

## RESULTS OF THE COMPETITION FOR THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SLOVAK COMMEMORATIVE COIN

*In December 2002, the National Bank of Slovakia declared a competition to find the most beautiful Slovak commemorative coin from the period 1993 – 2002 on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of its origin. The 44 commemorative coins issued by the National Bank of Slovakia during the ten years of its activity were included in the competition. The aim of the competition was to present Slovak numismatic art, obtain information about the evaluation of commemorative coins on the part of the expert public, increase the interest from collectors and positively influence sales, as well as to motivate artists to produce further creative designs for commemorative coins.*

The competition was organized by means of correspondence. Selected employees of the NBS, members of the advisory bodies of the NBS – the Commission for assessing designs for Slovak coins the Commission for Selection of Themes for Slovak Banknotes, Coins and Commemorative Coins, domestic and foreign customers dealing in commemorative coins, publishers of numismatic literature, artists or designers of coins, representatives of the Kremnica Mint, selected museums, galleries and the mass media participated in the voting process. They evaluated the commemorative coins on the basis of the distributed publication „Slovenské pamätné mince 1993 – 2002“ (Slovak Commemorative Coins 1993 – 2002). Of the total number of 339 respondents, 198 sent voting papers to the NBS, but 7 were invalid because they were incorrect or incomplete. It is positive that various respondents also expressed views highly evaluating the level of Slovak commemorative coins, as well as their thematic orientation and stated that selecting only three of the most beautiful from the total was a very difficult task. It is an appreciation of the high quality work of the artists or designers of commemorative coins, the work of the experts at the Kremnica Mint, which produces all Slovak coins, as well as the activity of the National Bank of Slovakia in this area. The order of the ten most beautiful Slovak coins, as decided by the voting, is given in the table.

The first rank in the competition went to the commemorative coin with three metals (silver, gold, platinum) on one side and a face value of 5,000 Sk issued for the beginning of the third millennium. It was designed by Mgr. art. Patrik Kovačovský, who designed a total of 11 commemorative coins during the ten year period. The coin clearly attracted the evaluators, not only with its untraditional shape and unconventional use of three metals on its obverse, but also by its rich conceptual message, which the artist successfully depicted.

The coins in second and third place were both designed by Ing. Milan Virčík. He designed a total of eight commemorative coins, and four of them are placed among the ten most successful in the competition. Second place went to the silver 500 Sk coin commemorating the 500th anniversary of the striking of the first taler coins at Kremnica. The

third is the silver 500 Sk coins commemorating the 250th anniversary of the death of Samuel Mikovíni.

The results of the competition among individual groups of voters are also interesting. The winning three-metal coin for the beginning of the third millennium was considered the most beautiful by the employees of the National Bank of Slovakia, commercial banks, members of the Commission for assessing designs for Slovak coins and representatives of the media. The representatives of the Slovak Numismatic Society and the Kremnica Mint preferred the silver coin with the motif of the striking of the first talers at Kremnica, while the designers of commemorative coins gave first place to the coin celebrating the centenary of the birth of Ján Smrek, which came fourth in the competition. The members of the Commission for Selection of the Themes of Slovak Banknotes, Coins and Commemorative Coins considered the coin commemorating Samuel Mikovíni to be best.

The National Bank of Slovakia also held a competition for the most beautiful Slovak commemorative coin in 1997 on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of its origin, and included 22 commemorative coins issued in the period 1993 – 1997. In this competition, first place went to the commemorative silver coin with the theme UNESCO world heritage and the motif of Banská Štiavnica designed by Ing. Milan Virčík, while the silver coin commemorating the year for the protection of European nature by Miroslav Ronai came second, and the commemorative silver coin with the theme of the protection of nature and the landscape and the motif of the Slovenský Raj National Park by sculptor Imrich Svitana was third. It is surprising that not one of these coins succeeded in the competition for the most beautiful coin from 1993 – 2002. Miroslav Ronai's coin for the year for protection of European nature, which came seventh, achieved the best position.

The designers of the first three commemorative coins will be awarded prizes at the ceremonial opening of an exhibition of the Slovak currency in the period 1993 – 2003. The exhibition will be held to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the National Bank of Slovakia and the Slovak currency. The National Bank of Slovakia is preparing to open the exhibition in its premises in the second half of March 2003.

**Ing. Dagmar Flaché, Photography: M. Červeňanský**

The Order of the Ten Most Beautiful Slovak Commemorative Coins Issued in the Period 1993 – 2002

1. Commemorative coin for the beginning of the third millennium with three metals on one side. Nominal value: 5,000 Sk. Designer: Mgr. Art. Patrik Kovačovský



2. Commemorative silver coin for the 500th anniversary of the beginning of striking of taler coins at Kremnica. Nominal value: 500 Sk. Designer: Ing. Milan Virčík



3. Commemorative silver coin for the 250th anniversary of the death of Samuel Mikovíni. Nominal value: 500 Sk. Designer: Ing. Milan Virčík



4. Commemorative silver coin for the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ján Smrek. Nominal value: 200 Sk. Designer: Mária Poldaufová



5. Commemorative silver coin – Tatry National Park. Nominal value: 500 Sk. Designer: Ing. Milan Virčík



6. Commemorative silver coin for the jubilee year 2000. Nominal value: 2000 Sk. Designer: Štefan Novotný



7. Commemorative silver coin – Year for the protection of European nature. Nominal value: 200 Sk. Designer: Miroslav Ronai



8. Commemorative gold coin for the 500th anniversary of the striking of the first taler coins at Kremnica. Nominal value: 5,000 Sk. Designer: Ján Černaj



9. Commemorative gold coin – UNESCO world heritage, Vikolínec – folk architecture reserve. Nominal value: 5,000 Sk. Designer: Mária Poldaufová



10. Commemorative silver coin for the 150th anniversary of the coming of the first steam locomotive to Slovakia. Nominal value: 200 Sk. Designer: Ing. Milan Virčík

