

COMMEMORATIVE SILVER COIN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE – BARDEJOV TOWN CONSERVATION RESERVE

On 30th August 2004, the National Bank of Slovakia issued a commemorative silver coin to promote another of the Slovak localities included in the UNESCO World Heritage List – the town conservation reserve of Bardejov.

Bardejov, the administrative and cultural centre of

Second Prize: Ján Černaj



petition, was the most appropriate for production. In its decision, it took into account especially the realistic expression of the given theme. The artist depicted the characteristic architectural dominant features of the town square of Bardejov – the town hall and the Church of St. Aegi-

Third Prize: PhDr. Kliment Mitura



Third Prize: academic sculptor Michal Gavula



Upper Šariš, is situated in north-eastern Slovakia. A large number of monuments forming one of the most precious urban complexes in Slovakia is characteristic of the former free royal borough. The rich secular and religious architecture, which still gives it a medieval character, is a result of its flourishing period in the 14th and 15th centuries. The most precious structure is the monumental Church of St. Aegidius. Its eleven Late Gothic winged altars with panel paintings are unique in the world. The town square surrounded by burgers' houses of Gothic and Renaissance origin and townhall from the beginning of the 16th century deserve attention. The Gothic fortifications are among the best preserved town fortification systems in Europe. There is a noteworthy Jewish suburb with baths, houses and a synagogue from the first half of the 18th century, built according to Talmudic regulations, and a preserved cemetery.

To find a design for the commemorative coin, the National Bank of Slovakia declared an anonymous public competition in January 2003. Eleven artists participated with thirteen works. After assessing the competition, the expert commission stated that in relation to the attractiveness of the theme, the number of entries is surprisingly low. The appropriate choice of motifs, selected by the artists to represent the unique cultural value of Bardejov, was positively evaluated. However, none of the designs represented it to a sufficient degree for the commission to recommend awarding it first prize.

The commission decided that the design by the Kremnica artist Ján Černaj, who gained second prize in the com-

petition, was the most appropriate for production. The reverse bears a relief version of a historic plan of the town, presenting its rich architecture and protected by powerful medieval fortifications. The plan is supplemented by the shield of the town.

A third prize was awarded to PhDr. Kliment Mitura. In his design, the commission appreciated the purity and balance of the composition on both sides. On the obverse, the artist depicted the Church of St. Aegidius and motifs from its decoration. For the reverse, he selected other notable architectural features and points of interest in the town.

Another third prize was awarded to academic sculptor Michal Gavula. His design shows an interesting compositional solution and harmony between the obverse and reverse sides. The town square appears on both sides with rows of typical burgers' houses. The depiction of houses on the obverse is supplemented with the town hall and a sculpture of St. Aegidius, while the Church of St. Aegidius, town hall and shield of the town appear on the reverse.

The commemorative coin has a value of 200 Sk, diameter of 34 mm and weight of 20 g. It was struck from silver with a fineness of 750/1000 at the Kremnica Mint. 12,000 pieces were struck, 3,600 of them proof. On the edge is the inscription "WORLD HERITAGE – PATRIMOINE MONDIAL".

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