



## New Polar coin: The Crown Prince strikes the first gold coin

**On 26 February, a new coin will be issued in the Polar series. The coin is designed by the sculptor Margrete Sørensen and inspired by the Sirius Sledge Patrol. The first coin, minted in Greenlandic gold, was struck by HRH Crown Prince Frederik, who visited The Royal Danish Mint today.**

This morning, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Frederik visited The Royal Mint in Brøndby, a Copenhagen suburb, in connection with the announcement of the next Polar coin, the motif of which is inspired by the Sirius Sledge Patrol. During his visit to the Mint, the Crown Prince struck gold coin No 1.

The Polar coins are issued to mark the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2009. Crown Prince Frederik is the patron of the Danish part of IPY. In 2000, his interest in the Polar regions, and Greenland in particular, led him to join the "Sirius 2000" expedition, a four-month dog-sledge expedition covering 2,795 km across the north of Greenland. The link to Greenland is also reflected in the wedding rings of the Crown Prince and Princess, which were made from gold mined at Nalunaq near Nanortalik in southern Greenland – the same mine that provides the gold for the gold coins in the Polar series. The series of coins to mark the International Polar Year will comprise three coins. The first coin, with a polar bear as its motif, was issued on 26 March 2007. The second coin, featuring the Sirius Sledge Patrol, will be issued on 26 February 2008. The third and final coin will be issued in early 2009.

### **Motif designed by Margrete Sørensen**

The face of the coin shows a profile of the Queen identical to the portrait on ordinary 10-krone coins.

The motif on the reverse of the new coin was designed by the sculptor Margrete Sørensen, who reflects on her work:

"My design of the 10-krone coin incorporates several symbols that, directly or indirectly, point to the Sirius Sledge Patrol. The most striking feature is a globe made up of degrees of longitude and latitude, with the North Pole clearly indicated. Slightly staggered from the globe, the whole of Greenland is depicted. The area where Sirius patrols is accentuated to give a clear indi-



cation of the magnitude of the area to be covered.

In the section with the globe, the 'Canis Major' constellation is seen as clear dots with the large 'Dog Star', also known as 'Sirius', as the guiding star. This star is also part of the Sirius Sledge Patrol's logo.

The last – and clearest – symbol is a dog sledge, the primary means of transport for the Sirius Sledge Patrol. At first I wanted to show the whole sledge with the dogs in harness, but the size of the 10-krone coin limits the possibilities. The dogs would be reduced to mere specks and thus almost invisible. Instead, I chose to focus on the sledge."

### Three versions of the coin

Like the first Polar coin, 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. The silver coin will be sold at a recommended retail price of DKK 300 and will be issued in an edition of maximum 35,000. The gold coin will be minted in Greenlandic gold and sold at a recommended retail price of DKK 2,500. It will be issued in an edition of maximum 5,000.

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.

### Ordering the coins

The Sirius coins can be purchased from banks, coin dealers and Danmarks Nationalbank (Banking Services) from 26 February. From 19 February, the coins can also be ordered via the website of The Royal Danish Mint, [www.royalmint.dk](http://www.royalmint.dk). A statement by the artist Margrete Sørensen, pictures of the coin and photos from today's visit by the Crown Prince to The Royal Danish Mint can also be found at the website. Finally, the website provides further information about Danish coins in general and links for ordering other coins.



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