom of the coin, the compass card points to the North Star at the top of the motif."

Ordering the coins

The coins can be purchased from certain banks, from coin dealers and from Danmarks Nationalbank (Banking Services) from 23 February. Also from 23 February, the coins can be ordered via the website of The Royal Mint, www.royalmint.dk, or telephone (+45) 43 45 40 11. Finally, the website provides further information about Danish coins in general and links for ordering other coins.



Old gold coins from Danmarks Nationalbank's vaults

20-krone gold coins from the years 1913, 1915, 1916 and 1917

Once again, it is now possible to purchase old gold coins from Danmarks Nationalbank. This time, 20-krone gold coins minted in the period 1913-1917 in the reign of King Christian X will be sold. After minting at The Royal Mint, these coins were immediately transferred to Danmarks Nationalbank, where they have been stored in sealed coin bags ever since. In other words, they have never been in circulation, but since the coins were neither minted nor stored with collectors in mind, they may have minor scratches, etc.

Previously 20-krone gold coins from 1913 and 1917 have been sold, and now it is also possible to purchase coins from 1915 and 1916. No 1914 coins are expected to be offered for sale.

10-krone gold coins were minted only in 1913 and 1917, and coins from these years are still available.

Orders can be submitted via www.royalmint.dk. The sales price is based on the market price of gold and will regularly be adjusted to reflect fluctuations in gold prices. Right now, 20-krone gold coins are sold at DKK 1,800 and 10-krone gold coins at DKK 1,000. The increase on the previous sales prices should be viewed against the background of rapidly rising gold prices since the autumn of 2008.

The old gold coins will be delivered in a presentation folder with an outline (in Danish only) of their background and history. Due to strong demand, purchases are currently limited to three of each coin per customer. 20-krone from 1913 and 1917 limited to one of each coin per customer.

The 20-krone coin is minted in gold and weighs 8.96 grams. A total of around 3.7 million 20-krone coins were minted in the period 1913-1917.

The 10-krone coin is minted in gold and weighs 4.48 grams. A total of 450,000 10-krone coins were minted in the period 1913-1917.

From 23 February, the gold coins can also be ordered via the website of The Royal Mint, www.royalmint.dk, or telephone (+45) 43 45 40 11.

