

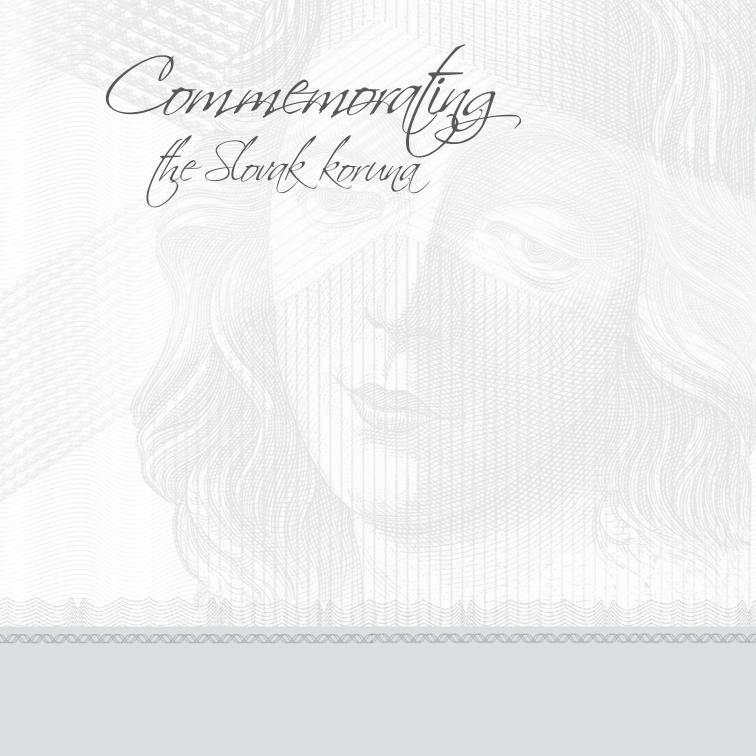
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A brochure entitled "Commemorating the Slovak koruna" is being issued by Národná banka Slovenska as part of the activities to mark the bank's 20th anniversary. The preparation and introduction of Slovak koruna banknotes and coins was a significant event in the bank's history.

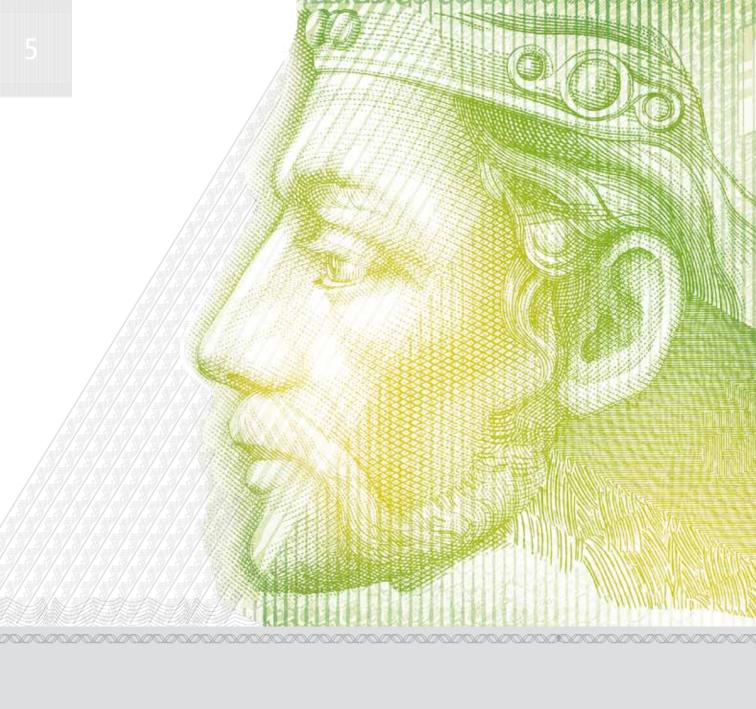
# History of the koring

Slovak koruna banknotes and coins were first produced and put into circulations in 1993. Although the Slovak Republic was established on 1 January of that year, the country's currency in the first months continued to be the Czechoslovak koruna. After the Slovak and Czech currencies were officially separated on 8 February 1993, paper stamps bearing the emblem of the Slovak Republic were affixed to Czechoslovak banknotes. On the currency separation date, new Slovak coins in the denomination of 10 koruna were put into circulation and the issuance of Slovak koruna banknotes followed a short time afterwards.

