

Coin data

Denomination: 10 euro

Material: Ag 900/1000
Cu 100/1000

Weight: 18 g

Diameter: 34 mm

Edge: deep inscription

ZA NÁRODNÚ SVOJBÝTNOSŤ A ROVNOPRÁVNOSŤ
(FOR NATIONAL IDENTITY AND EQUALITY)

Mintage: limited to a maximum of 20,000 pieces (in BU and proof quality)

Designer: obverse side – **Mgr. art. Andrea Rolková, Pavel Károly**
reverse side – **Mária Poldaufová**

Engraver: **Dalibor Schmidt**

Producer: **Kremnica Mint**

On the obverse side of the coin, a stylised lime tree superimposed on a tricolour in the form of triple mound is depicted in the upper part of the field. Above the left part of the tricolour, there is a church as a symbol of Christianity. Above the right part of the tricolour is an outline of Kriváň Mountain, a symbol of the freedom, protection and independence of the Slovak nation. The national emblem of the Slovak Republic is in the middle of the coin field. The denomination „10 EURO“ is centred in the lower part of the field, above the year date „2011“. The country name „SLOVENSKO“ is written above the lower edge of the coin. The stylised initials of the joint authors of the obverse design – Mgr art. Andrea Roková „AR“ and Pavol Károly „PK“ – appear on the left and right edges of the bottom strip of the tricolour.

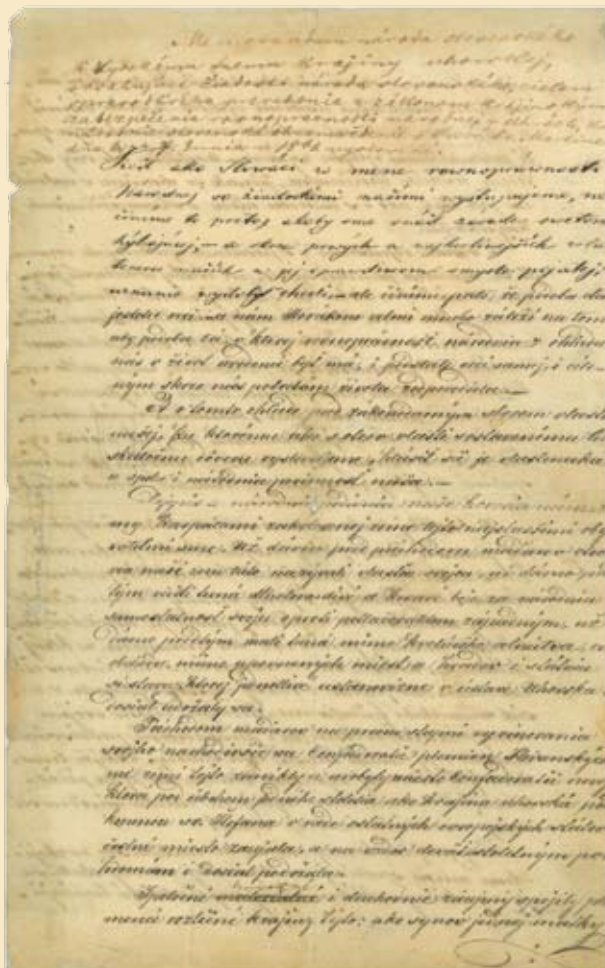
On the reverse side of the coin, participants at the Slovak National Assembly in Turčiansky svätý Martin at which the Memorandum of the Slovak Nation was adopted are depicted in the lower part of the design. In the upper part there is the Lutheran church with lime trees, under the canopy of which the assembly took place. Set within the lower part of the façade is the Slovak symbol of a Patriarchal cross on triple mound. Below the façade is a tricolour design in which is written the year date „1861“ and the text „MEMORANDUM NÁRODA SLOVENSKÉHO“. In the lower part of the field, the stamp of the Kremnica Mint is shown at the left of the assembly and the stylised initials of author of the obverse design – Mária Poldaufová „MP“ – are shown on the right.



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Photo: from the NBS Archives and the Archives
of the Slovak National Museum in Bratislava

