

The second period of his writings is characterised by its tendency to historicism as well as the gradual transition from writing stories and novels to epic narratives (*Wieniawského legenda* (1922 – *Wieniawski's legend*), *Adam Šangala* (1924), *Kuruci* (1925), *Magister rytier Donč* (*Master Donč the knight*), *Horymír* (1926), *Svätopluk* (1928). Apart from prose he wrote also plays: comedy *Krpčeka sv. Floriána* (*Little peasants' shoes of St. Florian*), memoirs, reflections and health education articles. In this period, he cooperated closely with Štefan Krčméry, who highly appreciated his writings.



Books by L. N. Jégé

A tour of Italy in 1928 inspired him to write series of novels set in the Italian renaissance *Itália* (1931). The final stage of Jégé's writings was represented by the novel *Cesta životom* (1930) (*Journey through life*) where he returned to a more contemporary topic – the image of the demoralized petit bourgeoisie of Slovak society from the 1890s to 1918 in which he elaborated an even more pessimistic and ironic view of the world. In the 1930s he turned to another form of work, humorous scenes from village life, which were published in calendars and magazines.

Coin details

Nominal value: €10

Material: Ag 900/1000, Cu 100/1000

Weight: 18 g

Diameter: 34 mm

Edge: deep inscription: PROZAIK – PUBLICISTA – LITERÁRNY

KRITIK (PROSAIST – PUBLICIST – LITERARY REVIEWER)

Issuing volume: 11,000 coins (comprising brilliant uncirculated and proof coins)

Designer: Asamat Baltaev, DiS.

Engraver: Dalibor Schmidt

Producer: Mincovňa Kremnica / Kremnica Mint

The obverse of the coin depicts a book listing the best known titles of Jégé's literary works and in the right bottom corner it is accompanied by the historical figure of a sitting warrior. To the left of the book there is the coat of arms of the Slovak Republic and the sign of a nominal value of 10 EURO. The name of the state SLOVENSKO is situated in the lower part of the coin field. The date 2016 is below it. The Kremnica mint mark is to the left of the date and the mark of designer Asamat Baltaev to the right of it.

A portrait of Ladislav Nádaši-Jégé is depicted on the reverse of the coin. Below, in two lines stands the name LADISLAV NÁDAŠI-JÉGÉ and the dates of his birth and death 1866 – 1940 are below the name.



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Photo: Peter Zelizňák, Progress Promotion

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



Ladislav Nádaši-Jégé
150th Anniversary of the Birth

Silver Collector Coin

Ladislav Nádaši-Jégé was one of the central figures of Slovak literature in the interwar period and a leading exponent of Slovak literary naturalism. His work adds a moral, sometimes even moralistic perspective to naturalism's biological conception of humanity and the world. Even when writing on historical topics, he was most concerned with the choices people made in response to the conditions of their time and how historical conditions influenced and formed people. He tended towards a pessimistic view in which evil won out over good. Nevertheless, he had faith in technological progress and when writing as a journalist he actively supported the modernization of life.

■ He was born in Dolný Kubín on 12 February 1866. After completing his secondary education he earned a medical degree in Prague and returned to work as general practitioner in Dolný Kubín. Gradually, he rose through the ranks of local, district, honorary county and regional doctor in the Orava region culminating in his appointment as a senior civil servant for health issues. Except for a short period when he worked in Bratislava (1924 – 1925), he spent his whole adult life in Dolný Kubín. The Orava region, particularly the area around the village of Zázrivá, was a frequent setting for his writing about rural life. He died on 2 July 1940 in Dolný Kubín.



L. N. Jégé

■ As an author he appears to make two different entrances on the stage of Slovak literature. His first appearance was in the late 1880s and the 1890s when he published a series of satires on small town life in "Národné noviny" (National Newspaper) and "Slovenské pohľady" (Slovak Views) including Žart (Joke), Vada (Defect), Výhody spoločenského života (Upsides of social life), Omyl (Error), Kúra (Cure), Nero, Pomsta (Revenge). After this he fell silent for over 20 years, taking up writing again only in 1919.

■ While studying medicine in Prague between 1883 and 1890 he was an active member of the Slovak Academical Association Detvan and several times also its Chairman; it was at its meeting that he read his first works and reported on books he had read, including the writings of the French author Émile Zola, who had a major impact on Jégé's literary output, especially after 1918.

■ The best-known novel from his first period Upsides of social life was written under the pseudonym Ján Grób: the name could also be read as Grobian (trash mouth), which indicates the author's ironic and critical view. It was from the initials of this pseudonym J. G. (Slovak pronunciation: jégé) that Nádaši created his literary pseudonym Jégé.

Dolný Kubín – house where L. N. Jégé was born, and his grave



V dnešné časy povojnovej duševnej rozorvanosti, keď mnohí tratia trpelivosť v očakávaní blaha, o ktorom myslia, že ho mnohým utrpením zaslúžili, bude dobre pozrieť do minulosti, ani nie takej ďalekej, aby sme videli, čo človečenstvo trpelo a akými ohromnými krokmi kráča napred.

Pomyslime si pritom, že je jediná skutočná okrasa života nie pohodlie, ani skvelé hodnoty a tance, ale súcit s utrpením, ktorý dvíha našu dušu do takých výšin, v ktorých ona splynie v jedno s nekonečným jasom všehomíra. A budeme trpelivejší.

L. Nádaši-Jégé

Slovak Views journal and collected writings by L. N. Jégé



Commemorative plaque in Dejateľov Park in Dolný Kubín