During the course of 1993, Czechoslovak coins and stamped banknotes were gradually withdrawn from circulation and replaced with Slovak currency (an exception was the stamped Czechoslovak 500 koruna note, which remained legal tender until 10 January 1994). The series of seven denominations of Slovak koruna banknotes was completed in 1995 when the 200 koruna and 5000 koruna banknotes were issued into circulation.

Although some new security features were added to the highest denomination banknotes in 1999 and 2000, in order to make them harder to counterfeit, both the obverse and reverse designs of these banknotes remained unchanged.

The koruna, in various manifestations, was the name of the currencies used in the territory of what is now Slovakia from the end of 19th century until the euro adoption. The gold-backed koruna currency was introduced in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1892, and helped the Empire to integrate economically and financially with industrially advanced European countries. The history of the koruna in the 20th century reflected the complicated power-political and state-building processes in Czechoslovakia. The Czechoslovak koruna (Kč) was the currency from 1918 to 1939, when it was replaced by the Slovak koruna (Ks). In 1945, after the end of World War II, the country returned to the Czechoslovak koruna (Kčs) and retained it until 1993. From then until the end of 2008 the country's currency was the modern Slovak koruna (Sk).



## The faces of korung banknotes

All of the Slovak koruna banknotes were designed by academic painter Jozef Bubák. The main motifs adopted for the obverse designs of the banknotes were significant figures in Slovak history. The reverse designs expand on the motifs with depictions of places associated with the life and work of these people.

The 20 koruna banknote features the oldest historical era in the series with a depiction of Prince Pribina, the first known Slavic ruler who in the 9th century ruled a principality centred in the territory of present day Slovakia. The 50 koruna banknote shows portraits of Saints Cyril and Methodius to commemorate the social and cultural progress of Slovaks through Christian principles and the development of old Slavonic writing. The 100 koruna banknote portrays the Virgin Mary, the only female figure in the series. The picture in this case was modelled on a statue of the Madonna by Master Pavol of Levoča. The 200 koruna banknote features Anton Bernolák, who was the author of the first Slovak language standard. The 500 koruna banknote depicts Ľudovít Štúr, the leading figure of the 19th century Slovak struggle for national independence. The higher denomination banknotes show key figures of modern Slovak history who had a major influence on the raising of national consciousness and on the socio-political movement in Slovakia. The 1000 koruna and 5000 koruna banknotes depict, respectively, Andrej Hlinka and Milan Rastislav Štefánik.

The use of portraits as the main obverse motif of the banknotes had historical and cultural roots, since such banknote designs had circulated in the territory of Slovakia in the past, but also because attention is drawn to the depicted visage, thus making it easier to identify the banknote and to memorise its typical features.

On each banknote a light band angles in different directions across the design. Thus the banknotes look back at the Slovak past while being modern and unique.

#### 20 Sk

Designer: Engraver: Size: academic painter Jozef Bubák Ron Beckers 65 x 128 mm



The obverse side portrays
Prince Pribina, who until AD 833
ruled a principality based in Nitra
and was the first known Slavic ruler
of territory that is now part of Slovakia.



Designer: academic painter Jozef Bubák

Engraver: Ron Beckers
Size: 68 x 134 mm



The obverse design portrays Saints Cyril and Methodius, who as missionaries to the Slavs helped to establish an independent ecclesiastical Slav province and laid the basis for Slovak culture.



On the reverse side is a depiction of two hands and between theme are the first seven letters of the old Slavic alphabet known as Glagolitic, symbolising what the saints gave to the Slavs. As a symbol of the birth of Christianity in Slovak territory, the design features a mirror-image silhouette of a medieval church in the Dražoviec district of Nitra.

