

Obverse

The left side is filled with an image of the Demänovská Cave of Liberty's impressive speleothems. Around this image are examples of the cave's rare fauna: two palpigrades and two beetles of the family Duvalius. To the right of that band are the Slovak coat-of-arms and, above it, the coin's denomination '20' and currency 'EURO', one above the other. The name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO' and the year of issuance '2021' are inscribed along the right edge.



Golden Lake

Reverse

On the right side is a large circular inset depicting Alois Král in the process of discovering the cave – crawling down into it via a dry ponor of the Demänovka Stream. This image also includes a carbide lamp emitting rays of light and, at the bottom, the year '1921' in which the cave was discovered. On the left, the larger part of the design depicts the cave's dripstone formations together with lakes and other structures. At the base is the year '2021'. The inscription 'DEMÄNOVSKÁ JASKYŇA SLOBODY' (Demänovská Cave of Liberty) runs along the edge from the centre left to the lower right quadrant. At the edge of a lake on the lower left side are the stylised letters 'MP', referring to the coin's designer Mária Poldaufová, and the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint (Mincovňa Kremnica), consisting of the letters 'MK' placed between two dies.

Coin details

Denomination:	€20
Composition:	.925 silver, .75 copper
Weight:	33.63 g
Diameter:	40 mm
Edge lettering:	• OSOBITOSTI PRÍRODY SLOVENSKA (Special natural features of Slovakia), with the start and end of the inscription separated by a stylised flower
Issuing volume:	limited to a maximum of 11,000 coins in either brilliant uncirculated or proof quality
Designer:	Mária Poldaufová
Engraver:	Dalibor Schmidt
Producer:	Kremnica Mint (Slovakia)



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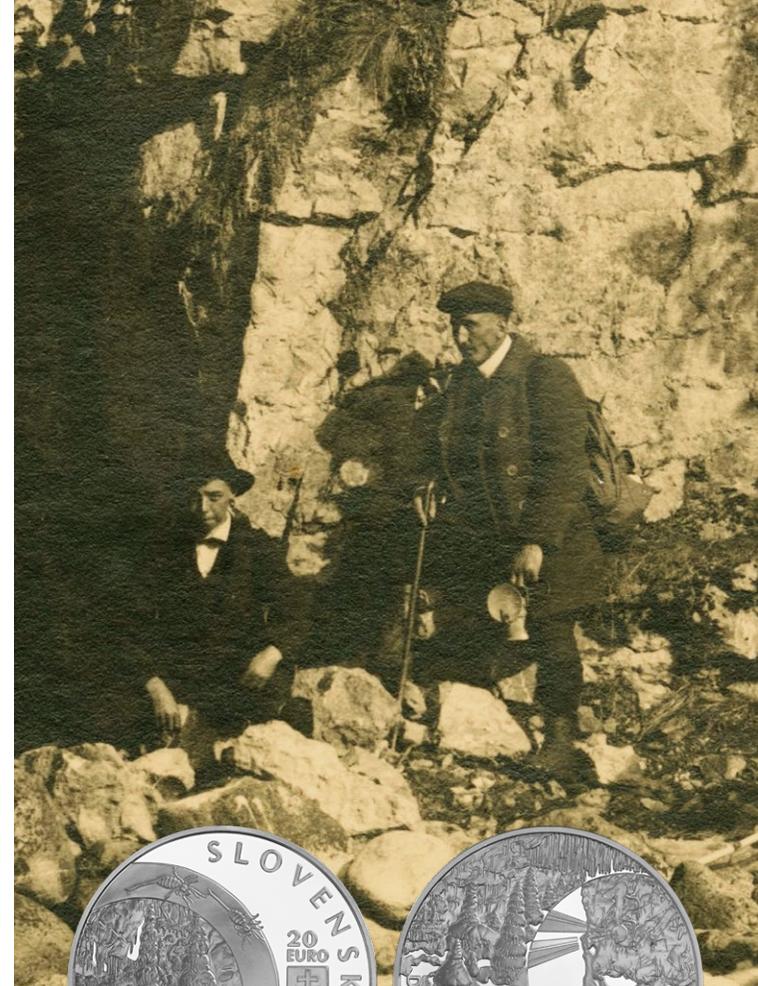
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100th anniversary of the discovery of the Demänovská Cave of Liberty

SILVER COLLECTOR EURO COIN



The Pink Hall's Water Lily Lake with Rococo Dollies

The Demänovská Cave of Liberty is the most varied part of the more than 41 km long Demänovská Cave System. Along with imposing, passage-linked halls and domes, the cave contains flowstone and dripstone structures that come in a plethora of shapes and sizes and feature an extensive interplay of colours and hues. Visitors are particularly captivated by the variety of flowstone deposits formed in rainfall-filled lakes (variously resembling lily pads, sponge, coral and grapes), the massive flowstone waterfalls, pagoda-like stalagmites, and eccentric stalactites. Running through the cave is the Demänovka Stream that formed the whole cave system.

The cave was discovered in August 1921 by a Moravian teacher called Alois Král. After entering it via a ponor of the Demänovka Stream, he made his way to an impressive watercourse that a subsequent survey showed to be a mas-

sive space – the inspiration for the cave's original name: the “Temple of Liberty”. Král discovered the cave's opening after clearing away the brushwood and other material that had built up in front of it. Once inside, he found narrow passages that were several tens of metres in length and had water flowing through them. After negotiating these cramped crawlways, he came across extensive large passages. On the way back, he became lost and was eventually rescued by Adam Mišura, the son of a local forester, who descended into the cave by candlelight while secured by a rope from the surface.

The coin depicts the Demänovská Cave of Liberty's discoverer and a carbide lamp, his source of light when making that first foray into the cave's dark depths. His first discoveries were hundreds of metres of speleothem-free fluvial passages formed by a subterranean river,



A beetle of the subspecies *Duvalius microphthalmus spelaeus*, with a body length of around 4.5 mm



A palpigra of the species *Eukoenia spelaea*, with a body length of 1.5–2 mm

gravel and sediment. The arrays of speleothems were discovered only later. The coin design also includes symbolic features of the cave: the Pink Hall's Water Lily Lake with Rococo Dollies; the impressive Golden Lake; and rare cave fauna.

The cave is home to one of the most northerly known occurrences of palpigraes (*Eukoenia spelaea*), arachnids of the order Palpigradi, which make it a cave biotope of European significance. There is also a beetle endemic to the cave: *Duvalius microphthalmus spelaeus*. Largely because of their importance as a waterfowl biotope and underground wetland, the Demänovská Cave of Liberty and other caves of the Demänovská Valley are included in the List of Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.