



Iconostas from the mid of the 18th century – Ladomirová

The Eastern group, developed in connection with the process of reunification of a part of Eastern Christians with Catholic Rome since the end of 16th century, is represented by *cerkvi* from the period of the 17th and 18th centuries. *Cerkvi* retained the basic features originating from Byzantine and later from Kiev-Russian patterns with a three-part disposition in their architecture. Each log house has an individual roof with a turrical ending, which gradates towards the dominating west tower above the entrance. The most significant and the most artistically valuable mobiliary art of Greek Catholic churches is the iconostasis: a tall, richly carved, painted and gold-coated wall reaching the ceiling of the aisle. It consists of icons, ordered according to liturgically specified canon. Recorded in the World Heritage List are *cerkvi* in Ruská Bystrá, Ladomirová and Bodružal villages.

Wooden Churches of the Slovak part of the Carpathian Mountain Area inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List represent the wooden sacral architecture of the region. They are an example of rich local tradition and a mutual interweaving of Eastern and Western culture in our territory. The cultural-historical significance of these churches is increased by rich internal furnishings, including paintings decorating the walls and ceilings of the interiors.

Coin data

Face value: 10 euro

Material: Ag 900/1000
Cu 100/1000

Weight: 18 g

Diameter: 34 mm

Edge: engraved inscription in English and French

WORLD HERITAGE – PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

Mintage: limited quantity of 30,000 pcs
(BU + PROOF)

Designer: **Mgr. art. Patrik Kovačovský**

Engraver: **Dalibor Schmidt**

Manufacturer: **Kremnica Mint**

Depicted on the obverse on the left side of the coin field is the St. Nicolas Church in Bodružal; to the right is the Church of All Saints in Tvrdošín and above it is the Hronsek church. Near the right edge of the coin is the national emblem of the Slovak Republic, above which is the denomination of the face value 10 EURO. The name of the state SLOVENSKO, with a stylized letter S suggesting the road connecting individual wooden churches, is located in the lower part of the coin field. Below it there is the year 2010. To the left of the letter S is the mark of the Europa Coin Programme represented by the European star and the euro symbol. Kremnica mint's mark MK between two stamping tools is located on the left, and stylized initials of the art design's author Mgr. art. Patrik Kovačovský, PK, is located to the right of the year.

Depicted on the reverse on the right side of the coin field is the Church of St. Francis of Assisi in Hervartovo and on its left the Church of St. Nicolas in Ruská Bystrá. Below it is the writing in three lines SVETOVÉ KULTÚRNE DEDIČSTVO (World Cultural Heritage) with a stylized letter S suggesting the road connecting individual wooden churches. In the lower part of the coin field is the inscription DREVENÉ CHRÁMY (wooden churches).



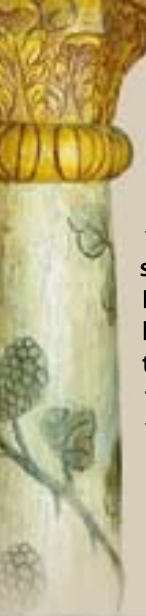
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**UNESCO World Heritage
Wooden Churches of the Slovak Part
of the Carpathian Mountain Area**

Silver Collector Coin



The rustic-looking wooden churches in Slovakia of today are only a remnant of originally three hundred buildings scattered over the country in previous times. Their fragile and visibly vulnerable beauty is a medium of the unique symbiosis of Christian faith and folk architecture. Non-professional craftsmen utilising intimate knowledge acquired from their forebears of the basic building material, wood, shaped them into manifold appearance. The final visage of the buildings has been influenced by requirements resulting from various religious ceremonies and cultural principles, and also from the peculiarity of the regions and from official taste. Isolated buildings are often to be found on elevations and hillocks.



The richly decorated cassette ceiling of the church aisle – Tvrdošín

is held by a construction consisting of a system of frames, struts and wind bracings. Log house constructions were often covered by vertically placed wall linings, which were also used during interior surfacing as a facade for wall paintings. The oldest preserved buildings originate from the 15th century, but most of them are from the 18th century.



Figural motifs of Adam and Eve in Paradise, wall-painting from 1665 – Hervartov

a single aisle with a polygonal apse covered by wall paintings. In the World Heritage List, this group is represented by small churches in Hervatovo and Tvrdošín villages.

Lutheran churches built since the end of the 17th century are without a tower and have a characteristic central area shaped like an isosceles cross with galleries where sometimes more than a thousand believers could gather. In more austere interiors, displaying Old Testament prophets, scenes from the New Testament and quotations from the Bible were more prevalent. Another part of World Heritage is the church in the town of Kežmarok and churches located in Leštiny a Hronsek villages.

The churches inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List



The Lutheran church in Leštiny

The Greek Catholic St. Nicolaus Church in Bodružal

The Roman Catholic Church of All Saints in Tvrdošín

The Lutheran church in Hronsek

St. Michael the Archangel Greek Catholic Church in Ladomirová

Church of St. Francis of Assisi in Hervartov

The Lutheran church in Kežmarok

St. Nicolaus the Bishop Greek Catholic Church in Ruská Bystrá

Eight authentic wooden churches were included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2008 under the name Wooden Churches of the Slovak part of Carpathian Mountain Area. Although they belong to three different denominations, they are connected by some common features. The most notable is their construction, in which the ancient technique of log house is applied almost without exception. Rarely, mainly during the construction of towers, did the builders utilise pillar construction. During the construction of some Lutheran churches, the timber framing technique was sporadically used, where the board panelling of walls



In terms of church affiliation the wooden sacral architecture is divided into two basic groups: Eastern and Western. The Western group is represented by the Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches. The Eastern group includes the Greek Catholic churches (cerkvi), and, more rarely, Orthodox churches from the period of the 17th to 18th centuries. Denominational affiliation influenced their floor plan design as well as furnishings.

The oldest are the Roman Catholic churches from the late 15th and early 16th century. They are built in the spirit of fading-out Gothic, with tall shingle roofs. Their internal area features

Stone baptismery from 1690 – Kežmarok

Wooden column architecture and slab barrel vaults – Hronsek

