

## ⑧ Obverse

The obverse depicts the historical Hungarian florin introduced by King Charles Robert, featuring the Florentine fleur-de-lis and the inscription 'KAROLV REX'. To the left is a shield with a double cross, and between it and the left edge is the Hungarian Angevin coat of arms. Above is a depiction of the king on his throne. At the top is the Slovak coat of arms. To the right is an image of the sun, and below it a miner extracting ore. Along the bottom is the name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO', above which appear the year of issuance '2025', the denomination '100', and the currency 'EURO'. On the left side, below the coat of arms, is the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint; on the right side, below the miner, are the stylised initials 'BR' of the coin's designer, Branislav Ronai.

## ⑧ Reverse

The reverse features the reverse side of a florin from the reign of King Charles Robert, showing St John the Baptist and the encircling inscription 'S IOHANNES B.', ending with a crown. To each side is a minter at work. Between them, curving above the florin, is a decorative pattern of intertwined Anjou lilies, and beneath each minter is a band of Anjou lilies. The inscription 'ZAVEDENIE ZLATEJ MINCE V UHORSKU 1325' ('Introduction of gold coinage in Hungary -1325') appears with the first word along the upper edge and the remainder in two curved lines below the florin, separated by a line.

The town of Kremnica as depicted in the Franciscan chronicle *Historia Domus* (1742)

## ⑧ Coin details

Denomination	€100
Composition:	.900 gold, .75 silver, .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:	Branislav Ronai
Engraver:	Dalibor Schmidt
Producer:	Kremnica Mint (Slovakia)



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Published by Národná banka Slovenska, November 2025

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Photographs courtesy of the Archives of the Museum of

Coins and Medals in Kremnica; images from the *Chronicon*

*Pictum (Illuminated Chronicle, 1358-1370)*

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700th anniversary  
of the introduction  
of gold coinage –  
the florin – in the  
Kingdom of Hungary

GOLD COLLECTOR EURO COIN

The minting of gold coins in the historical Kingdom of Hungary (encompassing present-day Slovakia) began with the introduction of the florin in 1325, during the reign of King Charles Robert (1307-1342). The Hungarian florin was named after the Florentine florin (*fiorino d'oro*), minted in Florence since 1252 and already known in Hungary by the end of the 13th century. The Hungarian coin was iconographically identical to the Florentine florin, with its obverse featuring the fleur-de-lis emblem of Florence and its reverse depicting Saint John the Baptist—Florence's patron saint—encircled by the Latin abbreviation of his name, 'S IOHANNES B'. The Hungarian florins were so similar to their Florentine counterparts that they may be regarded as imitations.

Hungary was not alone in producing florins on the model of the Florentine coin; many sovereign entities in what is now Spain, France,



King Charles Robert as depicted in the *Chronica Hungarorum*



A boss from Bratislava's Old Town Hall bearing the Hungarian Angevin coat of arms (photo: M. Pírek)

Belgium, and the Netherlands did the same. King John of Bohemia cooperated closely with Hungary when introducing the florin into his kingdom in 1325.

The only difference between the Hungarian florin and the Florentine original was the obverse inscription around the fleur-de-lis, which read 'KAROLV REX' (King Charles), identifying the king as the coin's issuer. The florin had a very high gold purity ranging from 99% to 99.7%—equivalent to more than 23 carats and nine grains. Its official weight was just over 3.55 g, with a fine gold content of up to 3.52 g.

Initially, Hungarian florins were minted only at the principal mint in Buda. By 1335-36 at the latest, the coins were also being produced in Kremnica (in present-day Slovakia) and in one of Hungary's Transylvanian mints, probably in Cluj (in present-day Romania). A significant proportion of the florins was likely minted using gold from Kremnica, where there were large deposits of this

precious metal. Since the mints produced virtually identical florins without any mint marks, it is impossible to determine where a particular coin was struck. A small crown at the end of the reverse inscription 'S IOHANNES B' was once thought to indicate the Buda mint, but it is now recognised as merely part of the heraldic design copied from the Florentine originals.

Owing to their high quality and the extensive development of international trade, Hungarian florins were widely exported. Because so many ended up abroad, they have only occasionally appeared in archaeological finds in Hungary. The Hungarian florin continued to be minted throughout the reign of King Charles Robert and, after his death in 1342, for some time during the reign of his successor, King Louis the Great (1342-1382). The production of these coins greatly contributed to the Kingdom of Hungary's economic and commercial development.



The Battle of Rozgony – the major battle of King Charles Robert's reign, fought in 1312 – as depicted in the *Chronicon Pictum* (Illuminated Chronicle)