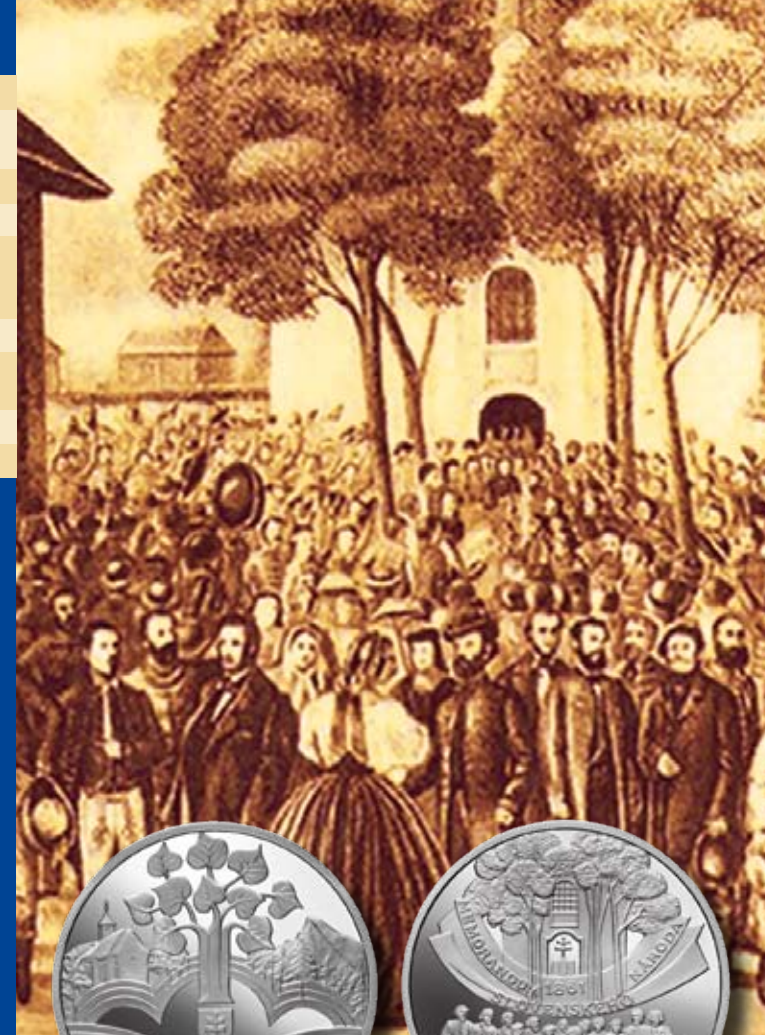
<http://www.nbs.sk/en/banknotes-and-coins/euro-coins/collector-coins>



The Memorandum of the Slovak Nation, 1861.
The Archives of the Slovak National Museum
in Bratislava, Cultural Heritage Collections.



Members of the delegation that submitted
the Memorandum to the Hungarian Diet



Memorandum of the Slovak Nation 150th anniversary of adoption

Silver collector coin



The Memorandum of the Slovak Nation of 1861 is among the most important documents relating to the process of national emancipation of the Slovak people. It reflected the intention of leading Slovak personalities to establish a basic political-legal framework that would address Slovak issues at a time when the Habsburg monarchy was re-establishing the constitutional system of government and deciding on the internal structure of the state. In these new circumstances, all the subjugated nations in the monarchy were pushing for the adoption of legislative rules that would enshrine their rights to the protection and development of their identity and would also ensure the constitutional status of all nations on the basis of equality.

On 6 and 7 June 1861, the Slovak National Assembly – a forum of representatives of Slovak towns and villages – was held at Turčiansky Svätý Martin. It adopted a political programme entitled „Memorandum of the Slovak Nation“, which defined key requirements of the Slovaks for asserting their national identity within constitutional, political, cultural and linguistic spheres. The main author of the Memorandum was Štefan Marko Daxner. The Assembly established a Permanent National Committee under the chairmanship of Ján Francisci and charged him with putting the adopted resolutions into practice. These tasks included the establishment of Matica slovenská, a Slovak cultural heritage organisation.

The first core requirement of the Memorandum concerned the recognition of, and legal provision for, the identity of Slovaks as a nation and their right to use their language in all spheres of public life.

The second core requirement emphasised that the recognition of national identity must be linked to the territory inhabited by Slovaks. The Memorandum requested that the national territory be a separate administrative area called „Hornouhorské slovenské Okolie“ (Upper Hungarian Slovak Territory). Both requirements were justified on the basis of historical and legal arguments developed from contemporary definitions of nationhood; they also reflected the fact that Hungary was a state composed of several different nations and that each of them should enjoy the same rights.

The third requirement called for the national equality principle to be applied in such a way that Slovak could be used in public, civic, church and educational life, as well as in the highest state offices. It also defended the right of Slovaks to have their own higher educational and cultural institutions.

In the fourth part of the Memorandum, Slovaks claimed solidarity with Ruthenians, Serbs and Croats, with whom they shared common requirements for the regulation of relations between nations within the common state. On grounds of civic equality, they called for the prohibition of various forms of discrimination against non-Hungarian populations.

A delegation submitted the Memorandum to the Hungarian Diet on 27 June 1861. The Diet, however, was soon afterwards

dissolved by Emperor Franz Joseph I and the Slovak requirements were not discussed. On 12 December 1861, a deputation was received by the Emperor in Vienna and it submitted a document entitled „Slovak Petition to the Imperial Court“, setting out requirements for a Slovak Territory within the Hungarian Kingdom and its internal administration. The Emperor, however, rejected the proposed principles and made a formal pledge that the rights of non-Hungarian peoples in Hungary would be laid down in a separate law. This law was the National Act of 1868, but it reflected the concept of Greater Hungary as the state of the Hungarian nation and it had only a declarative character. In this Act, certain linguistic and cultural rights of non-Hungarian nations were enshrined, but only in respect of citizens as individuals. The recognition of national rights on a collective basis was excluded. Although the Act entered into force, its provisions were never put into practice.

But although the requirements of the Memorandum were not met, the document was tremendously important for the identity, self-awareness and national development of the Slovak people. It demonstrated the ability and readiness of Slovak leaders to act on behalf of their national interests and to put them across with the cogent political, theoretical and legal arguments. The Memorandum programme (especially its principles of national identity and equality) was, until the break-up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1918, the main platform for addressing the Slovak question and issues of national emancipation.



Contemporary picture of the Memorandum assembly with 5,000 participants



Š. M. Daxner



J. M. Hurban



J. Francisci



The relief on the wall of the Lutheran church in Martin, in front of which the Memorandum assembly took place (by academic sculptor Ján Koniarek)