

Bernolák was the leading figure in Towarišstvo literného umeňá (the Slovak Educated Brotherhood), a literary-publishing society whose objective was to publish books in the newly codified language, disseminate it, and promote its use in practice. The Brotherhood published works on a range of subjects including art, science and religion, but its main focus was popular education and raising the cultural awareness of the Slovak nation.

The codification by Anton Bernolák met society's demands for a unified written language. The great works of literature were translated into it, as were religious and liturgical texts, and it was the language used by Juraj Fándly in his scientific and popular publications and by many major Slovak writers, such as Ján Hollý.

Coin details

Denomination: 10 euro

Material: Ag 900/1000

Cu 100/1000

Weight: 18 g

Diameter: 34 mm

Incuse edge inscription: TU MÁTE SLOVO MOJE O REČI VAŠEJ

(„HERE IS MY WORD ON YOUR LANGUAGE“)

Mintage: limited to a maximum of 20,000 coins in BU

and proof quality

Designer: Pavel Károly

Engraver: Dalibor Schmidt

Producer: Kremnica Mint

The obverse side of the coin depicts references to Anton Bernolák's life and work – including the title page of his book „Etymologia vocum Slavicarum“, a facsimile of his signature, and a quill. On the left side is the state emblem of the Slovak Republic, positioned above the year „2012“. The country name „SLOVENSKO“ is written in the lower part of the coin.

On the reverse side of the coin there is a portrait of Anton Bernolák set in a textual composition that forms mainly the titles of his works. The denomination „10 EURO“ is on the left side of the coin, and below the portrait there is written „ANTON BERNOLÁK“ and the years of his birth and death, „1762–1813“. To the left of the portrait is the mintmark of the Kremnica Mint and to the right are the stylised initials of the coin's designer Pavel Károly.



Anton Bernolák

250th anniversary of the birth

Silver Collector Coin

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Photo: The archives of Matica slovenská, Progress Promotion

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



Anton Bernolák was a Catholic priest and linguist who became one of the key figures in Slovak history by being the first person to codify the Slovak language, as well as a significant promoter of Slovak national life and culture. His work at the end of the 18th century and beginning of the 19th century raised national consciousness and scholarly research to the European level.

Bernolák was born on 3 October 1762 in Slanica na Orave. He studied at gymnasiums in Ružomberok and Esztergom, before attending seminaries in Bratislava and Trnava, and later studying theology in Vienna and at a general seminary in Bratislava. He worked as a curate in Čeklís (now Bernolákovo) and later as chancellor of the archdiocesan vicariate in Trnava. From 1797 until his death he served as a priest, dean, and administrator of the town school in Nové Zámky. He died on 15 January 1813.

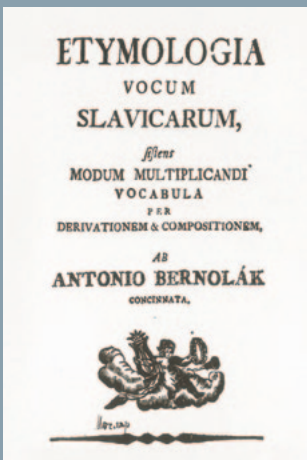
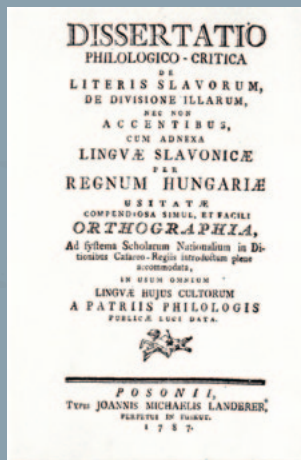
Bust on the wall of the Roman Catholic parish office in Nové Zámky



House in Slanica na Orave where Anton Bernolák was born

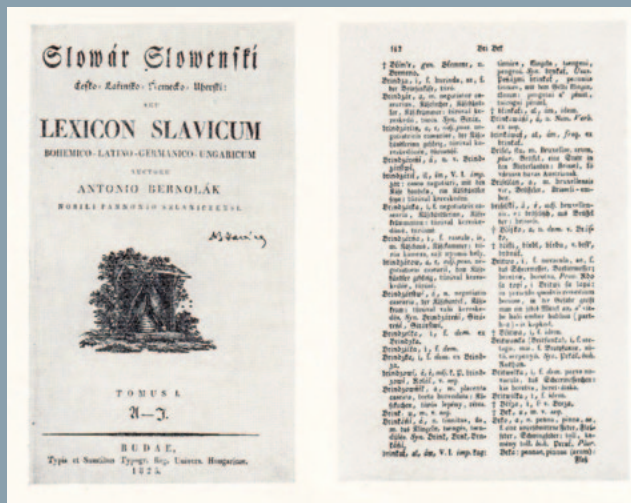


Chapel containing the grave of Anton Bernolák in Nové Zámky



The Bernolák codification of the written Slovak language was based on the actual language spoken by educated people in western Slovakia and on elements of the dialect spoken in central Slovakia. It drew on both traditional and mainly current aspects of orthography, phonetics, grammar and vocabulary. For the purpose of the codification, Bernolák looked particularly closely at the standard resources, demotic and vernacular features, and borrowings from the Czech language that appeared in various areas of communication.

Anton Bernolák



Commemorative plaque on the wall of the Roman Catholic parish office in Nové Zámky



His linguistic works cover all aspects of the Slovak language, and in „Dissertatio philologico-critica de literis Slavorum“ (Philological-critical dissertation on Slovak letters), published in 1787, he made the case for having a single codified Slovak language. In an addendum to that work, entitled „Orthographia“, he set out the first unified principles of Slovak orthography, and in the book „Grammatica Slavica“ (1790) he describes the grammatical structure of Slovak. His scientific description of the Slovak language was completed with „Etymologia vocum Slavicarum“ (1791), which focused on etymological aspects of the language. These endeavours advanced knowledge of how the Slovak language was developing and increased awareness of the need for a first codification. Bernolák’s great contribution to European linguistics was confirmed by his posthumously published five-volume „Slowár Slowenski, Česko-Laťansko-Nemecko-Uherski“ (A Slovak, Czech-Latin-German-Hungarian Dictionary) (Budín 1825–1827), which provides a rich lexicon of the Slovak language at the turn of the 19th century and compares it with other languages used in the same territory at that time in different areas of communication.



Anton Bernolák sculpture by Ján Koniarek situated in a park in Trnava