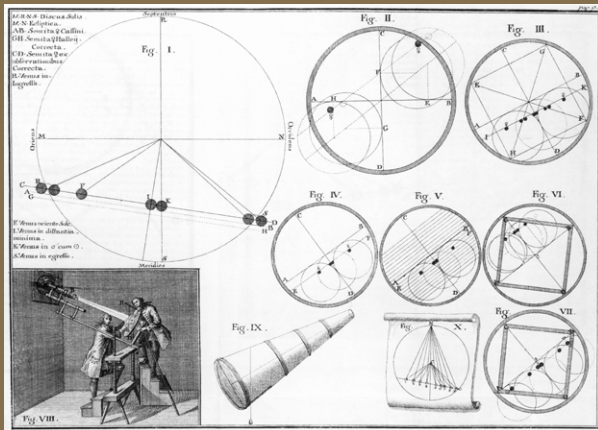


Obverse

The coin's obverse design depicts Father Hell as a standing astronomer observing a starry night sky through a period telescope. At the left edge is the Slovak coat of arms, and in the lower centre, between the figure and the telescope, are the coin's denomination '10' and currency 'EURO', one above the other. The name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO' appears along the upper edge of the design, followed by the year of issuance '2020'. At the lower right are the stylised letters 'KL', referring to the designer Karol Ličko, and the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint (Mincovňa Kremnica), consisting of the letters 'MK' placed between two dies.



19th century illustration entitled "Transit of Venus in 1761"

Reverse

The reverse depicts, on the right side, Father Hell dressed for his journey to the Arctic Circle, where he observed the transit of Venus across the Sun. The transit is shown on the left side above a cluster of shining stars. In the midst of the stars are dates of Father Hell's birth '1720' and death '1792', one above the other. The name 'MAXIMILIÁN HELL' appears along the left edge of the design.

Coin details

Denomination:	€10
Composition:	.900 silver, .100 copper
Weight:	18 g
Diameter:	34 mm
Edge lettering:	PRIEKOPNÍK MODERNEJ ASTRONOMICKEJ VEDY) (Pioneer of modern astronomy)
Issuing volume:	limited to a maximum of 11,000 coins
Designer:	Karol Ličko
Engraver:	Filip Čerťaský
Producer:	Kremnica Mint



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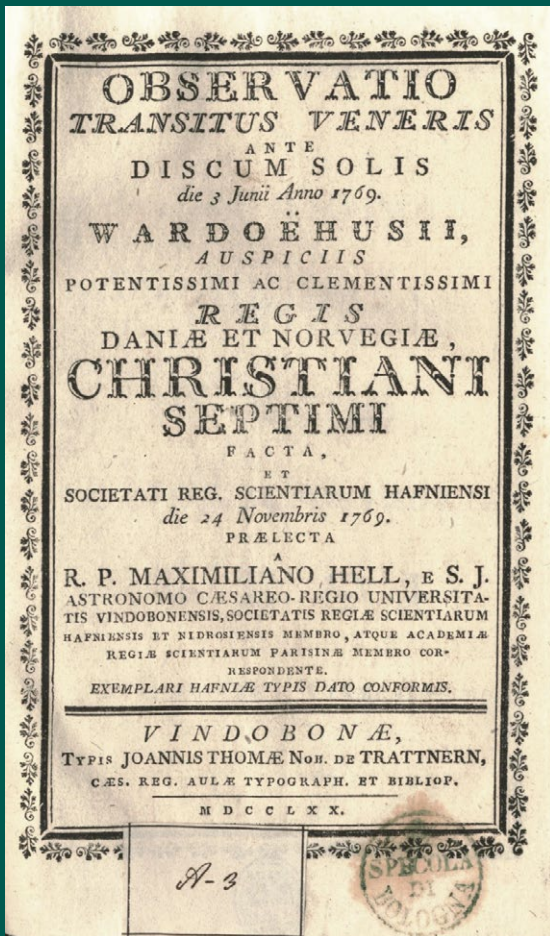


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300th anniversary of
the birth of
Maximilian Hell

SILVER COLLECTOR COIN



Title page of the first edition of Father Hell's Venus transit report

Maximilian Hell was born on 15 May 1720 in Štiavnické Bane, a village in what is now Slovakia. He was the son of Matthias Cornelius Hell, a railway foreman, design engineer, and inventor. At the age of 18, he entered the Society of Jesus at Trenčín, and in 1741, after his novitiate, he was sent to study in Vienna, where, in addition to philosophy, he studied mathematics, physics and astronomy. In 1745 he became an assistant

to Father Jozef Franz at the Jesuit observatory in Vienna and began lecturing in astronomy at Vienna University. In 1751 he was ordained a priest, and two years later he received a professorship of mathematics at Klausenberg in Transylvania. In that same year he was involved as a consultant for the construction of an astronomical observatory at Trnava University. Father Hell prepared the plans for the observatory, but did not oversee the construction; instead, he left for Klausenberg, where again he was asked to plan the construction of an observatory. In 1755, following the death of Johann Jakob Marinoni, the court mathematician, Father Hell was appointed Director of the Imperial Observatory of Vienna and held the post until his death in 1792. His duties as director included ensuring the operation of the observatory, making astronomical observations, lecturing at the university, and maintaining contacts with foreign scientists. In addition to working at the observatory and university, Father Hell published academic works and was involved in the establishment of observatories at Budin and Eger. Father Hell's scientific, teaching and publication activities established him as a pioneer of modern astronomy in the Habsburg Monarchy.

Father Hell gained an international reputation with the publication of an almanac-journal entitled Ephemerides astronomicae ad meridianum Vindobonensem ("Ephemerides for the Meridian of Vienna"), which he edited from 1757 and which continued to be published until 1807. His almanac came out a decade before the first British periodical specialising in astronomy and two decades before the Berlin Academy



Postage stamp from Czechoslovakia commemorating the 200th anniversary of Father Hell's birth

published a similar work. As a result, the Ephemerides was not only publishing the results of the Vienna observatory's observations, but also serving as a significant publication forum for leading astronomers from across Europe. It included among other things calculations about the movements of the Sun, the Moon and planets, and other astronomical calculations and data.

Father Hell was a member of several learned societies. He cooperated with the British Royal Society and in 1790 was made a fellow of that institution. The crater Hell on the Moon is named after him, as is the minor planet (3727) Maxhell. In 1970 UNESCO included the 250th anniversary of Father Hell's birth in its calendar of anniversaries of eminent persons.