

Obverse

The obverse features the cross-section of a tree trunk incused with a coniferous tree's outline in which a seedling is depicted. To the right of the outline, overlying part of the trunk, is the year of issuance '2024' and the Slovak coat of arms, one above the other. The name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO' is inscribed along the right edge of the design. To the left of the seedling's roots are the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint (Mincovňa Kremnica), consisting of the letters 'MK' placed between two dies, and the stylised initials 'MS', referring to the coin's designer Martin Sabol.

Reverse

The left side of the reverse depicts part of a tree trunk cross-section, its right edge resembling the left outline of a coniferous tree. To the right of this image is a portrait of Jozef Dekret Matejovie. The dates of his birth and death '1774 - 1841' are inscribed along the central right edge of the design. Overlying part of the cross-section are the coin's denomination '10' and currency 'EURO', one above the other. Along the design's left edge is the inscription 'JOZEF DEKRET MATEJOVIE'.



The former Kammerhof building on Banská Bystrica's main square, where Dekret Matejovie worked as chief forester

Coin details

Denomination:	€10
Composition:	.900 silver, .100 copper
Weight:	18 g
Diameter:	34 mm
Edge lettering:	• PRIEKOPNÍK METÓD OBNOVY LESOV NA SLOVENSKU (Pioneer of forest regeneration methods in Slovakia)
Issuing volume:	limited to a maximum of 15,000 coins in either brilliant uncirculated or proof quality
Designer:	Martin Sabol
Engraver:	Dalibor Schmidt
Producer:	Kremnica Mint (Slovakia)



Published by Národná banka Slovenska, May 2024
© Národná banka Slovenska 2024

Original Slovak text by Dr Michal Ďurčo
Translated by Národná banka Slovenska

Photographs from the Museum of Forestry and Wood Technology (LDM)
in Zvolen and from 'Život zasvätený lesu' (A life dedicated to forests)
by Július Burkovský and Eva Furdíková (LESY SR and
Slovenská lesnícka komora, 2019).

[www.nbs.sk/en/banknotes-and-coins/
euro-coins/collector-coins](http://www.nbs.sk/en/banknotes-and-coins/euro-coins/collector-coins)



www.nbs.sk



250th anniversary
of the birth of
**Jozef Dekret
Matejovie**

SILVER COLLECTOR EURO COIN

Jozef Dekret Matejovie made a major contribution to the preservation of Slovak forests in the 19th century and laid the groundwork for their rational management. At that time, timber was the main source of building material and energy for the metallurgical industry in central Slovakia. Its extraction and processing were important sources of livelihood for the local population. In 1809 Dekret Matejovie, a civil servant, undertook efforts to regenerate forest stands. Under his leadership, almost four thousand hectares of clearings were reforested by 1838.

Dekret Matejovie was born on 12 July 1774 in Dobroč, now part of Čierny Balog, into a family with a forestry background. The different communities that today make up Čierny Balog municipality used to be called the 'čierne' (black) or 'čier-nohronské' (Black Hron) settlements and were originally established as logging outposts.



The site of today's Dekret Matejovie memorial as it looked in the past



A detailed forestry map of the Brezno area produced by Dekret Matejovie in 1809 (source: LDM Zvolen)

From 1790 Dekret Matejovie progressed in his career and worked in different places. In 1808 he was appointed as a forester in Brezno. To prevent the devastation of forests (such as through grazing cattle), he initially focused on regulating the rights and duties of settlers. He surveyed and parcelled out state-owned land, established land registers, and demarcated the forest boundary. In 1809 he made initial attempts to artificially plant Norway spruce, near Beňuš and Pohronská Polhora. In 1812 he established the first forest nurseries, introduced husking mills for cone seed extraction, and put a stop to clear-cutting. To promote natural forest regeneration and the creation of mixed stands, he relocated logging to other sites. He promoted small, dispersed felling areas and brought innovation to the transport system, in particular by building timber slides and water reservoirs. His efforts to husband timber resources also included using felling waste to produce charcoal. A significant technical innovation under his management was the introduc-

tion of handsaws in 1825. Prior to that, felling was carried out exclusively with axes, with the result that the equivalent of around one in 16 trees was wasted as chippings and high stumps were left at felling sites. Besides striving to make logging more efficient, Dekret Matejovie sought to use his position to improve the material and working conditions of forestry workers.

An important collaborator of Dekret Matejovie was the chief forest inspector of Buda, František Dušek. In 1814, with Dušek's support, Dekret Matejovie reached the pinnacle of his career when he was appointed chief forester of the Imperial and Royal Chamber in Banská Bystrica.

Dekret Matejovie succeeded in reducing overcutting - the amount by which the annual allowable cut (in Slovak: etát) is exceeded - from 76% to 23%. He also ensured that 60% of the areas felled were reforested. When he became the Chamber's chief forester, logging expenses were running twenty times higher than logging income. By the time he retired, income was exceeding costs by around 50%.



An axe used by Dekret Matejovie