



Mojmír II, depicted by sculptor V. Matušinec

NÁRODNÁ BANKA SLOVENSKA

The Church of Saint Margarita from Antioch in Kopčany with earrings from the period of Great Moravia on its sides is depicted on the obverse of the coin. The name of the state, SLOVENSÁ REPUBLIKA, is located in the bottom section of the coin on the left and right. The state shield is in the middle and 2006, the mintage year is situated under it; Sk 5000, the nominal value of the coin is above it in two lines. MR, the initials of the author of the design are next to the earrings near the right edge, and MK, the trademark of the Mincovňa Kremnica mint are located near the left edge of the coin.

The fictitious portrait of Mojmir II is depicted on the reverse; the handle of the sword on the stylized background is situated under it. An earring and parts of two swords are to the left of the portrait; the decoration of the horse harness is on the left. The words VEĽKOMORAVSKÉ KNIEŽA (The Great Moravian Prince) are inscribed on the bottom part to the left and MOJMÍR II is on the right. The years 894 • 906 designating the period in which Mojmir II ruled are depicted near the right upper edge.

MOJMÍR II, THE GREAT MORAVIAN RULER

COMMEMORATIVE GOLD COIN



Great Moravian Empire

- Great Moravia in the reign of Rastislav
- The greatest extent of the empire under Svätopluk I

Nominal value: 5000 Sk
 Material: Au 900, Ag 75, Cu 25
 Weight: 9.5 g
 Diameter: 26 mm
 Edge: milled

Number of pieces minted - limited quantity: 7,000 proof
 Designer: Miroslav Ronai
 Engraver: Dalibor Schmidt
 Producer: Kremnica Mint



Mojmír II, the older of the two historically documented sons of Svätopluk I, the Great Moravian ruler, was born sometime after 871 and became the Great Moravian Prince in 894 after his father's death.

Mojmír II and Svätopluk II, the sons of Svätopluk I were relatively well known personalities of that time in

Europe as opposed to Predslav, the disputed third son. All three are only present in the famous 10th century legend about Svätopluk's sticks that was recorded by Constantine Porfirogenet, the Byzantium emperor in his work *On Ruling the Empire*. According to this legend, the dying Svätopluk I, urged his sons to unite in ruling the country. But the sons did not follow his advice and their mutual disputes caused the disintegration of Great Moravia.

When the young sovereign Mojmir II took the thrown he could not hold the huge empire together and step by step he lost several territories. He concluded a peace treaty with the Bavarians in the first year of his reign and he gave up the Principality of Pannonia in the south trans-Danube territory. In 895 the Czechs broke away from his empire and concluded an alliance against him with the Bavarians. Their example was followed by the Elbian Serbs who later acknowledged the sovereignty of the Eastern Franconian Empire. In 896, a group of Hungarians settled on the Great Moravian Tisza territory. In the beginning they were his allies.

In 898, Svätopluk II, the Nitra appanage Prince, instigated and supported by Ariba, the Margrave of Eastern Margraviate, rose up against Mojmir. Not even three Bavarian war expeditions to Great Moravia could prevent Svätopluk's defeat in 899, but it contributed to the debilitation of Mojmir's military power. The pope's legates arrived in Moravia immediately

The church in Kopčany



Nitra Castle, the centre of Nitra Principality

after Mojmir's victory and ordained a new archbishop and three bishops. Without a doubt, one of the newly ordained bishops came to Nitra. One's own religious jurisdiction was extremely important for the country since it supported the legitimacy of the sovereign.

In 900, Hungarians together with Moravians plundered and occupied the Principality of Pannonia. But their alliance ended the same year. Another group of Hungarians came to the Tisza territory from behind the Carpathians and at the end of the year they attacked Great Moravia. The weakened country was left with its core territory – Moravia and the Nitra region.

Mojmir II dropped all disputes with the Bavarians and in 901 he concluded an anti-Hungarian alliance with them. In 902, the Moravians were still able to withstand the attacking Hungarians, but the strong Hungarian offensive in 906 ruined the state. It is probable that Mojmir II, the last Great Moravian sovereign died while defending the country in 906. Thus the Nitra Principality and Great Moravia remain symbols of the rich past of the Slovaks, allowing entire generations to draw from their cultural legacy.

The Church of Saint Margarita from Antioch, which is depicted on the adverse of the coin, is the only nearly completely preserved Great Moravian church. It is unique proof and



Ducové (near Piešťany), an important Great Moravian settlement

documentation of the Christian cultural traditions that formed the central European region. The church is situated in the western part of Kopčany, a Slovak municipality on the Morava River. Since 1994, considerable archeological research carried out here has brought new information regarding the development of this building which was until then considered a Baroque chapel. It belongs to a group of single transept churches that were built in Central and Western Europe especially from the 8th to the 11th centuries, in the Pre-Romanesque period. It was a part of the ancient Slavic settlement that in the Early Middle Ages was situated on several islands in the area of the present municipality of Moravian Mikulčice and from the historical context it can be designated as the 13th church of the Mikulčice settlement.

