

foundation member of Matica slovenská (Slovak Heritage), a member of the Hungarian Science Association in Budapest, the Zoological-Botanical Association in Vienna, the National Museum Society in Olomouc, the Ethnographic Association of the Ethnographic Museum in Prague, and the International Correspondence Association). The oldest building of the Slovak National Museum in Martin and many streets and squares were named after him.

Sitno Hill in Štiavnické vrchy hills

Coin data:

Nominal value: **Sk200**

Material: **Ag 900/1000, Cu 100/1000**

Weight: **18 g**

Diameter: **34 mm**

Edge: Inscription – **POZNÁVAJME KRAJE SVOJE**

A POZNÁME SAMÝCH SEBA (Know your region and you will know yourself)

Number of pieces minted: limited quantity: **8,500**

Designer: **Štefan Novotný**

Engraver: **Dalibor Schmidt**

Producer: **Kremnica Mint**

*On the obverse of the coin, a stylized M-shaped memorial representing the Museum and the Slovak Museum Association is depicted. It encompasses the attributes of Museum collecting activities. Gothic architectural elements represent the extraordinary value of the cultural heritage looking to the distant past; a clock is the symbol of passing time; and a chalet and old cemetery cross represent village architecture. The name of the state, **SLOVENSKÁ REPUBLIKA**, is near the upper edge of the coin and below it is the state's coat of arms. The nominal value of **200 Sk** is in the bottom part of the coin field. The year of issue, **2008**, is placed at the right bottom edge of the coin and below is the initial of the surname of the designer Štefan Novotný, **N**, and the mintmark of the Kremnica Mint.*

*On the reverse, in the middle of the coin field is a portrait of Andrej Kmeť, supplemented with the fragments of objects from his collecting activity in the right part. At the left edge is his name and surname, **ANDREJ KMEŤ**, and at the left edge are the years of his birth and death, **1841–1908**.*

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The exhibits are from the Slovak National Museum in Martin

Photo: Filip Lašut

Further information on NBS commemorative coins can be found at:

[www.nbs.sk/Slovak Currency/Slovak Commemorative Coins](http://www.nbs.sk/Slovak%20Currency/Slovak%20Commemorative%20Coins)

The 100th Anniversary of the Death
of ANDREJ KMEŤ
SILVER COMMEMORATIVE COIN



Archaeological findings from Beša





Andrej Kmeť was a Roman Catholic priest, museologist, founder of the Slovak National Museum, botanist, archaeologist, ethnographer, translator, religious writer, and organiser of scientific and cultural life. In the national history, he is referred to as one of the last polyhistorians.

He was born on 19 November 1841 in Bzenica. After completing elementary school and grammar school, he studied theology in Esztergom (1861–1865). On 8 March 1865, he was ordained as a priest. He worked as a curate in Senohrad (1865–1868), and as a priest in Krnišov (1868–1878) and Prenčov (1878–1906). He retired in 1906, and lived in Turčiansky Sv. Martin. He died on 16 February 1908 and was buried in the National Cemetery in Martin.

Andrej Kmeť is acknowledged as the founder of the Slovak National Museum, as well as the originator and initiator of the Slovak Museum Association (1893), the main programme of which was the preservation of artefacts of the Slovak history. As the first and life Chairman of the Association, he pursued its collecting programme. His own collection of archaeological findings, artefacts of folk culture and history, and objects of animate and inanimate nature became the basis of the collections of the first national museum of the Slovaks. It was thanks



Andrej Kmeť Museum in Martin

to him that the foundations of the first building of the Slovak National Museum were laid in Turčiansky Sv. Martin (1906–1907). He was the first and the largest donor to the Museum. The geological collection was among the first donations. Up till now the most famous exhibit has been the mammoth skeleton from Beša, or a still unrivalled herbarium containing about 77,900 specimens and 1,773 seeds. The artistic and historic collections, numismatic and ethnographic collections and artefact books belonged also to Kmeť's "miscellaneous", as he called his collections.

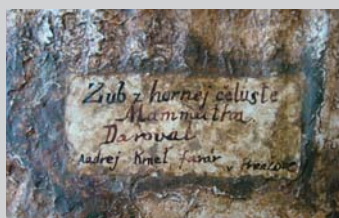
He also devoted himself to a public enlightenment, he translated, wrote articles focused on the modernisation of agriculture; he founded a school garden nursery

in Senohrad, a fruit-growing society in Krupina and a reading society in Krnišov. Moreover, he was one of the first professional evaluators and popularizers of folk art, by promotion of which he tried to help its creators. Also thanks to him, e.g. the embroideries of the Hont Region were presented at the World Exhibition in Vienna in 1891 and at the Ethnographic Exhibition in Prague in 1895.

He is the author of many popularisation articles and specialist studies; he wrote several books as well. To the most famous ones belongs his *Hospodár na Slovensku* (House-Keeper in Slovakia), published in 1875, or still unrivalled *Veleba Sitna* (The Magnificent Beauty of Sitno Hill), 1893. He stood at the cradle of the Year-Book and the Magazine of the Slovak Museum Association, and he was their active contributor.

However, his great love was the nature. He explored the flora of the Hont Region, the Štiavnické vrchy Hills, and especially he devoted himself to the study of roses. Foreign scientists drew on his herbarium specimens, and many of them are placed in a number of collections around the world. Various plants and fungi carry his name: 9 species of macromycetes, 1 moss, 5 higher plants (e.g. *Rosa Kmetiana*–*Rosa Kmetiana* Barb.). The results of this work allowed him to penetrate the pragmatic world of science; he is considered to be one of Slovak and also European scientific experts.

During his life he became a member of a number of scientific associations at home and abroad (the



Tooth of mammoth



Exhibits of the A. Kmeť Museum



A herbarium specimen



Exhibits from the geological collections



Memorial at the presbytery in Prenčov