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### FROM THE PRIVATE COLLECTION INTO THE EUROPEAN CENTRE OF POLISH NUMISMATICS AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM IN KRAKOW: THE CZAPSKI FAMILY TOWARDS THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE EMERYK HUTTEN-CZAPSKI MUSEUM

The numismatic endeavors of Count Emeryk Hutten-Czapski (\*1828 †1896) are well known and appreciated. An ardent collector, he assembled the most significant collection of Polish coins and medals anywhere (numbering over 11,000 items) and wrote numerous scientific publications, including *Catalogue de la Collection des Médailles et Monnaies Polonaises*, vols. 1–5 (St Petersburg-Krakow 1871–1916), which remains a numismatic standard. His collections as well as the compilation of drawings, old prints, historic items of artistic craftsmanship and the palace building to house it all were donated to the City of Krakow in 1903. In 1904, it evolved into a branch of the National Museum in Krakow, bearing the name of Emeryk Hutten-Czapski. The numismatic collection became the foundation of the Numismatic Cabinet.

The article discusses the role of the Czapski family in the development of the museum and, in consequence, in the growth of stature of its coin and medal collection throughout the past one hundred and ten years. The article presents key European values that lay behind the Count's collecting efforts, as well as the current scientific, educational and museum functions of the collection that have served as the *spiritus movens* of the European Centre of Polish Numismatics at the National Museum in Krakow in 2013.