

Obverse

The obverse depicts a character from a ballad by Janko Kráľ: the maiden in ZAKLIATA PANNA VO VÁHU A DIVNÝ JANKO ('The Cursed Maiden in the Váh and Crazy Janko'). Her wild and wavy hair symbolises the Váh River. The ballad's title is inscribed in the lower right part of the design. At the lower left edge are the stylised letters 'BR', referring to the coin's designer Branislav Ronai, and the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint (Mincovňa Kremnica), consisting of the letters 'MK' placed between two dies. Above the portrait, on the left side, are the Slovak coat of arms and the year of issuance '2022'. The coin's denomination '10' and currency 'EURO' appear at the top of the design, above the name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO'.

Reverse

The reverse shows an imagined portrait of Janko Kráľ. His forename and surname are inscribed in capital letters along the left edge of the design. The years of his birth and death '1822 - 1876' appear along part of the right edge.



Memorial to Janko Kráľ at the National Cemetery in Martin
Photograph by Ferdinand Jiríček,
courtesy of Matica slovenská, Martin

Coin details

Denomination	€10
Composition:	.900 silver, .100 copper
Weight:	18 g
Diameter:	34 mm
Edge lettering:	• SLOVENSKÝ ROMANTICKÝ BÁSNÍK A BALADIK ('Slovak romantic poet and balladist')
Issuing volume:	limited to a maximum of 11,000 coins in either brilliant uncircu- lated or proof quality
Designer:	Branislav Ronai
Engraver:	Dalibor Schmidt
Producer:	Kremnica Mint (Slovakia)



Published by Národná banka Slovenska, March 2022

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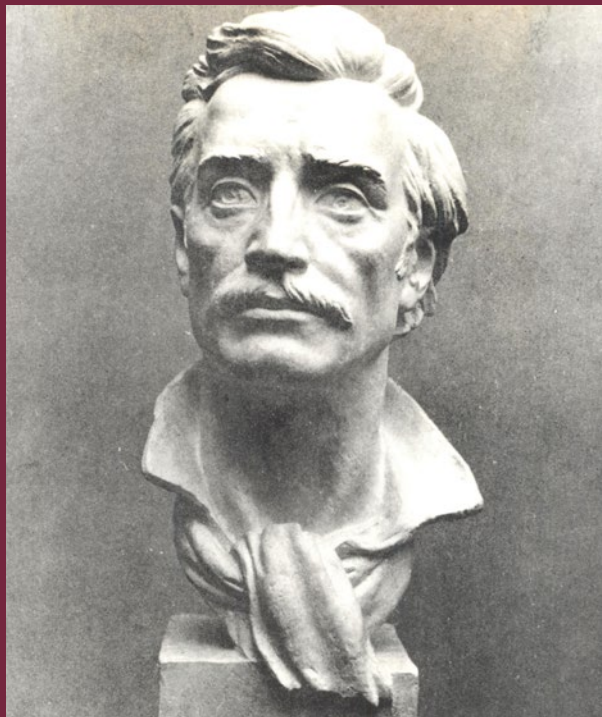
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200th anniversary
of the birth of
Janko Kráľ

SILVER COLLECTOR EURO COIN

Janko Král' (24 April 1822 – 23 May 1876), born in Liptovský Svätý Mikuláš (now Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia), was one of the most significant Slovak Romantic poets and a national activist. Although life blew him far from his native region, he remained closely bound to it. This is evident from the inclusion in his poetry of such natural motifs as the peaks of Kriváň and Veľký Choč and the Váh River. He would at times envisage them as personified monuments of ancient times or as witnesses to tumultuous historical events. He went to schools in Liptovský Mikuláš, Gemer, Levoča, Kežmarok, and Pressburg (now Bratislava). At the Lutheran Lyceum in Pressburg, he was from 1842 to 1844 one of a circle of students taught by Ľudovít Štúr.



Bust of Janko Král' by Stanislav Biroš

Král' was a tempestuous and restless character who, according to his ballad *Zakliata panna vo Váhu a divný Janko* ('The Cursed Maiden in the Váh and Crazy Janko'), was nicknamed Rebel and Crazy Janko by his friends. He wrote mainly folklore-inspired ballads and poems. His talent was striking, but his troubled, dissatisfied nature would cause him to burn at dawn the poetry he wrote at night. Many of the poems that survived were literally salvaged from the fire by his friends. He would go away by himself, spend time in the country and on trips, and often not leave any word about his whereabouts for weeks on end.

Although he would often move from place to place and sometimes 'disappear', he would always show up at the right moment for key events of his time. In 1844 he was one of the students who left the Lyceum in Pressburg in protest at the dismissal of their favourite teacher, Ľudovít Štúr. In March 1848 he was in Budapest, at the centre of the Hungarian Revolution. In 1861 he was in Turčiansky Svätý Martin for the adoption of the Memorandum of the Slovak Nation by the Slovak National Assembly. After returning from revolutionary Budapest to Slovakia, he and his friend Ján Rotarides instigated an uprising that proved ill-fated for them both. They were imprisoned, shunted from jail to jail, tortured and threatened with hanging.

After completing his studies, he worked as a civil servant in various positions of little importance. After the Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867, his reputation as a revolutionary agitator again caught up with him,

and at age 45 he was dismissed from the Hungarian civil service.

There is little information about the last years of his life. He died of typhus on 23 May 1876. Victims of this infectious disease were buried away from ordinary cemeteries, and often not even their families would know the precise location of their burial place. In 1966, on the 90th anniversary of his death, a symbolic grave of Král' was unveiled at a cemetery in Zlaté Moravce. There is another symbolic grave of Král' at the National Cemetery in Martin.

We do not know exactly what Janko Král' looked like. In the only surviving, unclear photograph of him, he is wearing a fur hat. According to writings of his contemporaries, he had dark unkempt hair, sparkling eyes, and a certain wildness of manner. He walked with a stick as a consequence of his treatment in prison.



Detail from an engraving depicting the Adoption of the Memorandum of the Slovak Nation in Martin in 1861; the figure first from the right is reputedly Janko Král'