

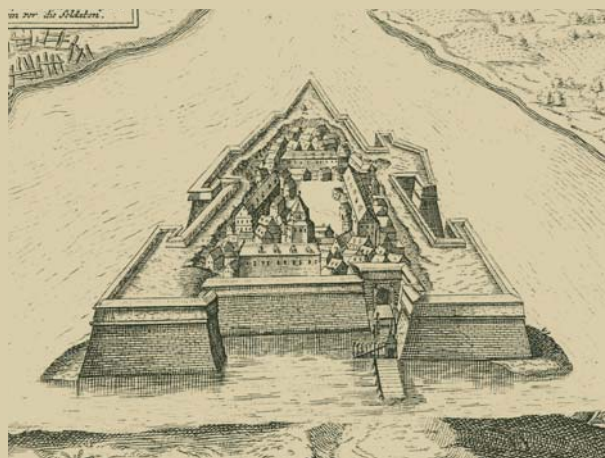


The Old Fortress at the confluence of the Danube and the Váh

NÁRODNÁ BANKA SLOVENSKA

*The Old Fortress at Komárno is depicted with two warships in front of it, on the upper part of the obverse of the coin.
The name of the state SLOVENSKÁ REPUBLIKA is placed on the lower margin with the state shield and the date 2007.
The nominal value of the coin – 500 Sk – is above the fortress.
The stylized initials of the designer of the coin Karol Ličko are placed to the right below one of the ships.*

*On the reverse of the coin, the Old Fortress depicted according to a 16th century engraving is placed in the upper part with the date of its completion: 1557. In the lower part is a fragment of a scene from the wars against the Turks with the flags and spears on both sides.
On the upper margin is the text PEVNOST' KOMARNO (Fortress of Komárno). The stylized initials of the designer of the reverse Mária Poldaufová and the Kremnica Mint mintmark are placed to the left of the depiction of the fortress.*



Nominal value: 500 Sk

Material: Ag 925/1000

Cu 75/1000

Weight: 33.63 g

Diameter: 40 mm

Edge: relief inscription **NEC ARTE NEC MARTE**
(Neither by lies nor by force) and **COMORRA** (Komárno).
The parts of the inscription are divided by crossed swords

Number of pieces minted: 7,200

Of which: 4,600 standard

2,600 proof

Designer: obverse: Karol Ličko

reverse: Mária Poldaufová

Engraver: Dalibor Schmidt

Producer: Kremnica Mint

THE 450th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE OLD FORTRESS AT KOMÁRNO

COMMEMORATIVE SILVER COIN





Komárno, the centre of the southernmost district in Slovakia, is situated at the confluence of the Danube and the Váh Rivers. The town originated in the early Middle Ages and is one of the oldest in Slovakia. It has a rich history, cultural traditions and important cultural monuments, among which its fortifications have a dominant position.

After the defeat at Mohács in 1526, the siege of Vienna in 1529 and especially after the occupation of Buda by the Turks in 1541, the Habsburg court was forced to improve and modernize the fortifications. Southern and south-eastern Slovakia formed an important part of the frontier with the Ottoman Empire. The high costs necessary for defence of this frontier were not borne by the Kingdom of Hungary alone, but also by taxes from the Kingdom of Bohemia and the Austrian lands and by assistance from the lands of the Holy Roman Empire.

The first fortress with bastions in Central Europe was built in the 16th century on the site of the medieval castle of Komárno, an important strategic position and crossing point of the trade routes along the rivers Danube, Váh, Nitra and Žitava. This fortress played an important historic role from the point of view of the wider region. For a quarter of a millennium, the so-called Old Fortress became the decisive centre for the defence of the middle Danube against the Turks. The Emperor Ferdinand I probably entrusted the design of the Komárno fortress to the important Italian architect Pietro Ferrabosco, who planned a bastion system with many angles. The architects Testa, Castaldo and Decius are also regarded as planners of the Komárno fortress. The construction of the Renaissance anti-Turkish fortress was started in 1546 under the direction of Italian architects and completed in 1557. In the 17th century the Emperor Leopold added



Even the Turks did not succeed in capturing the fortress in Komárno

the New Fortress and bridgeheads beyond the rivers Danube and Váh. In the 19th century, this fortress formed the basis for the construction of an extensive defensive system, which eventually consisted of the central fortress, four detached fortresses and several kilometres of defensive lines. This complex of fortifications became the strongest fortress in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. From the point of view of Slovakia, the whole modern fortress system of Komárno, today a national cultural monument, is an important cultural heritage with well preserved architectural elements.

We find monuments of comparable character with bastioned fortifications from the 16th to 19th centuries

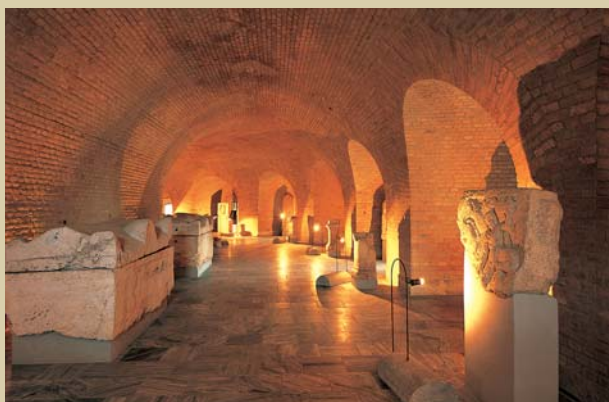
at various places in the world. They are concentrated in the European countries, but also occur at various places on the Atlantic coast of America. However, the uniqueness of the Komárno fortification lies in the following:

- In the size of the complex, which was capable of holding an army of 200,000 men and was the greatest fortress of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy;
- The fortress was never captured, either in the Turkish wars of the 16th and 17th centuries or in the revolutionary years of the 19th century;
- In the concentration of various developmental stages of bastioned fortresses from the early Italian type to the later Prussian type, in their monumentality and architectural and technical design of the buildings.



The town of Komárno in 1597

The fortress system of Komárno is a unique work of art with an architectural and historical value extending beyond the frontiers of Slovakia and ranks among the most important fortresses of its type in the world.



The Ferdinand Gate of the Old Fortress

Bastion VI and the view at the exhibition of Roman artefacts inside the bastion