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New coin series with Polar theme

To mark the International Polar Year, Danmarks Nationalbank launches the first coin in a new series of polar coins on 26 March 2007. The new Polar series will comprise three coins, which will be issued in the period 2007 to 2009.

The motif of the first coin is a polar bear. The polar bear is chosen because of its great importance to the Greenland culture. On the coin you will see the polar bear standing on a split ice floe. The motif is designed by the Greenland artist Niels Motzfeldt, who also designed the motif on the tower coin "Three Brothers". The obverse of the coin carries a portrait of the Queen in profile.

The Polar coin is minted as a 10-krone coin in 1.2 million copies and will be part of the ordinary coin circulation. The Polar coin will also be issued as collector coins in fine silver and gold. The silver version will have the face value of 100 kroner, while the gold coin will have a face value of 1,000 kroner. The recommended retail prices including Danish VAT are DKK 2,500 for the gold coin and DKK 300 for the silver coin. The gold and silver coins are minted in a number not exceeding 6,000 and 50,000, respectively.

The gold coins are minted in gold originating from Greenland. Danmarks Nationalbank has acquired the gold from the Nalunaq Gold Mine by Nanortalik in the South of Greenland. This goldmine also delivered the gold to the wedding rings of the Danish Crown Prince and Crown Princess. It is the first time that a coin is minted in gold originating from Greenland. The legend on the gold coin also shows a small polar bear, which is used as a symbol for gold originating from Greenland.

The Polar coins can be purchased from banks, coin dealers and Danmarks Nationalbank from 26 March. The coins can also be acquired from the website of the Royal Mint, www.royalmint.dk, where orders can be placed as from today. Pictures of the coin can also be downloaded from this website.

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