

NÁRODNÁ BANKA SLOVENSKA

THE BRATISLAVA CORONATIONS THE 350th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CORONATION OF LEOPOLD I

COMMEMORATIVE GOLD COIN

Coronation insignia

The royal crown

The sceptre

The orb

St. Stephen's cloak and sword

The mounted herald – a medieval town crier, who was present at every coronation, is depicted on the obverse, together with the Bratislava castle and the coronation cathedral of St. Martin's. The name of the state, SLOVENSKÁ REPUBLIKA, is placed near the upper edge of the coin. 2005, the year of the mintage, is located between the castle and the cathedral.

The national state shield and the nominal value are to the right of the herald. KL, the stylized initials of Karol Ličko, the designer of the obverse, and MK, the trademark of the Kremnica mint, are located under the herald's cloak near the bottom edge of the coin.

The portrait of Leopold I with the Hungarian royal crown in the front are depicted on the reverse. The inscription KORUNOVÁCIA LEOPOLDA I (The Coronation of Leopold I) is located near the upper edge. BRATISLAVA, the present name of the coronation city of Hungarian kings, and 1655, the year of the coronation, are placed in the bottom section. MG, the stylized initials of Michal Gavula, the academic sculptor and the designer of the reverse, are located under the royal crown near the bottom edge.

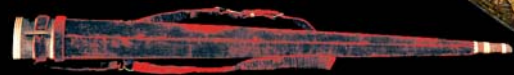
Nominal value: 5000 Sk
Material: Au 900, Ag 75, Cu 25
Weight: 9.5 g
Diameter: 26 mm
Edge: milled

Number of pieces minted – limited quantity: 7,500 proof

Designers: Karol Ličko, the obverse
Michal Gavula, the reverse

Engravers: Jozef Brtko, Dalibor Schmidt

Producer: Mincovňa Kremnica





Leopold I.

In the first third of the 16th century, Hungary was threatened by the plundering raids of the Turks who defeated the Christian army at the battle of Mohacs in 1526, where Luis II, the Hungarian and Czech king, also died. This opened the way into the Hungarian lowland and the Turks pushed further inland. After the Turkish occupation of the capital Buda, the Hungarian Parliament decided in 1536 that

Pressburg (Bratislava nowadays) would become the capital and coronation city. And so Bratislava became the new parliamentary city of the country, the coronation city of Hungarian kings and the seat of the king and the most significant institutions of the country. However, the ruler of the entire multinational Habsburg Empire, which was a broad conglomerate of various countries connected only through his person, permanently resided in nearby Vienna.

The Gothic St. Martin's Cathedral became the coronation church. From 1563 to 1830, a total of 11 rulers and 8 royal wives were crowned with St. Stephen's Crown there.

Succession to the throne was not automatic in the Hungarian kingdom until the 17th century. If a king wanted to ensure the throne and crown for his son after his death, he had to convince the Hungarian Parliament that he was the most suitable candidate and have his son crowned as soon as possible after the Parliament's agreement. And so Hungary frequently had two kings at the same time.

Ferdinand III ensured the crown for his firstborn son, Ferdinand IV, in 1646. However, he died in 1654 and never

ruled. That is why the King summoned the Coronation Diet who agreed with the coronation of his



A herald with the Hungarian coat of arms

Nineteen coronations took place in St. Martin's cathedral between 1563 and 1830



Coronation festivities in the streets of present-day Bratislava



younger son Leopold I, when he was barely 15 years old. He was crowned on June 27, 1655 at St. Martin's Cathedral. The coronation took place during a ceremonial mass, in which more than 5,000 aristocrats and church dignitaries participated. After the traditional ceremony at the church, the young king presented himself with the crown on his head to the spectators waiting for him on the city streets. Followed by a procession of dignitaries, he walked from the Cathedral to the Main Square. At the Church of the Franciscan Monastery he dubbed selected aristocrats as knights of the Order of the Golden Spur. On the wide open space before the city walls where he passed through St. Michael's Gate, the newly



absolutist rule, strong re-catholicisation and the high tax burden. These uprisings included the Wesselényi Conspiracy and the Kuruc Uprising led by Gašpar Pika, Imre Tököly and Francis II Rákóczi. In addition, the King had to face the Turkish threat. Finally the Turks were defeated in this war, first in 1683 near Vienna and in subsequent years in Hungary. The victory near Szent in 1697 led to the decisive defeat of the Ottoman Empire and represented the end of Turkish domination in Hungary.

The Habsburg monarchy, which until that point was just a free union of Central European countries, took on a firm foundation and became a leading European power.



crowned king publicly swore an oath in Latin which was read for him by the Archbishop. He then rode his horse to a coronation hill made near the Danube. By flourishing his sword in all directions the mounted king demonstrated that he was ready to fight for and protect the kingdom in every direction.

Leopold I ascended to the throne after his father's death in 1657 and remained there till his own death in 1705. His reign was marked by the ongoing anti-Habsburg uprising caused especially by the dissatisfaction of the Hungarian nobility and inhabitants with the politics of the Vienna Royal Court, scant progress in the advance against the Turks, the introduction of