

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**23.05.2022**

### **Collector coin “Davit Bek” has been put into circulation**

The Central Bank of Armenia has put the silver collector coin “**Davit Bek**” into circulation starting May 23, 2022.

#### **The collector coin dedicated to Davit Bek**

Davit Bek (date of birth unknown, died at the end of 1728) - a leader of the Armenian national liberation movement, a military commander.

He served in the army of the king of Georgia Vakhtang VI. At the request of the Armenians of Syunik, he entered Sisian and Kapan with his military force in 1722 and led the armed popular struggle against foreign occupiers.

In 1722-1725, Davit Bek liberated all of Syunik from the Iranian troops and Muslim invaders. In a short time, he organized regular Armenian contingents and a professionally trained army, restored old fortresses and fortifications, created new military strongholds, and established an independent Armenian principality with its center in Halidzor.

In 1725-1727, the Ottoman army attempted to seize Syunik. Starting from February 26, 1727, Davit Bek and his forces put up a heroic resistance to the numerically superior enemy who surrounded his major fortress of Halidzor, and on March 4, with a sudden counterattack, they defeated the invaders and threw them out of Syunik. In the battle of Halidzor 13000 Turkish soldiers were killed. The Armenians counted 148 military banners among the captured materiel. This victory contributed to the consolidation of the Armenian liberation movement in Syunik and Artsakh and to further successes of the Armenian troops.

Davit Bek is a symbol of patriotism and the national liberation struggle of the Armenian people.

The historical novel by Raffi “Davit Bek”, the eponymous opera by Armen Tigranyan and the feature film by Hamo Beknazaryan are dedicated to Davit Bek. A monument to Davit Bek is erected in the city of Kapan (Syunik region), streets in Yerevan and in other settlements of the Republic of Armenia are named after him.

**Obverse:** the fortress wall of Halidzor against the background of Mount Khustup, a torch and a sword.

**Reverse:** a fragment of the monument to Davit Bek in Kapan (sculptors: S. Baghdasaryan, M. Nurijanyan, 1978), the arms thrown at the feet of a horse.

Designer: Vardan Vardanyan.

The coin is minted in the Mint of Poland.

#### **Technical specification**

Face value	1000 dram
Metal/fineness	silver 925 <sup>0</sup>
Weight	33.6 g

Diameter	40.0 mm
Quality	proof
Edge	ribbed
Quantity of issue	250 pcs
Year of issue	2022

### **Notice**

Collector coins are made of precious metals and are issued to present to the society the national, international, historical and cultural, spiritual and other values of the country, to immortalize these values in the metal and to meet the demands of the numismatic market.

Like any other currency the collector coins have face value which makes them the means of payment. However, the face value of these coins is much lower than their cost price which includes the cost of the precious metal used for manufacturing of the coin, mintage and other expenses. Low face value and high cost price allow these coins to be considered as the items of collection and not the means of payment used in money circulation. The collector coins have also the sale price set by the Central Bank of Armenia.

As the items of collection the collector coins are issued in very restricted quantities and are not reissued.

Numismatists, collectors and all interested persons can buy the Armenian collector coins in the sales salon [“Numismatist”](#) which is in the building of the Central Bank of Armenia and is open for everyone.

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