#### 100 Sk

Designer: Engraver:

Size:

academic painter Jozef Bubák

Václav Fajt 71 x 140 mm



On the obverse side is the visage of a wooden statue of the Madonna sculpted by the medieval sculptor and carver Master Pavol of Levoča. The statue forms part of the Nativity Reredos at St Jacob's Church in Levoča.

The reverse side depicts St Jacob's Church and the historic Town Hall in Levoča, the town where Master Pavol was based. Forming part of this design is the keystone of the sacristy of the old Minorite Church in Levoča.



Designer: Engraver: Size: academic painter Jozef Bubák Václav Fajt 74 x 146 mm



The obverse design features Anton Bernolák (1762–1813), who was a Catholic priest, linguist, supporter of the Slovak national revival, and proponent of Enlightenment ideals. He has a place in Slovak history as the author of the first Slovak language standard.



On the reverse side is a townscape of 18th century Trnava with a separate foreground depiction of the Renaissance Town Tower.

#### 500 Sk

Designer: Engraver: Size: academic painter Jozef Bubák

Václav Fajt 77 x 152 mm



The obverse side features Ľudovít Štúr, one of the most significant Slovaks of the 19th century. He was the leading figure of the Slovak national movement and authored a new codification of the Slovak language.

On the reverse side is a composition of landmarks in Bratislava, including the castle, the Baroque Church of St Nicholas, and part of the steeple of the Gothic Church of the former Poor Clares convent. In the middle of the composition is the oldest ground-plan depiction of Bratislava, a 15th century woodcut illustration entitled "CHRONICA PICTA".



#### 1000 Sk

Designer: Engraver: Size: academic painter Jozef Bubák Jim Moore 80 x 158 mm



The obverse portrait is that of Andrej Hlinka (1864–1938), a key figure of modern Slovak history who had a major influence on the raising of national consciousness and on the sociopolitical movement in Slovakia.



On the reverse side are motifs associated with places in which Hlinka was active. At the centre is a portrayal of the Virgin Mary the Protector taken from a mural in a church in Sliače, near Ružomberok. To the left of her cloak is a picture of the Andrej Hlinka Mausoleum, and to the right is the Roman Catholic Church of St Andrew in Ružomberok.

#### 19

#### 5000 Sk

Designer: Engraver: Size: academic painter Jozef Bubák

Václav Fajt 82 x 164 mm



On the obverse side is a portrait of Milan Rastislav Štefánik (1880–1919), a significant diplomat, politician, soldier, astronomer, and co-founder of the Czechoslovak state. To the left of the portrait is a graphic security element which in recognition of Štefánik's research in astronomy depicts the sun and a half moon.





The reverse side shows the Štefánik Memorial on Bradlo hill with a depiction of the constellation Ursa Major running through the design. Pasqueflowers feature on the right-hand side.

Slovak koruna banknote issues				
Denomination	Series	Issue date	NBS Decree No	
20 Sk	1993	30 September 1993	209/1993	
	1995	3 July 1995	131/1995	
50 Sk	1993	30 August 1993	179/1993	
	1995	3 July 1995	131/1995	
100 Sk	1993	30 September 1993	218/1993	
	1996	1 July 1996	159/1996	
	1996 (2nd issue)	2 September 1999	210/1999	
200 Sk	1995	29 September 1995	182/1995	
	1999	10 May 1999	80/1999	
500 Sk	1993	15 November 1993	260/1993	
	1996	4 November 1996	282/1996	
	2000	30 November 2000	373/2000	
1000 Sk	1993	29 October 1993	228/1993	
	1995	3 July 1995	131/1995	
	1999	22 December 1999	320/1999	
5000 Sk	1995	22 May 1995	93/1995	
	1999	21 June 1999	123/1999	
Banknotes of all denominations incorporating a foil to commemorate the end of the second millennium		6 December 1999 20 December 1999	321/1999	



Examples of certain denominations of Slovak banknotes from 1993, 1995 and 1996.











