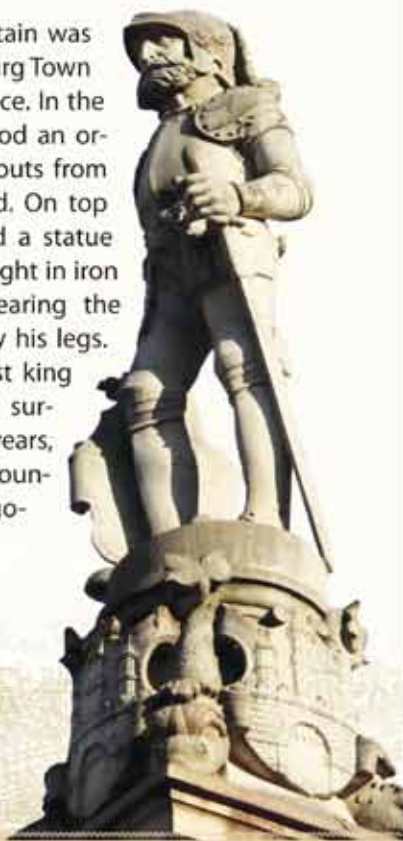


In 1572 a stone fountain was built in front of the Pressburg Town Hall in the main marketplace. In the centre of the fountain stood an ornamental column with spouts from which spring water flowed. On top of the column was placed a statue of King Maximilian as a knight in iron armour, with a shield bearing the Kingdom's coat of arms by his legs. This monument to the first king crowned in Pressburg has survived for more than 400 years, although the form of the fountain at its base has undergone several changes.



Statue of King Maximilian from the fountain built in 1572

Maximilian fountain in Bratislava at present



## Coin details

*Denomination:* €100

*Material:* Au 900/1000, Ag 75/1000, Cu 25/1000

*Weight:* 9.5 g

*Diameter:* 26 mm

*Edge:* milled

*Mintage:* limited to a maximum of 6,000 proof coins

*Designer:* Karol Ličko

*Engraver:* Dalibor Schmidt

*Producer:* Producer: Mincovňa Kremnica / Kremnica Mint

The obverse side shows the Hungarian royal crown set between lines of decorative beads. The lower half of the design features a period depiction of Bratislava Castle, and to the right is the coat of arms of the Slovak Republic. Along the upper edge is the name of the issuing country „SLOVENSKO“ followed by the denomination and currency „100 EURO“. The year „2013“ appears below the crown. The mint mark of the Kremnica Mint and the stylised initials of the coin's designer, Karol Ličko, are located on the left-hand side, next to the crown.

On the reverse side is a portrait of Maximilian, juxtaposed with a period depiction of St Martin's Cathedral, where the king was crowned, and the coronation orb, all framed by a circle of decorative beads. The coronation year „1563“ appears next to the portrait. Along the edge are the inscriptions „KORUNOVÁCIA MAXIMILIÁNA“ and „BRATISLAVA“.



Published by: © Národná banka Slovenska, November 2013

Photo: Progress Promotion

<http://www.nbs.sk/en/banknotes-and-coins/euro-coins/collector-coins>



**BRATISLAVA CORONATIONS  
450th ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
CORONATION OF MAXIMILIAN**

Gold Collector Coin

The crowning of Maximilian was the first coronation to be conducted in Pressburg (present-day Bratislava), which had taken over as capital of the Hungarian Kingdom in 1536. A major event attracting Europe-wide attention, the coronation was attended by Maximilian's father, the Emperor and King Ferdinand, and senior prelates, the Hungarian nobility, and leading representatives from almost all European countries.

Hungarian monarchs had previously been crowned at the Basilica of the Virgin Mary in Székesfehérvár, but after the town was occupied by Turks in 1543, the place of coronations was relocated to Pressburg. A total of eleven coronations of Hungarian kings were held there, the last in 1830.

Ferdinand I, the Holy Roman Emperor, ruled the Hungarian Kingdom from 1526. Because of age and infirmity, he decided in 1563 to relinquish the Hungarian crown to his son Maximilian, who had already been made German and Bohemian king and in 1564 became the Holy Roman Emperor, known as Maximilian II. In the absence of a hereditary right to the Hungarian throne, the Diet of Hungary had to choose the new ruler and approve his coronation.



Emperor Maximilian II with his family by Giuseppe Arcimboldo

The coronation took place on 8 September 1563 in what was then a church dedicated to the Most Holy Saviour and to Saint Martin – a bishop and knight, and is now St Martin's Cathedral. The town was embellished as it had never been before, and a new bridge was built across the widest channel of the Danube, with two massive ornamental portals erected on each side. The streets were filled with visitors and with troops tasked with maintaining order and security.

List of Hungarian Monarchs crowned in St Martin's Cathedral in 1563-1830

interior of St Martin's Cathedral

The coronation procession as conducted in Székesfehérvár over previous centuries was adapted to the local conditions. Other places that played a key role in the coronation events, in addition to the coronation church, were the Church of the Virgin Mary (at a Franciscan Monastery), where the new king created knights, an area outside the town's inner battlements where the king publicly swore his coronation oath, and a mound next to the Danube river on which he appeared on horseback and expressed his resolution to defend the Hungarian Kingdom against its enemies. Maximilian did not, however, exercise de facto rule until his father died in 1564.

Maximilian (1527–1576) was aged 36 at his coronation. He was married to Maria, from the Spanish branch of the Habsburg ruling dynasty, and their most famous descendents were the emperors Rudolf II and Matthias. Maximilian was highly educated for his time and was a generous patron of artists and scientists. He sympathised with the German Reformation movement, enjoyed good relations with German Protestant clergy, and allowed his subjects to receive communion in both kinds. Nevertheless, he remained a Catholic and had his children educated by Catholic clergy. Although Maximilian spent most of his time outside the Hungarian Kingdom, he had to devote a great deal of attention to its defence against Ottoman attacks. His military successes resulted in a peace treaty with Sultan Selim II in 1568.

Coronation Festivals commemorating crowned Hungarian kings, regularly held in Bratislava since 2003

Portrait of young Maximilian

Hungarian coronation crown

