

Obverse

An image of the Hungarian royal crown occupies the lower part of the obverse and is set in front of a period depiction of Bratislava that fills the centre of the design. The name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO' is inscribed along the upper edge of the design, directly above the Slovak coat of arms. The year of issuance '2022' appears between the lower left edge and the crown. To the right of the crown are the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint (Mincovňa Kremnica), consisting of the letters 'MK' placed between two dies, and the stylised letters 'KL', referring to the coin's designer Karol Ličko.

Reverse

The reverse shows a portrait of King Rudolf adorned on either side with a semicircular beading pattern. Inscribed at the top edge of the design are the coin's denomination and currency '100 EURO', with a dot on either side. Running around the rest of the edge, from the upper left to the upper right, are the inscriptions 'KORUNOVÁCIA RUDOLFA' (Rudolf's coronation) and 'BRATISLAVA 1572', separated by a dot.

Prague Castle as depicted in 1607

Coin details

Denomination:	€100
Composition:	.900 gold, .75 silver, and .25 copper
Weight:	9.5 g
Diameter:	26 mm
Edge:	milled
Issuing volume:	limited to a maximum of 5,000 coins in proof quality
Designer:	Karol Ličko
Engraver:	Dalibor Schmidt
Producer:	Kremnica Mint (Slovakia)



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Bratislava coronations
450th anniversary of the
coronation of Rudolf

GOLD COLLECTOR EURO COIN

The historical coronation city of Hungarian kings was Székesfehérvár (Latin: Alba Regia). When Maximilian was to be crowned king of Hungary in 1563, the city was under Ottoman occupation and therefore so was the coronation cathedral, the Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which had been turned into a mosque. The Hungarian nobles decided, as an 'exceptional' measure, to hold the coronation at another church, St Martin's in Pressburg (now Bratislava). They believed that Székesfehérvár would soon be liberated and that subsequent coronations would again be held there. But when Maximilian's son Rudolf was to be crowned king, the city was still not back in Christian hands. Rudolf's coronation therefore also took place in Pressburg, on 25 September 1572. He became the de facto ruler only upon the death of his father, four years later.



St Martin's Cathedral in Bratislava



The Hungarian crown jewels

Rudolf, who had been raised in the Spanish Catholic court of his mother's family, showed leanings towards Protestantism in the early years of his reign, just as his father had done. He was sympathetic to the Hungarian estates since most of them were Protestant at that time.

Rudolf did not feel at home in Vienna, the traditional seat of Habsburg rulers, so he moved his court to Prague Castle, the residence of Czech kings. Hungary was far away and largely under Ottoman occupation. He was less interested in Hungary as a country than he was in the Hungarian royal crown per se. He had this precious historical object transferred to Prague, treating it as a personal memento of St Stephen, the first king of Hungary, and adding it to his collection of curiosities.

Hungary during his reign was a hotbed of civil wars and uprisings, the most well known being the Bocskai uprising that began in 1604. Rudolf involved himself as little as possible in affairs of state. He often signed documents without even knowing what they were about. While other rulers would survey their battlefields, he would survey his collections. He left the running of his kingdom to others. In Prague he was surrounded by courtiers, artists,

alchemists, and astrologers. He was attracted more to occult sciences than to governance, politics and religion. The countries over which he was supposed to rule, or at least their nobility, were disaffected with him. In 1608 his younger brother Archduke Matthias forced Rudolf to cede the Hungarian crown to him. Matthias eventually succeeded Rudolf to all his other thrones as well.

Rudolf never married and left no legitimate issue. He died at Prague Castle in 1612 and is buried in the crypt of St Vitus's Cathedral.



Portrait of Rudolf, 1603