

## Obverse

The obverse features an imagined portrait of Brother Cyprian, who is holding a basket containing plants. Depicted above the basket is a flying machine, and above that is an eagle in flight. Inscribed below the basket is the year of issuance '2024'. On the left side is the Slovak coat of arms, above which are the coin's denomination '10' and currency 'EURO', one above the other. The name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO' appears along the lower left edge of the design.

## Reverse

The central image on the reverse is a medicinal plant featured in Brother Cyprian's herbal. Depicted on the right side is part of the Red Monastery set against the backdrop of the Three Crowns Massif, a landmark in the Pieniny Mountains. Above this image, in the upper right of the design, are the dates of Brother Cyprian's birth '1724' and death '1775', one above the other. To the left of the plant are the stylised letters 'RL', referring to the coin's designer Roman Lugár, and below them is the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint, consisting of the letters 'MK' placed between two dies. The curved inscription FRÁTER CYPRIÁN appears along the left edge, and to its right, also in curved lettering, is the Red Monastery's Slovak name 'ČERVENÝ KLÁŠTOR'.

A hermitage in the monastery containing four rooms and a hallway

## Coin details

Denomination:	€10
Composition:	.900 silver, .100 copper
Weight:	18 g
Diameter:	34 mm
Edge lettering:	- LEKÁRNIK - LIEČITEĽ - BOTANIK - MAJSTER TISÍCICH REMESIEL (apothecary - healer - botanist - master of a thousand crafts)
Issuing volume:	limited to a maximum of 15,000 coins in either brilliant uncirculated or proof quality
Designer:	Roman Lugár
Engraver:	Jakub Morávek
Producer:	Kremnica Mint (Slovakia)



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Original Slovak text based on a text from Červený Kláštor Museum

Translated by Národná banka Slovenska

Photographs from the archives of the Natural History Museum of the Slovak National Museum in Bratislava and from the archives of Červený Kláštor Museum

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300th anniversary of the birth of  
**Brother Cyprian**  
of the Red Monastery

SILVER COLLECTOR EURO COIN

Brother Cyprian was born Franz Ignatz Jäschke on 28 July 1724 in Polkowice, a town in Lower Silesia that was then part of Prussia. He studied in Poland, Bohemia and probably also in Italy, where he may have encountered Leonardo da Vinci's sketches of a flying machine. During his studies, he acquired knowledge of medicine and floristics and delved into botany, pharmacy, alchemy, mechanics, physics, aviation and cosmology. As for languages, he was proficient in Latin, Greek, German, Polish and Slovak.

Upon making his eternal vows at the Camaldolese monastery at Zobor near Nitra, he took the name Cyprian. In 1756 he moved to the Red Monastery (Červený kláštor), then called Lechnický kláštor, where he remained until his death on 16 April 1775. He worked there variously as a barber, bathhouse attendant, carpenter and cook, and he could make glass, mirrors and fireworks. He also worked as a healer and surgeon, performing bloodletting with leeches that he himself bred and setting fractures and dislocations with splints. Cyprian's name is associated with medicinal herbs



The part of the monastery, called 'Klazúra', where the laity were not allowed to enter



An 18th century herbal dispensary reproduced at the monastery today

from the Pieniny Mountains and the Belianske Tatras Mountains. He collected, dried, ground and processed them into decoctions, tinctures, teas and ointments, which he used in treating diseases. He based his diagnoses primarily on the patient's body temperature and urine, seeking the origin of a disease mainly in the liver, spleen, stomach and skin. He systematically classified his knowledge and experience of medicinal herbs and set it down in a unique herbal, the oldest one preserved from the territory of Slovakia.

Brother Cyprian's herbal, probably compiled between 1766 and 1771, is a leather-bound folio measuring 39 x 23 x 9 cm and bearing the title *Botanoteka fr. Cypriana* in Greek on the first page. It has 97 leaves and contains 286 plants. Each plant is labelled with its name in Latin, Greek and German. In some places its name in the local Goral dialect or its place of collection is also mentioned. The herbal gives a clear summary of each plant's useful properties and medicinal effects, and it features 44 plants that came to the monastery from other territories, including the Mediterranean. The next

part of the herbal contains an alphabetical index, mostly in Latin, and notes in German Schwabacher script, where Cyprian records his own experiences and observations from his time as administrator of the monastery's herbal dispensary and hospital. Since 1984 the herbal has been part of the collections of the Natural History Museum of the Slovak National Museum in Bratislava. A legend about flying is also indelibly associated with Cyprian. It is said that he fulfilled his desire to fly when, by means of a machine he made himself, he took off by moonlight from the Three Crowns Massif in the Pieniny Mountains. Once he flew so high that an angel, on spotting Cyprian's reflection on the surface of Morskie Oko (Eye of the Sea) lake on the Polish side of the Tatra Mountains, punished him by striking him to the ground with a bolt of lightning and turning him into a rock which still today bears the name 'Monk'. Through his work and legacy, however, Brother Cyprian continues to live on with us.



Page 51 of the herbal features a subspecies of monkshood and the common potato; page 55 contains the garden orache and the woodland geranium