

Obverse

The obverse depicts a large triangle composed of small triangles referring to the system of marking the death camp's prisoners. The design and triangle are bisected by a vertical line, partly overlain by a cartographic representation of a railway. Each half features a semicircle of raised dots representing the camp's guard posts. In the lower left of the large triangle is a teddy bear symbolising the personal effects of the camp victims. On the right side, partly overlying the triangle, are the prisoner numbers assigned to Alfréd Wetzler and Rudolf Vrba. The design also includes the Slovak coat of arms, the year of issuance '2024', the name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO', and the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint.

Reverse

The reverse is bisected by a vertical line, to the left of which is half of an inverse triangle filled with variously sized small triangles. To the right of the line are two male figures, representing Vrba and Wetzler escaping from prison. The year they wrote their report, '1944', is inscribed on the upper right side. Running diagonally across the lower right quadrant are the names 'ALFRÉD WETZLER' and 'RUDOLF VRBA', one above the other. Next to them are the stylised initials 'IR', referring to the coin's designer Ivan Řehák. The design also features raised dots representing the camp's guard posts. Inscribed in the lower left are the coin's denomination '10' and currency 'EURO'.

Selection of Hungarian Jews on the ramp at the Auschwitz II-Birkenau death camp

Coin details

Denomination:	€10
Composition:	.900 silver, .100 copper
Weight:	18 g
Diameter:	34 mm
Edge lettering:	• NIČ NEPREKONÁ ODVAHU ČLOVEKA POSTAVIŤ SA ZLU (Nothing overcomes the courage to confront evil)
Issuing volume:	limited to a maximum of 20,000 coins in either brilliant uncirculated or proof quality
Designer:	Ivan Řehák
Engraver:	Dalibor Schmidt
Producer:	Kremnica Mint (Slovakia)

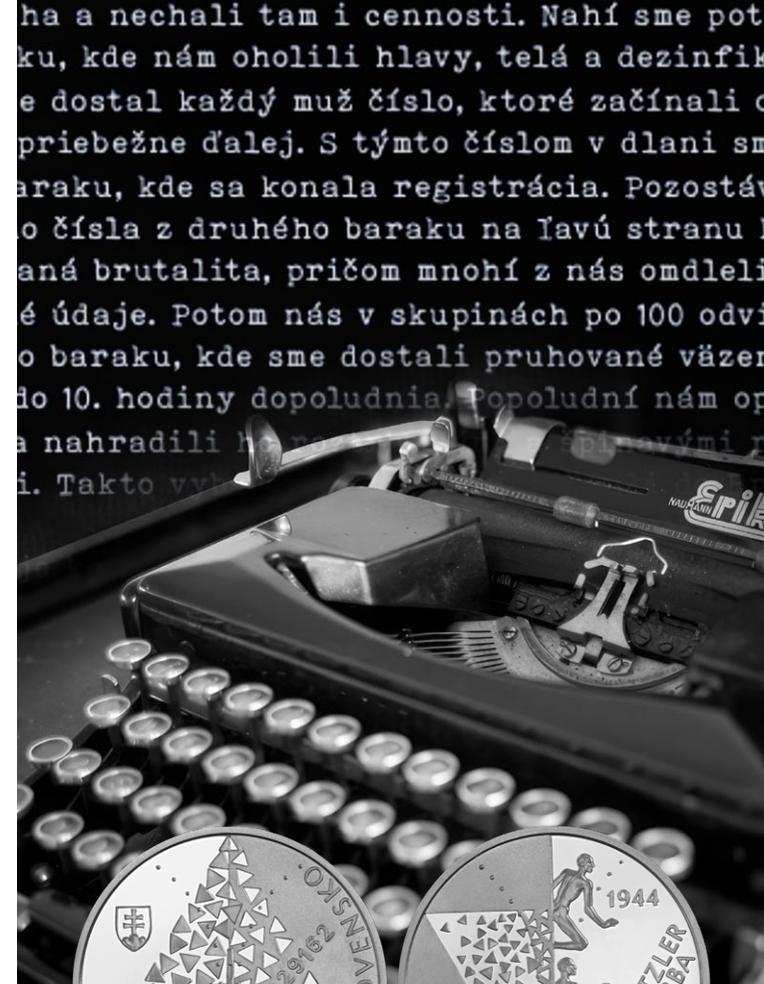


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80th anniversary of the
Vrba-Wetzler report
on the Auschwitz-Birkenau
concentration
and extermination camp

SILVER COLLECTOR EURO COIN

More than a million lives were extinguished by the Nazis in the Auschwitz concentration and extermination camp complex. It became a symbol of the extermination of Jews during the Second World War. Alfréd Wetzler and Rudolf Vrba, both Slovak Jews, were among the first people not only to escape from the camp, but also to inform the world about the horrors of the industrial killing taking place there. The report written by Vrba and Wetzler became one of the most important Slovak contributions to world history.

Alfréd Wetzler, a native of Trnava, and Walter Rosenberg, a native of Topoľčany, were deported from the wartime Slovak state in 1942. While they knew each other by sight in pre-war Trnava, they became on speaking terms as prisoners at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in occupied Poland. The Nazis deemed them both fit for work, hence they had a chance of survival. After managing to stay



Rudolf Vrba



Alfréd Wetzler

alive for nearly two years, they noticed that the camp was being expanded in anticipation of an influx of new prisoners and decided to do all they could to prevent it. On the evening of 7 April 1944 they managed to hide themselves, and three days later they escaped and set off on a 140-kilometre journey to Slovakia.

After two weeks of perilous travel, they reached a Jewish retirement home in Žilina on 25 April 1944. There they informed representatives of the Jewish community about what was happening at the camp they had just escaped from. Their thirty-two pages of testimony went down in history as the Vrba-Wetzler report. It included a drawing of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp, sketches of the gas chambers and crematoria, a description of the camp's registration system and operation, an estimation of the number of people who had perished there and information about which countries they came from, and a wealth of other details. Both described only what they themselves had first-hand knowledge of. In Žilina, the two men obtained false identity documents, and Walter Rosenberg

kept his new name, Rudolf Vrba, for the rest of his life. Recognised by the Allies as the first credible detailed account of the extermination function of the concentration camp, the report became one of the most important documents of the 20th century. It was translated into several languages and distributed to the competent authorities in the West. Vrba and Wetzler's testimony was subsequently incorporated into the famous *Auschwitz Protocols*, together with another two eyewitness accounts by Jewish escapees from Auschwitz.

The Vrba-Wetzler report was published by the Allies at a time when Jews were being deported from Hungary. It revealed to the world the murderous machinery of the Auschwitz camp complex. Vrba and Wetzler made enormous efforts, showed great courage and risked their lives to provide information about the largest death camp in history. By their actions, they also sought to stop deportations of Jews from Hungary, which had begun in April 1944. Their report likely helped thwart the completion of these deportations and saved thousands from certain death.



The basement room in which Alfréd Wetzler and Rudolf Vrba wrote their report in 1944