An example of one of the seven banknote denominations issued to mark the end of the second millennium.



Korung coin, designs

The designer of all the koruna coins was Drahomír Zobek.

All denominations have the same obverse design, featuring the Slovak coat of arms in the upper half and below it the country name "SLOVENSKÁ REPUBLIKA" written in two lines and the year of minting.

The reverse sides of the coins depict motifs from different eras in the rich history of the territory that is now the Slovak Republic.

The motifs that go back furthest in history are found on the 2 koruna coin, featuring a statue of Venus from the 4th century BC, and the 5 koruna coin, depicting the Celtic coin "Biatec" from the 1st century BC. The craftsmanship of our forebears is commemorated on the 10 koruna coin (depicting a bronze cross), the 1 koruna coin (a wooden statue of the Madonna), and the 10 halier coin (a wooden belfry). Symbols of Slovak nationhood are found on the 50 halier coin (the tower of Devín Castle) and the 20 halier coin (Krivaň peak in the High Tatra Mountains).

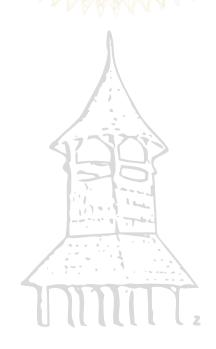
The clear and sharp outlines of the koruna coin motifs give them a characteristic elegance and stylishness.

### 25 10 h

Designer: Drahomír Zobek
Material: Al 980 : Mg 20
Diameter: 17.00 mm
Weight: 0.72 g
Thickness: 1.50 mm
Edge: plain



**Motif:** Octagonal wooden belfry with a shingle roof, erected in Zemplin in the early 19th century by unknown folk builders.



Designer: Drahomír Zobek
Material: Al 960 : Mg 40
Diameter: 19.50 mm
Weight: 0.95 g
Thickness: 1.50 mm
Edge: milled



**Motif:** The Tatran peak of Kriváň – symbolising the protection of Slovak nationhood and the historic territory of Slovakia.

Designer: Drahomír Zobek

1993 series

Material: Al 980 : Mg 20
Diameter: 22.00 mm
Weight: 1.20 g

Thickness: 1.50 mm

Edge: plain



1.60 mm

interrupted milled





**Motif:** The crenellated Renaissance polygonal tower of Devín Castle, situated on a crag overlooking the confluence of the Danube and Morava rivers.

Designer: Drahomír Zobek
Material: copper-plated steel

Diameter: 21.00 mm
Weight: 3.85 g
Thickness: 1.70 mm
Edge: milled



**Motif:** Gothic wooden sculpture of the Madonna and Child standing on a half moon, made in Kremnica in around 1500.



Designer: Drahomír Zobek
Material: nickel-plated steel

Diameter: 22.50 mm
Weight: 4.40 g
Thickness: 1.70 mm
Edge: incuse



**Motif:** Earthen sculpture of the sitting Venus, known as "Magna Mater", from the 4th century BC. It was found during an archaeological excavation of a Neolithic site at Nitra Castle.





Designer: Material: Diameter: Weight:

Thickness:

Edge:

Drahomír Zobek nickel-plated steel

24.75 mm 5.40 g 1.70 mm milled





**Motif:** A Celtic coin depicting a rider on a cantering horse and the inscription "BIATEC". It is a Bratislava-type Tetradrachma from the 1st century BC.

