

Matica slovenská was reopened on 1 January 1919, with the intention to continue in its previous activities. Later, in the 1950s, its existence was threatened and activities curbed. At present, the institution concentrates mainly on promoting patriotism, fostering positive relations among Slovaks towards their country and supporting ethnographical research. It also helps in developing local and regional culture, cooperates with Slovaks living abroad, promotes Slovakia, publishes original Slovak fiction and scientific literature, and participates in the preparation of textbooks for primary and secondary schools.



Commemorative plaque on the first building of Matica slovenská



Matica folk festival



Coin details

Denomination: €10

Material: Ag 900/1000

Cu 100/1000

Weight: 18 g

Diameter: 34 mm

Incuse edge inscription:

"NAJSTARŠIA KULTÚRNA USTANOVIZEŇ SLOVÁKOV"

("The oldest cultural institution of Slovaks")

Mintage: limited to a maximum of 15 000 coins

(brilliant uncirculated and proof)

Designer: Karol Ličko

Engraver: Dalibor Schmidt

Producer: Mincovňa Kremnica / Kremnica Mint

The obverse of the coin features a period representation of the building of Matica slovenská in Martin and its first statutes from 1863. The central part of the coin shows the coat of arms of the Slovak Republic, and below that the country name "SLOVENSKO" and the year "2013". Along the right edge is the face value of the coin "10 EURO" written in two lines. To the left there is the mintmark of the Kremnica Mint, "MK", and the stylised initials of the coin's designer Karol Ličko, "KL".

The design on the reverse side portrays the first leading representatives of Matica slovenská: chairman Štefan Moyzes and deputy chairmen Karol Kuzmány and Ján Francisci. The upper part of the design includes the founding year of Matica slovenská, "1863", and the text "ZALOŽENIE MATICE SLOVENSKEJ" (Founding of Matica slovenská) in three lines.



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Photo: Archives of Matica slovenská

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



Matica slovenská
150th Anniversary
Silver Collector Coins

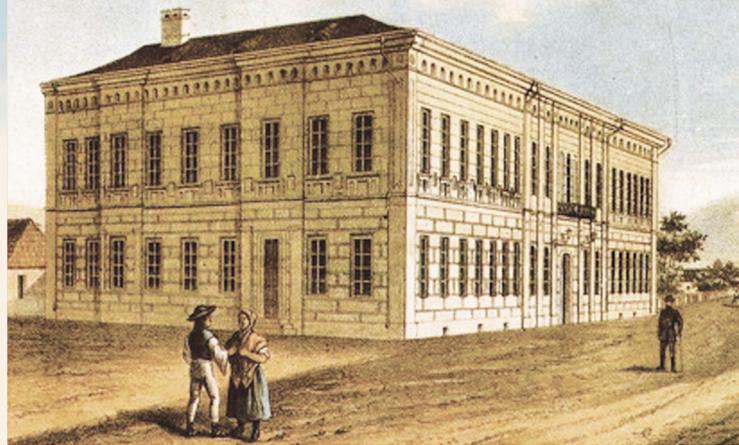
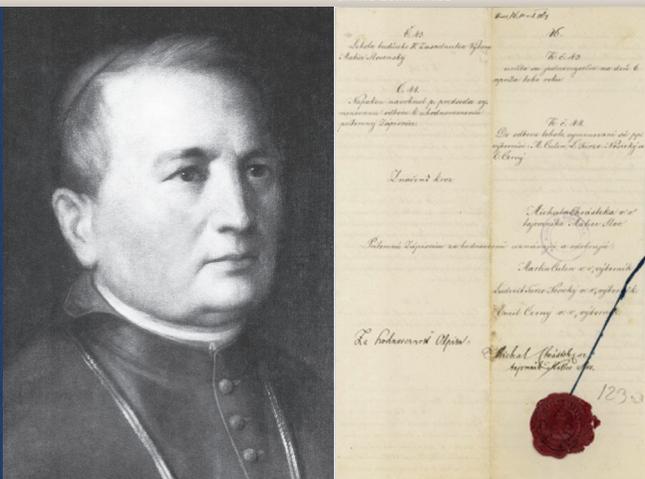
Matica slovenská is the oldest existing Slovak national institution for culture, public education and science. Its establishment represents the culmination of the Slovak national revival efforts in the 19th century that supported the national emancipation of the Slovak people. The activities of Matica slovenská have played a highly significant role in Slovak history.

At its convention in Turčiansky Svätý Martin in June 1861, the Slovak National Assembly adopted the Slovak National Memorandum – one of the most important documents in the national emancipation of Slovaks. It was the period when the revived nations of the Habsburg Empire sought to take up the best positions for developing their identity and establishing their national rights. The Memorandum laid down for Slovaks the main political requirements in constitutional, political, cultural and linguistic spheres, with one of these requirements being the establishment of Matica slovenská.

Matica slovenská, similar to other Slavic nations' institutions of this type, was to become the main cultural centre of Slovaks; it published books, organised cultural events and supported scientific research and literary activities. It followed in the tradition of scientific societies such as the Slovak Learned Society, Slavic Institute, and later the Tatrín association.

Štefan Moyzes

Minutes of the third meeting of the Committee

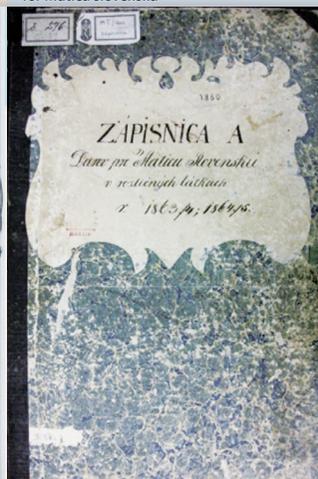


The first building of Matica slovenská

As early as 1861, a preparatory committee drafted the Statutes of Matica slovenská and submitted them for approval. At the same time, a national fund-raising campaign was launched, raising more than 50 000 guildens for the institution's activities. The chairman of the preparatory committee was Ján Francisci, who put considerable efforts into the preparation of Matica slovenská and, after its establishment, became its lifelong honorary deputy chairman. The constitutional general meeting of Matica slovenská was held on 4 August 1863 in Turčiansky Svätý Martin, symbolically in the year of the 1000th anniversary of the mission of St Cyril and Methodius to our territory. Matica slovenská intentionally continued in the tradition of these two Thessalonian brothers' teachings as the historical origin of our culture and religion. The first chairman of the institution was Štefan Moyzes, a catholic priest from Banská Bystrica, its deputy chairman was Karol Kuzmány, a protestant superintendent.

Registration of donations for Matica slovenská

Ján Francisci



The activities of Matica slovenská developed successfully: it gained new members, raised funds, provided loans and published Slovak literature. It published the "Letopis Matice slovenskej" (Chronicle of Matica slovenská), which supported research in the area of national history and geography, linguistics, ethnography and natural sciences. The institution's activities were received positively by the public, which was reflected in successful fund-raising campaigns and generous donations of books and museum exhibits.

Representatives of Matica slovenská concentrated in two towns: Banská Bystrica and Turčiansky Svätý Martin, thus forming two centres of Matica's activities. This, on the one hand, supported the activities of the institution, but on the other hand, complicated its organisation. After chairman Štefan Moyzes died and collection funds were moved from Banská Bystrica, this centre was closed in 1869.

Matica slovenská had its seat in a building in Turčiansky Svätý Martin. It started to be built in 1864 and was opened a year later at the third general meeting of the institution. Construction works were funded by almost all Slovaks. After the institution was forced to close its doors in 1875, the building was used for various purposes.

The Statutes of Matica slovenská Karol Kuzmány

