

Štúr received an excellent education in which knowledge intermingled with values spread by modern ideological movements. He sacrificed personal convenience in order to serve a greater ideal – the emancipation and freedom of his nation and creation of a more modern and just society. His life was dedicated to this vision and proved an inspiration for a new generation of educated Slovaks. Known as štúrovci (followers of Štúr), this outstanding group of people led the Slovak national movement at critical moments of European history, when ideas of freedom and justice vied with the social and national self-interestedness of ruling elites. This generation managed to disseminate Štúr's ideas to Slovak regions and to challenge Magyarisation ambitions. They gave Slovak national autonomy a strong impetus that would not be lost and would in fact become the basis for the modernisation and emancipation of Slovak society.



Uhrovec, the house where Ľudovít Štúr was born



Commemorative plaque on the wall of Fernolay's House in Bratislava



Ľudovít Štúr's grave in Modra

Coin details

Denomination: €10

Composition: Ag 900/1000

Cu 100/1000

Weight: 18 g

Diameter: 34 mm

Incuse edge inscription: VÝZNAMNÁ OSOBNOSŤ

SLOVENSKÉHO NÁRODA (Major figure of the Slovak nation)

Issuing volume: 10,000 coins (comprising brilliant uncirculated and proof coins)

Designer: Štefan Novotný

Engraver: Dalibor Schmidt

Producer: Mincovňa Kremnica / Kremnica Mint

The obverse side of the coin depicts Kriváň mountain, and below it a quotation of Štúr that typifies his character: "KTO ŽIJE DUCHOM, V TOM ŽIJE CELÝ SVET A ON V CELOM SVETE" (He who lives through his spirit lives in the whole world, and the world lives in him). The coat of arms of Slovakia is situated in the upper left of the design, and the name of the issuing country "SLOVENSKO" is inscribed at the top, along the edge. The year of issuance "2015" appears at the very bottom, and directly above it there is the denomination and currency "10 EURO". The mint mark of the Kremnica Mint is placed on the right side, below the quotation.

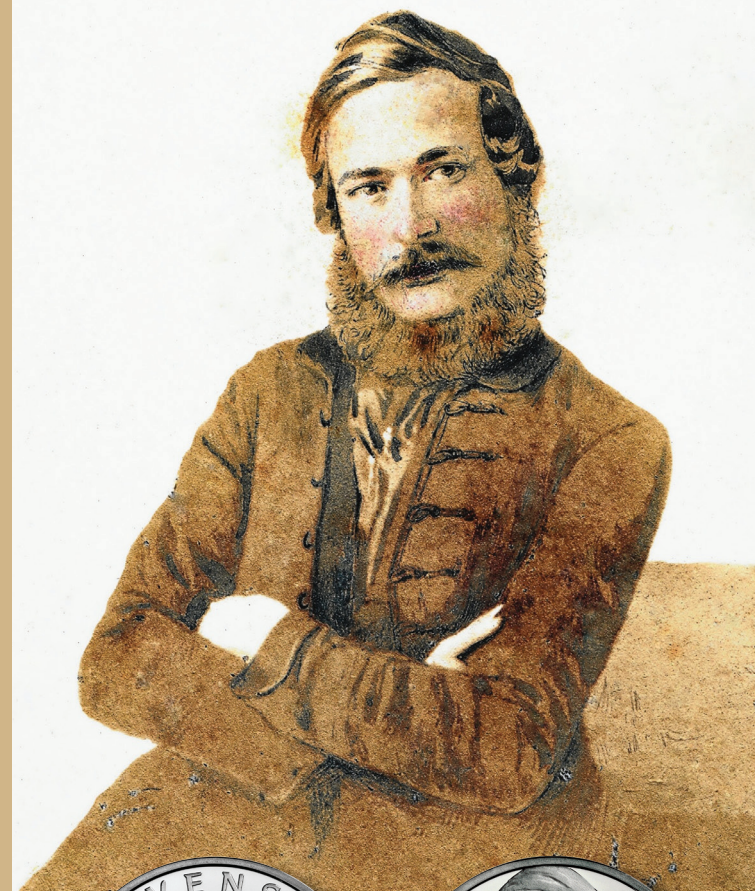
The reverse side shows a portrait of Ľudovít Štúr. It is set within a stylised tricolour on which is written part of the title of one of his works: "POTREBA PÍSANIA V TOMTO NÁREČÍ" (the necessity of writing in this language). Emerging from the right side of the tricolour is a sprig of lime blossom with a leaf. The inscription "1815 - ĽUDOVÍT ŠTÚR - 1856" runs along the bottom and right-hand edge of the design (the dates being those of Štúr's birth and death). On the left side, between two bands of the tricolour, is a stylised "N", denoting the initial letter of the surname of the designer (Štefan Novotný).



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Photo: Ľudovít Štúr Museum in Modra, Progress Promotion, Pavol Frešo, Digital Library and Digital Archives

<http://www.nbs.sk/en/banknotes-and-coins/euro-coins/collector-coins>



Ľudovít Štúr
200th Anniversary of the Birth
Silver Collector Coin

Ludovít Štúr was one of the most outstanding figures of Slovak national life, culture and politics in the 19th century.