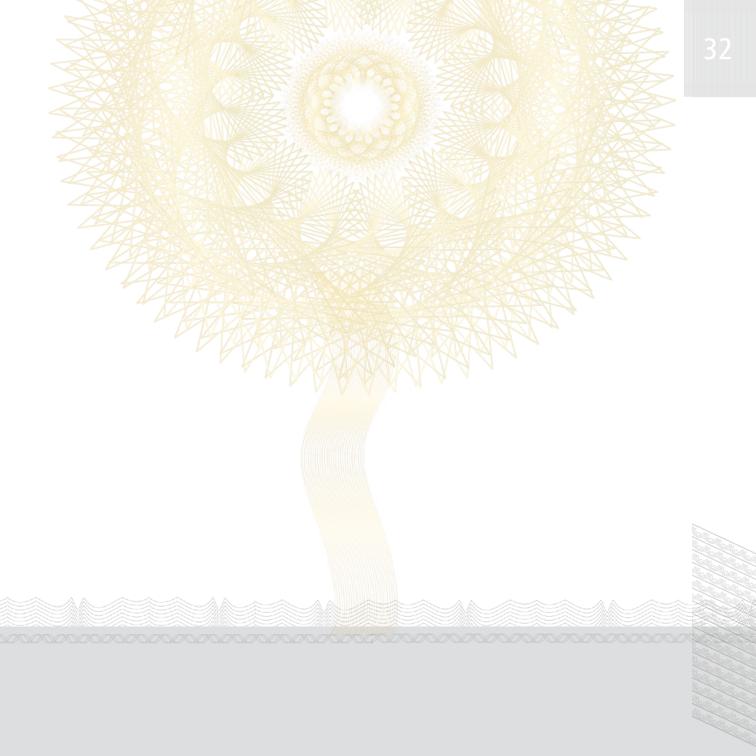
Designer: Drahomír Zobek
Material: Cu 920 : Al 60 : Ni 20

Diameter: 26.50 mm
Weight: 6.60 g
Thickness: 1.70 mm
Edge: incuse



Motif: Bronze cross from the 10th or 11th century, found at an archaeological excavation in Veľká Mača. The outer surface of the cross is covered with engraved symbols and figures.

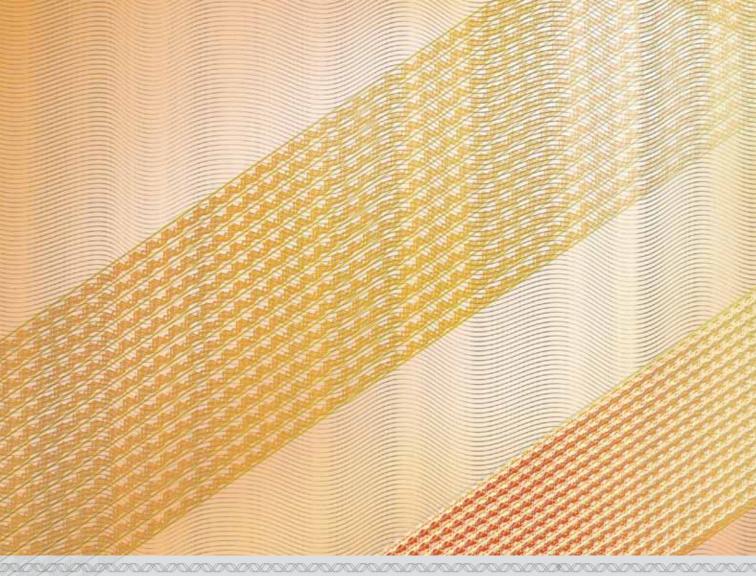




Slovak koruna coins issues				
Denomination	Series	Issue date	NBS Decree No	
10 halier <sup>1)</sup>	1993	29 October 1993	223/1993	
20 halier¹)	1993	30 September 1993	210/1993	
50 halier	1993 1996	30 June 1993 30 April 1996	137/1993 112/1996	
1 Sk	1993	30 April 1993	77/1993 146/1993	
2 Sk	1993	30 April 1993	77/1993 146/1993	
5 Sk	1993	30 April 1993	77/1993 146/1993	
10 Sk	1993	8 February 1993	29/1993	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1)</sup> The period of validity of the coins expired on 31 December 2003.







Electronic edition is available at: www.nbs.sk/en/publications-issued-by-the-nbs/nbs-publications/other-publications

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