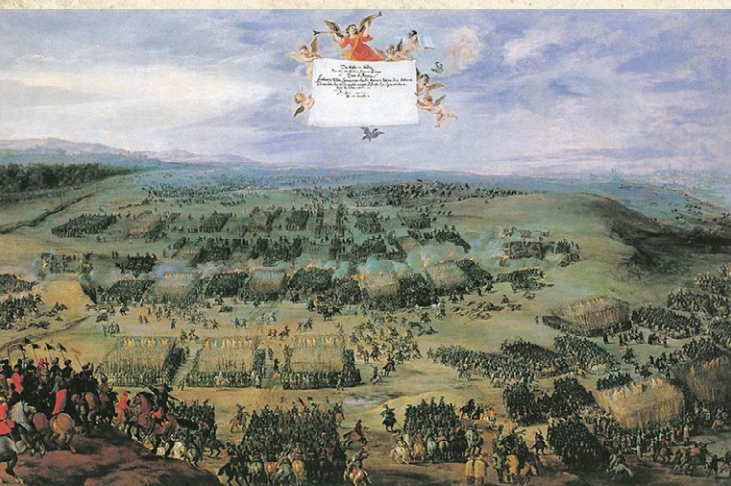


In 1620 his armies defeated the rebellious Bohemian Estates in the Battle of White Mountain. This battle triggered a broader European conflict that would become known as the Thirty Years' War. The war's main cause lay initially in conflicts between Catholics and Protestants, following the expansion of Protestantism after the German Reformation in the 16th century.

▼ *The Battle of White Mountain, 8 November 1620.*



Later, however, it took on a more political dimension. In the early stages, Ferdinand overcame Frederick V of the Palatinate in a struggle for the thrones of Bohemia and the Holy Roman Empire, thus assuming sovereignty over Protestants in northern Germany. The war's first phase ended with the signing of the Peace of Prague in 1635. Ferdinand died two years later, leaving his son, Ferdinand III, to continue his battles.



▲ *Silver medal commemorating the coronation of Ferdinand II as Hungarian king.*

Coin details

Denomination: €100

Composition: 900 gold, 75 silver, 25 copper

Weight: 9.5 g

Diameter: 26 mm

Edge: milled

Issuing volume: limited to a maximum of 5,000 coins

in proof quality

Designer: Karol Ličko

Engraver: Dalibor Schmidt

Producer: Mincovňa Kremnica

The obverse side depicts a period scene of the procession for the coronation of Ferdinand II in Pressburg (Bratislava), with decorative semicircular bands added in the upper and lower parts. To the right of the scene is the Slovak coat of arms. Above the upper band is the coin's denomination and currency '100 EURO', and below the lower band are the name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO' and the year of issuance '2018'.

The reverse depicts a portrait of Ferdinand II set within a circular decorative band. In semicircle around the upper half of the design is the inscription 'KORUNOVÁCIA FERDINANDA II.' ('The coronation of Ferdinand II'), and in semicircle below the design is the inscription 'BRATISLAVA 1618', denoting the place and year of the coronation. On the left side is the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint (Mincovňa Kremnica), consisting of the letters 'MK' placed between two dies. On the right side are the stylised letters 'KL', the initials of the designer, Karol Ličko.



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Bratislava coronations

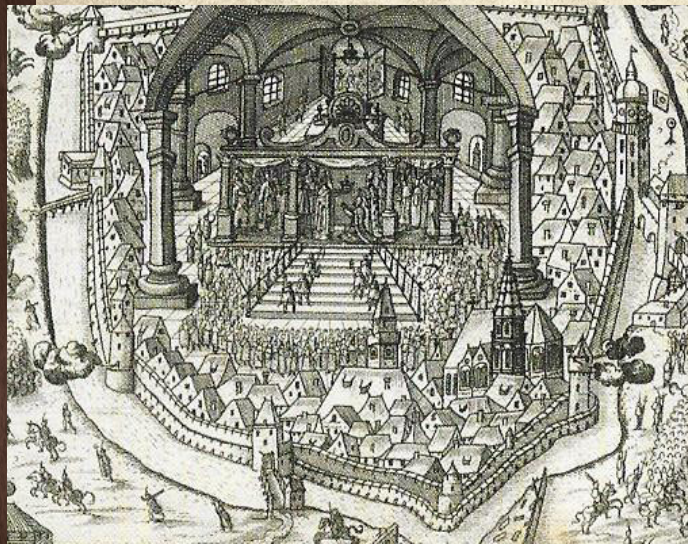
400th anniversary of the coronation of Ferdinand II

Gold collector coin

In 1536, with swathes of Hungarian territory under Ottoman occupation — including Buda, location of the royal residence, and Székesfehérvár, the traditional coronation city for Hungarian monarchs — Pressburg (now Bratislava) became the Kingdom of Hungary's new capital and coronation city. Between 1563 and 1830 a total of eleven Hungarian monarchs were crowned at St Martin's Church in Pressburg, now St Martin's Cathedral. The city's status spurred its development, which peaked during the reign of Maria Theresa in the 18th century. Even after Hungary had been liberated from Ottoman rule, Pressburg remained the Hungarian capital, with the largest population of any city in the country.

Ferdinand II, a member of the House of Habsburg, was the fourth Hungarian monarch to be crowned in Bratislava. The coronation took place on 1 July 1618. During the week before the event and the days immediately afterwards, Pressburg was the centre of not just the Hungarian Kingdom, but also the whole Habsburg Monarchy.

Illustration on a leaflet commemorating the coronation of Ferdinand II as Hungarian king.



▲ *St Martin's Cathedral in Bratislava.*

The aristocratic and ecclesiastical elites from all the Habsburg dominions converged on this Danubian capital. There were spectacular celebrations, processions and feasts that generated great enthusiasm among the local populace.



▲ *The Hungarian Crown Jewels from 1857.*

The centrepiece of the coronation ceremony itself was the Coronation Mass at present-day St Martin's Cathedral, after which the new king, wearing his crown and coronation attire, proceeded through the streets and performed further traditional ceremonial acts: knighting selected noblemen at the Franciscan Church of the Annunciation, taking the coronation oath, and presenting himself on top of the Coronation Mound next to the Danube River.



▲ *Ferdinand's wives: the first, Maria Anna of Bavaria, with whom he had seven children (left); and the second, Eleonora Gonzaga, princess of Mantua (right).*

Ferdinand II was one of the most significant figures in 17th century European history. Besides holding the Hungarian crown, he was also King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor. A devout Roman Catholic, Ferdinand played a major role in the re-Catholicisation of central Europe.



▲ *Engraving of Ferdinand II with past and present relatives.*