

In the short story *Tá zem vábna...* (The tempting land, 1907), Timrava realistically and even ironically addressed the topic of emigration to America. Another work, *Márnosť všetko* (The futility of everything, 1908), is a grand exploration of basic human values in the dimensions of life and death, chronicling the tragic demise of a maid who becomes rich but is unfortunate in motherhood. Her period of mature creativity culminated in the short story *Ľapákovci* (The Ľapáks, 1914), which through the relations within the Ľapák family shows the passing of a social era and the tragicomic introduction of capitalism into the Slovak countryside.



She wrote the pacifistic short story *Hrdinovia* (The heroes, 1918) for a competition, but in doing so sought to accommodate social expectations, somewhat to the detriment of the work's artistic credibility. She returned to stylistic excellence in her 1921 short story about human misery, weakness and suffering: *Skon Paľa Ročka* (The death of Paľo Ročka). In the short story *Všetko za národ* (Everything for the nation, 1926), the author takes a stance against the literary conventions promoted by elites in Martin (central Slovakia) and their excessive attachment to the nation and folklore. Her later short stories, *Dve doby* (Two eras, 1936) and *Záplava* (The flood, 1938) look ironically at social conditions associated with the changed situation in the new Czechoslovak Republic. She also wrote several plays, but these did not reach the heights of her prose.



Božena Slančíková Timrava, *The Ball*, a photograph from the play written by Daniel Majling at the Slovak National Theatre

Coin details

Denomination: €10

Composition: Ag 900/1000

Cu 100/1000

Weight: 18 g

Diameter: 34 mm

Incuse edge inscription: "PREDSTAVITELKA NESKORÉHO

LITERÁRNEHO REALIZMU" (EXPONENT OF LATE LITERARY REALISM)

Issuing volume: imited to a maximum of 11,000 coins (including brilliant uncirculated and proof quality)

Designer: Asamat Baltaev

Engraver: Filip Čertaský

Producer: Kremnica Mint

The obverse side of the coin depicts an open book with a motif from Timrava's well-known short story *The Ľapáks*. Overlying the book is a quill. In the lower part of the coin is the coat of arms of the Slovak Republic, and next to that is the name of the issuing country "SLOVENSKO", above the year of issuance "2017". The denomination "10 EURO" appears in the upper part of the coin.

The reverse features a portrait of Božena Slančíková Timrava set against the page of an open book. Her first and last names "BOŽENA SLANČÍKOVÁ" are written below the book, and below them is her pseudonym "TIMRAVA". At the bottom of the coin is the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint and the initials of the designer Asamat Baltaev. The dates of Slančíková Timrava's birth and death, "1867" and "1951", appear in the upper part of the coin on two lines.



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Božena Slančíková Timrava

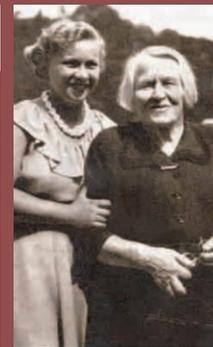
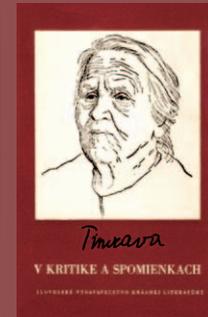
150th anniversary of the birth

Silver Collector Coin

The story writer and playwright **Božena Slančíková**, who wrote under the pen name **Timrava**, was a leading exponent of the late literary realism style in Slovak literature. Timrava's works are masterpieces of Slovak literary realism while at the same time her emphasis on the psychology of the characters and their attitude to life anticipates Slovak literary modernism.

She was born on 2 October 1867 at Polichno. Her father was a Lutheran pastor and one of the co-founders of the Slovak cultural organisation, Matica slovenská. After attending the village school in Polichno for two years, she was then taught with her siblings by their father. In 1909, after he died, she and her mother went to live with her brother in Ábelová, where from 1919 to 1929 she held the position of a kindergarten teacher. In 1945 she moved to her relatives in Lučenec. As an unmarried woman whose writing earned little more than symbolic royalties, she had to struggle her whole life to get by. Božena Slančíková Timrava died in Lučenec in 1951.

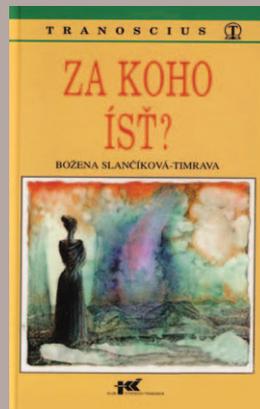
Timrava's writing talent and private life reflected conditions in the out-of-the-way towns of the Novohrad region, but also the creative atmosphere of her family circle. Along with her sister she prepared manuscript magazine *Ratolesť* (Sprig) in 1887. Between 1886 and 1897 she wrote satirically edged poems that gradually took on a self-ironic character. Many would later become plot material for her short stories set against a background of village intellectual life, whose dominant theme was usually the relationship between men and women. Her prose work would eventually become the literary activity in which she expressed herself most strongly.



Bál (The ball), *Boj* (The fight) – she developed a psychologically complex type of heroine with unusual feelings of sadness and disillusion related to the social atmosphere of the time. This productive period was interrupted by a scandal regarding the publishing of the short story *Skúsenosť* (An experience) in *Slovenské pohľady* (Slovak views) in 1902, where the author described her experiences as a companion to the widow of Pavol Országh Hviezdoslav (Slovakia's greatest poet) in Dolný Kubín and presented a sarcastic portrait of relations in patriotic Slovak circles. Since her analysis did not spare even the most prominent figures of Slovak literature, including Hviezdoslav and Vajanský, the editor bowed to pressure to cut or modify certain passages. Timrava was disgusted and gave up expressing her views openly for a certain period.

She spent the years from 1904 to 1906 searching for new creative outlets, producing prose with varied focus and artistic value. Her most important works were the long novellas *Bez hrdosti* (Without pride, 1905) and *Veľké šťastie* (A great deal of luck, 1906), which went beyond traditional realistic poetics. They are distinguished by the heroine's intense subjectivity, a relaxed structure, and a preference for literary stylisation before realistic illusion. The plot of *Without pride* centres on an unpromising love affair between the autobiographical heroine and a self-confident Hungarianised Slovak. Timrava's self-irony, bordering on self-condemnation, may be related to her spinsterhood and both may be the result of a refusal to compromise in the emotional sphere.

Sculpture of B. S. Timrava by Alfonz Grom in front of the B. S. Timrava School in the town of Lučenec



Her first published story, *Za koho íšť?* (Who to go for?, 1893), was quite risqué for the time, with its focus on getting a 'good catch' in marriage – a theme that would recur in her short stories. A key element of Timrava's social prose is the depiction of the relationship between men and women, unconventionally presented as the naïve girl losing her illusions or reconciling with reality. In her short stories written between 1896 and 1900 – *Pomocník* (The assistant), *Ťažké polozenie* (Difficult position), *Tak je darmo* (It's all for nothing), *Pozde* (Late), *Nemilí* (Unpleasant people),

