

Obverse

The obverse features a raven in the lower part of the coin field, its head turned towards storm clouds in the upper right. Rain pours from the clouds onto a tall cross positioned on the right. Inscribed along the left and upper edge are the name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO' and, after a dot, the coin's denomination '10' and currency 'EURO', set apart from the central motif by a curved line. Above the raven is a facsimile of Ivan Krasko's real name – Ján Botto. To the right of the cross are the year of issuance '2026' and the Slovak coat of arms, one above the other. To the right of the raven is the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint (Mincovňa Kremnica), and the stylised initials 'PV' of the coin's designer, Peter Valach.

Reverse

The reverse shows a portrait of Ivan Krasko. To the lower right of the portrait are the year of birth '1876' and the year of death '1958', one above the other. The portrait divides the inscription of the forename 'IVAN' on the left edge and the surname 'KRASKO' on the right edge, each partly bordered by a curved line.

The house in Lukovištia where Ivan Krasko was born, as it looked in 1976 (photo: Filip Lašut, courtesy of Matica slovenská)

Coin details

Denomination	€10
Composition:	.900 silver, .100 copper
Weight:	18 g
Diameter:	34 mm
Edge:	• ZAKLADATEĽ MODERNEJ SLOVENSKEJ LYRIKY 20. STOROČIA (Founder of modern Slovak lyric poetry of the 20th century)
Issuing volume:	limited to a maximum of 11,000 coins in either brilliant uncirculated or proof quality
Designer:	Peter Valach
Engraver:	Jakub Morávek
Producer:	Kremnica Mint (Slovakia)



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SLOVENSKA
EUROSYSTÉM

Published by Národná banka Slovenska, July 2026

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Photographs courtesy of the Literary Archives
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150th anniversary
of the birth of
Ivan Krasko

SILVER COLLECTOR EURO COIN

Ivan Krasko (real name Ján Botto, 1876–1958) is among the most important Slovak poets. His two slim poetry collections *Nox et solitudo* (Night and loneliness, 1909) and *Verše* (Verses, 1912) marked a turning point in the development of Slovak poetry in the 20th century.

He was born on 12 July 1876 in the village of Lukovištia near Rimavská Sobota, in the Gemer region. To avoid the pressure of Magyarisation in Hungarian schools, he left for what is now Romania to pursue his secondary education. For a year he attended a German gymnasium in Sibiu, then transferred to a Romanian gymnasium in Braşov. In the autumn of 1900, he enrolled to study chemistry at the Czech Technical University in Prague. He was an active member of the Slovak student association Detvan, where his close friend was Milan Rastislav Štefánik. After graduating in 1905, he remained in the Czech Lands, working first as a chemical engineer at a sugar factory in Klobuky, and from the spring of 1912 at a chemical factory in Slaný.



Ivan Krasko in military uniform with his wife Elena and son Jaromír, Slaný, 2 June 1916 (photo: František Duras)



Ivan Krasko with his daughter Eva Okályiová during a holiday in Budmerice, 1956

After the outbreak of World War I, he was sent as a reservist to Galicia (now part of south-eastern Poland) and later to the Italian front. Immediately after the establishment of the First Czechoslovak Republic, he entered public service and became secretary to the Minister Plenipotentiary for the Administration of Slovakia, Vavro Šrobár. From 1920 to 1938, Krasko served as a member of parliament and senator of the National Assembly. In 1920 he became a member of the Czech Academy of Sciences and Arts, and in 1923 he obtained the degree of Doctor of Technical Sciences. From 1943 he lived in the Slovak town of Piešťany. He died on 3 March 1958 in Bratislava and is buried in his native Lukovištia.

From the outset of his writing, he published under a pseudonym. His first poems were published under the name Janko Cigáň, and his prose under the name Bohdana J. Potokinova. From 1909 onwards, the only artistic pseudonym he used was Ivan Krasko, chosen for him by Svetozár Hurban Vajanský and Jozef Škultéty; 'Krasko' is derived from the name of the Gemer village Kraskovo, neighbouring his birthplace, and 'Ivan' is the Russian form of the name Ján.

Owing to the originality of his poetic expression, Krasko became the leading figure of Slovak Moderna, an early twentieth-century poetic movement. He developed the poetics of neo-romanticism and symbolism. He understood artistic creation as a form of confession and the revelation of one's inner self. Alongside his soul-baring poetry, characterised by lyricism, musicality, songlike quality and balladic tone, his oeuvre also prominently includes poems dealing with intellectual and existential crisis, as well as socially and nationally engaged poems featuring motifs of rebellion and revolt. His poetic imperative was expressed in the maxim: 'Cut every empty word from the text'. He never considered his poems definitively finished; he constantly rewrote, corrected, and refined them, and in later editions of his collections he changed the order of individual poems. He was also active as a translator.

Even during his lifetime, Krasko became a creator of tradition and a founder of modern Slovak lyric poetry. Today his work belongs to the canon of Slovak literature.



Ivan Krasko at work