

MOJMÍR II, GREAT MORAVIAN RULER

COMMEMORATIVE GOLD COIN

On November 21, 2006, the National Bank of Slovakia issued a commemorative gold coin commemorating Mojmir II, the last Great Moravian ruler.

Mojmir II, the elder of the two sons of the Great Moravian ruler Svätopluk I, was born after 871 and became the Prince of Great Moravia after his father's death in 894. However, the young ruler failed to keep the large empire intact. Over time, he lost several territories. In 896 Hungarians settled as allies in the Great Moravian region along the Tisa River. The country was affected by conflicts between Mojmir and his brother Svätopluk II, who was supported by the Bavarians. Their military confrontation ended in 899 with Mojmir's victory, but left his army weakened. The arrival of three papal legates, who ordained a new Moravian archbishop and three bishops, was a major success. Having its own church jurisdiction was of utmost importance for the country, for it supported the ruler's legitimacy. However, as more Hungarians streamed into the Tisa basin, their alliance with the Moravians came to an end and they attacked Great Moravia in 900. Mojmir settled his disputes with the Bavarians

to form an anti-Hungarian alliance in 901. However, a sweeping Hungarian raid in 906 left the Great Moravian state shattered. It is likely that Mojmir II, the last ruler of Great Moravia, died defending his country around 906.

The NBS launched an anonymous public competition for the artistic design of the commemorative coin. According to its conditions, the Church of Saint Margarita from Antioch had to be depicted on the obverse, since it is the only almost fully preserved Great Moravian building. This requirement was based on efforts to contribute to the popularisation of this unique Great Moravian landmark when issuing the commemorative coin to commemorate Great Moravian ruler Mojmir II.

The Governor's assessment commission did not recommend any of the original 14 artistic designs, and it was necessary to repeat the competition. In the second round



the commission assessed 15 artistic designs created by ten authors. It concluded that the theme was best satisfied by the work of Kremnica creative artist Miroslav Ronai, who is the author of several Slovak commemorative coins. The commission especially appreciated the harmony of the inter-linked composition between the obverse and reverse, as well as the interesting positioning of the inscription in the coin field. On the obverse, the author depicted the Church of St. Margarita from Antioch in Kopčany, with earrings from the Great Moravian epoch on its sides. On the reverse, a stylised portrait of Mojmir II makes for an attractive element. The sensitive combination of selected attributes

of the time is interesting as well: a sword hilt under the portrait, an earring and parts of two swords to the left, and the decoration of a horse harness to the right.

Mgr. art. Peter Valach was awarded second prize. The commission commended the creative style of his design, especially the artistic balance between the obverse and reverse with a central composition of motifs. On the obverse, the Church of St. Margarita from Antioch in Kopčany and Great Moravian earrings

are depicted; a horseman is on the reverse.

The sculptor, akad. sochár Vojtech Pohanka, was awarded third prize. In his artistic proposal, the commission noted his refined relief design and the selection and artistic style of the contemporary attributes on the obverse consisting of the Church of St. Margarita from Antioch, a contemporary button, and an earring. The reverse represents a sensitive relief solution of a portrait of the ruler.

The commemorative coin in the value of Sk 5000 is 26 mm in diameter and weighs 9.5 g. It is made of gold with a purity ratio of 900/1000. The number of pieces minted is 4000 (proof). The coin was struck at Mincovňa Kremnica Mint. Limited mintage is 7 000 pieces. The coin edge is fine milled.

Ing. Dagmar Flaché

Photo: Bedrich Schreiber and Ing. Štefan Fröhlich

