

Obverse

The obverse depicts a historical scene from Kovačica: an older man is stood next to a horse, holding its rein; to his left, in the background, are two women sitting in a wagon, and behind them is a well with a shadoof. Below the well are the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint (Mincovňa Kremnica), consisting of the letters 'MK' placed between two dies, and the stylised letters 'KL', referring to the coin's designer Karol Ličko. The coin's denomination '10' and currency 'EURO' appear in the lower right of the design, directly above the Slovak coat of arms. The name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO' and the year of issuance '2022' are inscribed along most of the upper edge.

Reverse

The reverse design also depicts bygone Kovačica. In the foreground, a woman in traditional dress is holding a tray; in the background, on the right side, locals are threshing and bagging grain. The tower of the Lutheran church is centrally positioned in the far background. The inscription 'SLOVÁCI V KOVAČICI' ('Slovaks in Kovačica') is inscribed along the upper-left edge. The dates of the anniversary, '1802' and '2022', appear in the lower right.



Takáč's grain thresher in use in 1938 and, in the background, a 'hambár' building for the drying of maize cobs

Coin details

Denomination:	€10
Composition:	.900 silver, .100 copper
Weight:	18 g
Diameter:	34 mm
Edge lettering:	• NEMŮZEME ZAVÁŽIŤ ČÍSELNE, ALE LEN SVOJOU DOBROU KVALITOU (We cannot make a mark through our number, only through our high quality)
Issuing volume:	limited to a maximum of 15,000 coins in either brilliant uncirculated or proof quality
Designer:	Karol Ličko
Engraver:	Dalibor Schmidt
Producer:	Kremnica Mint (Slovakia)



Published by Národná banka Slovenska, September 2022

© Národná banka Slovenska 2022

Original Slovak text by Zuzana Drugová

Translated by Národná banka Slovenska

Photographs by Vladimír Kuchárik and from Pavel Baláž
(collected from various Kovačica families)

www.nbs.sk/en/banknotes-and-coins/euro-coins/collector-coins



www.nbs.sk



220th anniversary of
the start of Slovak
emigration to Kovačica

SILVER COLLECTOR EURO COIN

The town and municipality of Kovačica is a significant centre of Slovak life in Serbia. It is a model of multi-ethnic co-existence, encompassing five different ethnicities. Its status as a hub of naïve art was established, and has been preserved, by Slovak men and women living there. Kovačica is significant for events that have occurred there and for the personalities it has produced.

On 15 May 1802, following the end of Ottoman rule in Serbia, a number of migrants from Slovakia petitioned Holy Roman Emperor Francis II (also titled King Francis I of Hungary) for permission to settle in Kovačica, an area which at that time was recorded as wasteland. By 8 April 1803 the first Slovak teacher was already living in Kovačica. A single-classroom Lutheran school was the first church building established there, and construction work on the church itself began in 1805. The church's tower, built to a design by the noted architect Milan Harminc, stands today as symbol of both Kovačica and the faith of its Slovak inhabitants.



A young girl photographed at the studio of György Jarasy, who worked in Kovačica from 1904 to 1914.



Historical photograph of the centre of Kovačica from the Austro-Hungarian period.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Kovačica was known for its nation-building activities. During the period of Magyarisation, Ján Čaplovič was appointed pastor of the local Lutheran church as an act of protest, and he played a significant role in the events of Pentecost Sunday in 1907. What happened was that some members of the church choir disrupted the Hungarian-language public worship by singing Slovak hymns. Unrest broke out and culminated in the indictment of 97 congregants and their well-known trial in Kovačica. These events prefigured a similar case at Černová in Slovakia in autumn 1907.

Among the most zealous of the participants in these protests was the local magistrate Fero Bulík. His son Janko, ten years old at the time, later said that these events inspired him to become a lawyer and spend his life working for the interests of Slovaks. He became involved in political life immediately after the end of the First World War, while still studying at university. Later, he initiated the establishment of a Yugoslav branch of the Slovak cultural organisation Matica slovenská and, at its founding meeting held in Bački Petrovac in August 1932, he was elected its chairman.

He also served as an administrator of the Slovak Lutheran church and was a leading figure in the anti-fascist resistance. His law office helped a number of notable people emigrate from the wartime Slovak state to the West. He died in 1942 at the Mauthausen concentration camp. Ján Bulík is probably the most significant native of Kovačica, among scores of other well-known figures of the Slovak diaspora who grew up in the town.

Kovačica is home to a naïve art movement that originated in the mid-20th century. To date, a total of 64 naïve artists have lived and worked in Kovačica and the neighbouring Padina. The most famous are Martin Jonáš and Zuzana Chalupová, both now deceased. Several of their successors have also earned a reputation beyond the artistic community. Slovakia's central bank, Národná banka Slovenska, is one of the organisers of exhibitions of Kovačica naïve art in Slovakia.



Dr Janko Bulík, a prominent native of Kovačica, here photographed as a new law graduate