

ANNA BOCHNAK

*A Register of Polish Coins, and of Those Historically Associated with Poland, in the Collection of Emeryk Czapski, as of December 5, 1846, Vilnius* – Emeryk Hutten-Czapski's First Catalogue of Coins, Testimony to the Famous Collector's Youthful Interests

One of the most valuable items in the collection of the National Museum in Krakow is a work entitled *Spis monet polskich i z polskimi styczność mających znajdujących się w zbiorze Emeryka Czapskiego 1846 r. 5 Decembra Wilno* [A Register of Polish Coins, and of Those Historically Associated with Poland, in the Collection of Emeryk Czapski, as of December 5, 1846, Vilnius]. It is the first register of the coins collected by Czapski, a renowned numismatist, which documents the origins of the world's greatest collection of Polish coins and medals. At the age of 18, Czapski had already gathered a handsome collection of Polish coins. The register takes the form of a printed table containing basic information on the coinage issued by the rulers of Poland. Czapski would subsequently proceed to complement this table with additional relevant data. This catalogue is arranged in chronological order, from the coins of King Casimir III the Great up to the coinage issued during the reign of Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski, the last king of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The young collector's list includes several interesting specimens such as a Krakow groschen (*grosz*) of Casimir III the Great, a Gdańsk denar from 1573, Livonian coins dating from 1572 and 1573, one gold and one silver kopeck of King Ladislaus IV Vasa as tsar of Russia, and some crown thalers of John III Sobieski. He continued to keep his records throughout a period beginning in 1846 until most probably as late as 1855, when he would begin his *Spis medalów i monet polskich lub z dziejami krainy polskiej stycznych znajdujących się w zbiorze Emeryka hrabiego Czapskiego* [A Register of Medals and Coins of Poland, or Associated with the History of Poland, in the Collection of Count Emeryk Czapski].