



The Basilica of Saint Clement in Rome



The tomb of St Cyril

Constantine and Methodius introduced this strategy to Great Moravia, knowing that a nation's stature was determined by its culture, and primarily by education. Papal approval of the Slavonic books and liturgy in 868 was the highest recognition that the Thessalonian brothers' work could receive in Christian Europe at that time.



A fresco in the Basilica of Saint Clement, Rome, depicting Saints Cyril and Methodius bringing the relics of Pope Saint Clement to Rome

Coin details

Denomination: €10

Composition: 900 silver, 100 copper

Weight: 18 g

Diameter: 34 mm

Incuse edge lettering:

• Konštantín a Metod • pápež Hadrián II. • Rím

(• Constantine and Methodius • Pope Adrian II • Rome)

Issuing volume: limited to a maximum of 11,000 coins

in either brilliant uncirculated or proof quality

Designer: Roman Lugár

Engraver: Dalibor Schmidt

Producer: Mincovňa Kremnica

The coin's obverse design, symbolising the beginnings of Christianity in what is now Slovakia, shows an image from a plaquette found in an archaeological excavation at Bojná in western Slovakia. This is superimposed on a Greek cross, the arms of which are visible between the image and the coin edges and are filled with letters from the Glagolitic alphabet. Slovakia's coat of arms appears in the lower left, above year of issuance '2018'. Next to the lower-right edge of the design, in semi-circle, is the name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO'. At the top, across the upper arm of the cross, is the coin's denomination and currency '10 EURO'. At the bottom, to the left of the lower arm of the cross, are the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint (consisting of the initials 'MK' between two dies) and the stylised letters 'RL', the initials of the coin's designer, Roman Lugár.

The reverse depicts Cyril and Methodius below the arms of a crucifix. These elements are set against a circle in which Glagolitic letters are interspersed. In semi-circle along the edge of the design, from the lower left to the lower right, is the inscription 'UZNANIE SLOVANSKÉHO LITURGICKÉHO JAZYKA' ('Recognition of the Slavonic liturgical language'). The year '868' appears at the bottom, below the crucifix.



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

НА СЛАВЯНСКИТЕ ПЪРВОУЧНА ТСАИ
ЮТ ПРИЗНАТЕЛНИИ БЪГАРСКИ НАРОД



1150th anniversary of the recognition of the Slavonic liturgical language

Silver collector coin

One of the most significant events in the history of what is now Slovakia occurred in 863, when two Thessalonian brothers—Constantine (later named Cyril) and Methodius—arrived at the court of the Great Moravian ruler, Prince Rastislav. Through their evangelical, organisational and cultural activities in this territory, the brothers were instrumental in the spread and strengthening of Christianity, in the advancement of Slavic culture, in the establishment of an independent Slavic ecclesiastical province, and in the national development of Great Moravia.

After failing to persuade the pope to send a bishop and teacher to his realm, Prince Rastislav had petitioned the Byzantine emperor Michael III, who responded by sending Constantine and Methodius on a mission to Great Moravia. The brothers taught and wrote in the Slavonic language (using the Glagolitic script devised by Constantine for this purpose); they translated books into that language and introduced the Slavonic liturgy. In 867, at the invitation of Pope Nicholas I, Constantine and Methodius set off for Rome to seek official recognition of their work, the establishment of an independent ecclesiastical province in Great Moravia, and the ordination of their disciples as priests. They also brought with them the precious relics of Pope Saint Clement I. En route they stopped at Venice, where Constantine defended the Slavonic liturgy before senior clergy who insisted that only the three canonical languages—Latin, Greek and Hebrew—could be used for the liturgy.

Pope Nicholas died on 18 November 867 and his successor Pope Adrian II was elected on 14 December 867. In February or March 868 Pope Adrian received and blessed the liturgical books translated by Constantine and Methodius, ordained Methodius to the priesthood, and had Italian bishops Formosus and Gauderich ordain several disciples of Constantine and Methodius as priests and deacons. On that day and the days that followed, the papally approved Slavonic liturgy was heard in several Roman churches.



The baptism of Prince Rastislav depicted on a mural in the Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Thessaloniki, Greece

While in Rome, Constantine fell ill and joined a monastery, where he adopted the name Cyril and died shortly afterwards, on 14 February 869. That same year, Pope Adrian made Methodius papal legate to Great Moravia and Pannonia. In the letter "Gloria in excelsis Deo", sent to princes Rastislav, Svätopluk and Kocel, the pontiff confirmed his approval of the Slavonic liturgy. At the end of 869 he made Methodius an archbishop.

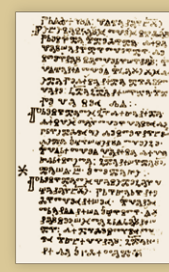
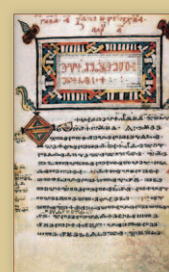
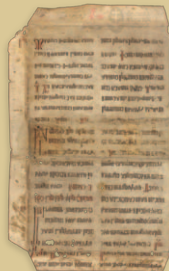
Great Moravia had by this time attained a high level of civilisation and its cultural life was blossoming. In line with the Thessalonian brothers' intention, supported by Prince Rastislav, Slavonic writing, education and Christianity—and accompanying political influence—was spread to other Slavic peoples by members of the first Slavic intelligentsia educated by the brothers. Great Moravia was an example for the whole Slavic world.



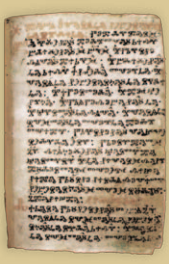
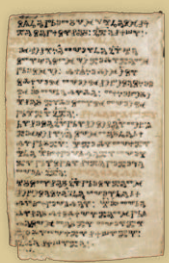
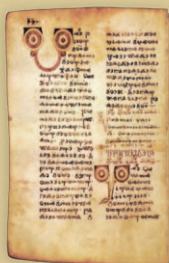
Since the beginning of the 9th century, the great European powers of the time—the Byzantine and Frankish empires—had been using civilisational and cultural predominance, along with the spreading of Christianity, to achieve power objectives vis-à-vis their neighbours. The Byzantine Empire in particular developed and systematically applied a power strategy based on cultural pre-eminence. The Moravians began to adopt this strategy during the reign of Prince Rastislav thanks to the Byzantine mission. In a letter that Constantine and Methodius brought with them in 863, the Byzantine emperor Michael III wrote the following to Rastislav: "God... has revealed books for your nation...", so that you also may be numbered among the great nations which render glory to God in their own language". To belong „among the great nations“ by virtue of education and civilisational strength: that was the Byzantine strategy.

Pope Nicholas I

Byzantine emperor Michael III



Contemporary documents written in Glagolitic



Contemporary documents written in Glagolitic

Prince Rastislav

„Gloria in excelsis Deo“

