

Obverse

The collector coin's obverse depicts a stylised dove as a symbol of freedom with its body incorporating elements referential to the Czechoslovak flag. Along the upper left edge of the design is the name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO', and in the upper right quadrant are the Slovak coat of arms and, below it, the year of issuance '2021'. The coin's denomination '10' and currency 'EURO' appear in the lower left, one above the other. Below them is a stylised letter 'N', referring to the surname of the obverse designer Štefan Novotný, and, to its right, the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint (Mincovňa Kremnica), consisting of the letters 'MK' placed between two dies.

Reverse

The reverse shows a portrait of Alexander Dubček and, on the left side of the design, his facsimile signature. The name 'ALEXANDER DUBČEK' is inscribed below the portrait, with the forename positioned above the surname. At the lower right edge are the stylised letters 'MS', referring to the reverse designer Martin Sabol. To the right of the portrait, the years of Dubček's birth and death '1921 - 1992' are inscribed sideways.

Coin details

Denomination:	€10
Composition:	.900 silver, .100 copper
Weight:	18 g
Diameter:	34 mm
Edge lettering:	• ĽUDSKOSŤ - VLASTENECTVO - DEMOKRACIA (humanity - patriotism - democracy)
Issuing volume:	limited to a maximum of 15,000 coins in either brilliant uncircu- lated or proof quality
Designers:	obverse: Štefan Novotný reverse: Martin Sabol
Engraver:	Dalibor Schmidt
Producer:	Kremnica Mint (Slovakia)



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100th anniversary of the birth of Alexander Dubček

SILVER COLLECTOR EURO COIN

Dubček meets demonstrators during the Velvet Revolution,
23 November 1989

Alexander Dubček (1921–1992) is one of the most significant figures of modern Slovak history, recognised at home and abroad as a democrat and European. For almost 16 months from 1968 to 1969 he was leader of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (KSČ). His name is synonymous with the 1968 Prague Spring and the unsuccessful attempt to establish “socialism with a human face” in Czechoslovakia. After his expulsion from the Communist Party, he spent the twenty-year period of “normalisation” under tight surveillance, before returning to domestic and European politics when the Cold War ended.



Two famous Slovaks of different eras, Alexander Dubček and Ľudovít Štúr, were born not only in the same village, Uhrovec, but also in the same house, which since 1965 has been designated a national cultural heritage site

Dubček’s ascent of the political ladder gathered momentum in the early 1960s, during the period known as the “Early Spring”, when Czechoslovakia was undergoing a process of gradual democratisation that included moves towards Slovak national emancipation. A group of reformist communists was forming around Dubček, and in 1968 they elected him as First Secretary of the Communist Party of

Czechoslovakia. The liberalising developments in Czechoslovakia were, however, causing concern in other countries of the Soviet Union–led Eastern Bloc. They saw the solution as being a military occupation of Czechoslovakia. The decision to invade was taken in Moscow as early as mid-April 1968, and the actual order to invade was issued on 18 August 1968.

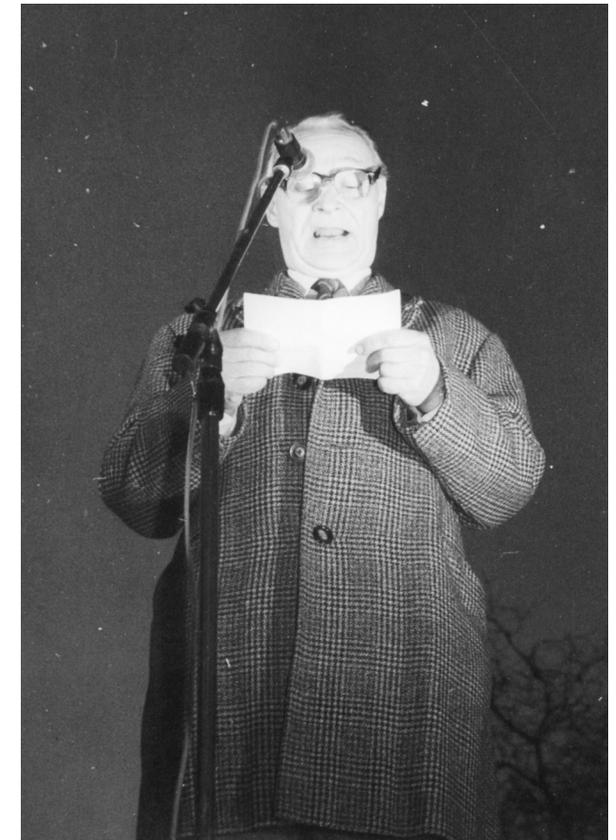
When on 21 August 1968 Dubček learnt that armed forces from five Warsaw Pact countries had invaded Czechoslovakia, he was shaken by the news and considered resigning. Soon after the start of the invasion, Soviet secret police whisked him and other Prague Spring leaders off to Moscow. The democratisation process had been stopped by Soviet tanks. During normalisation, the secret police force (ŠtB) kept a close watch on Dubček, who nevertheless stayed true to his life philosophy and continued to defend the reform process. After Mikhail Gorbachev became Soviet leader, Dubček’s isolation eased, and in the eyes of the public at home and in the democratic West he remained a symbol of peaceful resistance.

A milestone in Dubček’s dissident life came in November 1988, when Bologna University in Italy awarded him an honorary doctorate. This represented a high tribute not only to him, but to the entire reform and democratic movement in Czechoslovakia. In his acceptance speech for the award, Dubček voiced his support for the creation of a “common European home”, which affirmed his stature as a European statesman.

Dubček returned to prominence during the Velvet Revolution of 1989 and for a short period afterwards. Although the chant “Dubček na Hrad!” (“Dubček to the Castle”, i.e. Dubček for president) echoed the feelings of a broad swathe of Czech and Slovak soci-

ety, it was Václav Havel who benefited from course of events and became president of Czechoslovakia. Dubček was elected Chairman of the Federal Assembly (the Czechoslovak Parliament).

All Slovak hopes that Alexander Dubček might become Slovakia’s first democratic president after the split of Czechoslovakia were extinguished on 7 November 1992, when he died of injuries suffered in a car accident.



A tribune of the people, Dubček addresses demonstrators in Bratislava’s Slovak National Uprising Square in November 1989