

Protestant church, Hronsek



The people of each region, but especially of the isolated and forested areas, took a specific approach to the processing and use of wood and at the same time applied their own distinctive forms of artistic expression. Thus, each wooden church reflects a specific historical period and a particular quality of human craft, skill, local tradition, and aesthetics. The presence of several wooden Christian churches of such value and diversity (yet sharing a single common *raison d'être*) provides the best record of the variety and also fragility of this precious central European phenomenon.



Protestant church, Leštiny

Coin data

Nominal value: **100 euro**

Material: **Au 900/1000**

**Ag 75/1000**

**Cu 25/1000**

Weight: **9,5 g**

Diameter: **26 mm**

Edge: milled

Mintage: limited quantity of maximum **7,000 pcs** in proof quality

Designer: **PhDr. Kliment Mitura**

Engraver: **Dalibor Schmidt**

Producer: **Kremnica Mint**

The obverse of the coin depicts three wooden churches in the Slovak part of the Carpathian Mountain Area which are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Church of St Francis of Assisi in Hervartov is shown on the left of the design, the belfry of the church in Hronsek is in the centre, and the Church of St Nicholas in Bodružal is on the right. Below them is the national emblem of the Slovak Republic, set above the name of the country, **SLOVENSKO**. The year 2010 appears to the right, below the depicted composition of churches.

On the reverse of the coin, the central motif is the Late Baroque altar of All Saints Church in Tvrdošín with the denomination – 100 EURO – appearing below it. In the lower part of the design is the inscription **SVETOVÉ KULTÚRNE DEDIČSTVO · DREVENÉ CHRÁMY** (World Cultural Heritage – wooden churches). The mint mark of the Kremnica Mint, **MK**, is positioned to the left of the altar, while the stylised initials **KM**, representing the first and last names of the coin's designer, PhDr. Kliment Mitura, are on the right of the altar.



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Photo: Bedrich Schreiber, Alexander Jiroušek

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



**UNESCO World Heritage  
Wooden churches of the  
Slovak part of the  
Carpathian Mountain Area  
Gold Collector Coin**



All Saints Roman Catholic Church, Tvrdošín



Greek Catholic Church of St Nicholas, Bodružal



Greek Catholic Church of St Michael the Archangel, Ladomirová



Wooden churches appear at first glance to be plain buildings, reflecting not only the unusual beauty of wooden religious architecture and the creativity of their builders, but above all the deep-felt faith and feelings of simple believers who, over centuries, willingly devoted themselves to the life and preservation of these places of worship. This also explains why, in 2008, UNESCO included eight of these churches in its World Heritage List. Following a demanding assessment process, this privilege was conferred on two Roman Catholic churches (Saint Francis of Assisi in Hervartov and All Saints Church in Tvrdošín), three Protestant churches (in Kežmarok, Leštiny and Hronsek), and three Greek Catholic churches (the Church of St Nicholas in Bodružal, the Church of St Michael the Archangel in Ladomirová and the Church of St Nicholas the Bishop in Ruská Bystrá).

The selected churches of three Christian denominations stand as an example of the diversity of wooden religious architecture in the territory of Slovakia. They reflect unique architectural and building traditions in the West Carpathian mountain range – traditions which are still alive today and relate to the area's multi-ethnic and multi-denominational composition.

The Roman Catholic churches in Hervartov and Tvrdošín are examples of Gothicised wooden churches. They were built in the 15th and 16th centuries, by when Christianity had become widely spread across that territory. The master carpenters who built these churches were inspired by many patterns and ideas from Gothic architecture and applied them in a simplified form.

The Protestant churches in Kežmarok, Leštiny and Hronsek reflect the political climates in which they were erected and

the building restrictions of the period. They date back to the beginning of the 18th century and represent unique examples of the art of Protestant religious architecture. Their architecture gradually took on a „pulpit-style“ form, where the ground plan is based on a number of galleries around a central pulpit.

The Greek Catholic churches, so called „cerkvi“, in Bodružal, Ladomirová and Ruská Bystrá were built in the 18th century. They are outstanding in showing how the wooden architecture of the East was influenced by Western architectural culture. Typical features are the tripartition of their structure and their dominating onion-domed steeples. A particularly fascinating feature of the interior is the iconostasis – a high, richly-carved wooden screen that is covered with painted icons placed in accordance with liturgical rules.



Roman Catholic Church of Saint Francis of Assisi, Hervartov



Protestant church, Kežmarok



Greek Catholic Church of St Nicholas the Bishop, Ruská Bystrá