

*SUMMARY*

**RECENT SPECIAL-OCCASION COINS – APPEARANCE AND  
TENDENCIES**

The author researches phenomena of recent special-occasion coins in the context of changes that this kind of money is undergoing. Special-occasion coins are today part of the emission policy of almost every state. But their appearance, the materials they are

made of, quality of execution and different manners of finishing and the ways in which they appear on the market (packaging) are increasingly distancing these coins from classical emissions of special-occasion coins. Although special-occasion coins are in most cases (also) legal tender in the countries that issue them, because of their properties they are as a rule not used as currency and for payment. The purpose of issuing them is not these functions of money, and their shapes are usually not suitable for circulating, so they are beginning to considerably differ, because of their properties, from coins in circulation. The author analyses the appearance of special-occasion coins in the context of the development of the technology used to make them, and also of contemporary changes in this kind of money. Considering the amount of special-occasion coins issued, they take up a large proportion of the total emission of coins by a large number of issuers. Special-occasion coins are by their properties growing increasingly distant from the usual understanding of the coin. This money is becoming an artefact whose characteristics are bringing it increasingly closer to small sculptures.

*Key words:* special-occasion coins, pre-monetary forms, legal tender