■ He was born on 28 October 1815 in Uhrovec village and studied at Győr (Hungary), Bratislava, and the University of Halle in Germany (from 1838 to 1840). After his studies he taught at the Department of Czechoslovak Language and Literature at the Lutheran Lýceum college in Bratislava. After being forced to leave this post owing to his advocacy of Slovak autonomy, he became a publicist, and later editor and publisher, of Slovenskje národňje novini (Slovak National Newspaper). He lived in Modra village from 1851, and died there on 12 January 1856.

■ Štúr was a highly accomplished individual – a linguist, journalist, poet, literary critic, historian, ethnographer, aesthete, teacher, and politician. He made his mark as an inspirer, theoretician and organiser of Slovak social and political life. He was the principal codifier of the present Slovak language standard and published two primary linguistic works – Nárečja slovenskuo alebo potreba písanja v tomto nárečí (The Slovak language or the necessity of writing in this language) and Nauka reči slovenskej (The study of the Slovak language). These efforts resulted in an unprecedented flourishing of Slovak artistic literature, press, theatre, and historical works and laid the basis for the strengthening of Slovak national unity.

■ Štúr established a compelling strategy for an autonomous Slovak nation and set out how to promote it. His circle came up with initiatives to support the organisational foundations of the national movement (the Tatrín association, student associations, and regional educational associations). Štúr also led moves to bring together a Slovak intelligentsia that was divided along denominational lines. With the movement lacking political power and funds, Štúr



Ludovít Štúr at the Hungarian Diet by Gejza Szalay

Ludovít Štúr

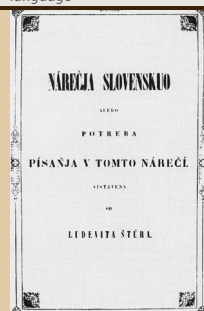
directed its efforts towards a bottom-up emancipation of the Slovak nation in the cultural and political spheres. This objective was also served by the first Slovak political newspaper, Slovenskje národňje novini, established and managed by Štúr, and by its supplement, Orol Tatránski (The Tatra Eagle). These publications became the main means of communication for the national movement. Just as Štúr had envisaged, the national movement started to gain ground among certain sections of the Slovak public, in particular the intelligentsia, lower middle class and smallholders – groups that Štúr saw as the heart of the modern Slovak nation.

■ From the beginning of the 1840s, Štúr added a political dimension to the national movement. He spoke out against the strategy of the Hungarian liberal-aristocratic opposition, which sought to transform Hungary from a multi-ethnic state to a Hungarian national state. Rather he advocated the principle of equal rights and freedom for the different national groups within Hungary. He became the leading figure in the shaping of Slovak national policy, and in 1842 he initiated a Slovak petition to the emperor. This was the first direct approach made by Slovaks to the emperor. Through this political programme he showed himself to be a humanist, democrat and

social reformer. Insofar as was feasible, he adapted modern ideas of West-European society to Slovak circumstances and conditions. Putting forward a vision of Slovak society based on people's equality before the law, he called for the removal of the privileges of the landed classes, the abolition of serfdom, the recognition of civil rights for unprivileged sections of the population, judicial reform, improvements in education, and modernisation of the economy. He also demanded Slovak education, the use of the Slovak language in lower levels of the bureaucracy, and an end to threat of Magyarisation. After becoming a deputy in the Hungarian Diet, he presented his programme to the Diet in late 1847 and early 1848. He was thus the first deputy to advocate the recognition of national rights for Slovaks.

■ During the 1848/49 Revolution, Štúr together with Jozef Miloslav Hurban led the political and military fight for recognition of Slovak rights. Štúr co-authored the official petition Žiadostí slovenského národa (Requirements of the Slovak Nation), which included demands for electoral reforms and Slovak autonomy within Hungary. On 19 September 1848, acting on behalf of the newly established Slovak National Council (SNC), Štúr declared Slovaks' independence from the Hungarian government. Throughout 1849 he campaigned for Slovak statehood – in the form of a crown region directly subject to the central authorities in Vienna. After the revolution he was prohibited from speaking in public. His disappointment at this turn of events led to a shift in his geopolitical views, with his strong Slavic identity taking the new shape of political pan-Slavism. Instead of linking the future of Slavs and Slovaks with Hungary and the Habsburg Monarchy, he proposed state relations with Russia, providing that reforms were undertaken in that country.

The Slovak language or the necessity of writing in this language



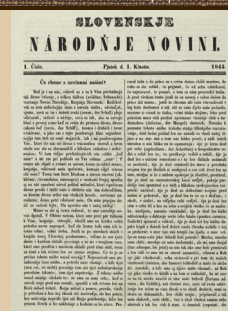
Members of the Slovak delegation to the emperor in 1849. Ludovít Štúr is in the second row, third from right.



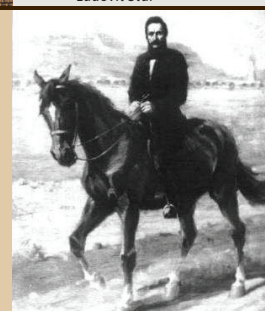
Announcement of the convening of the Slav Congress



Slovak National Newspaper



Ludovít Štúr



The first issue of Orol Tatránski, published on 8 August 1845



The work entitled "Songs and tales of the Slovak peoples"

