

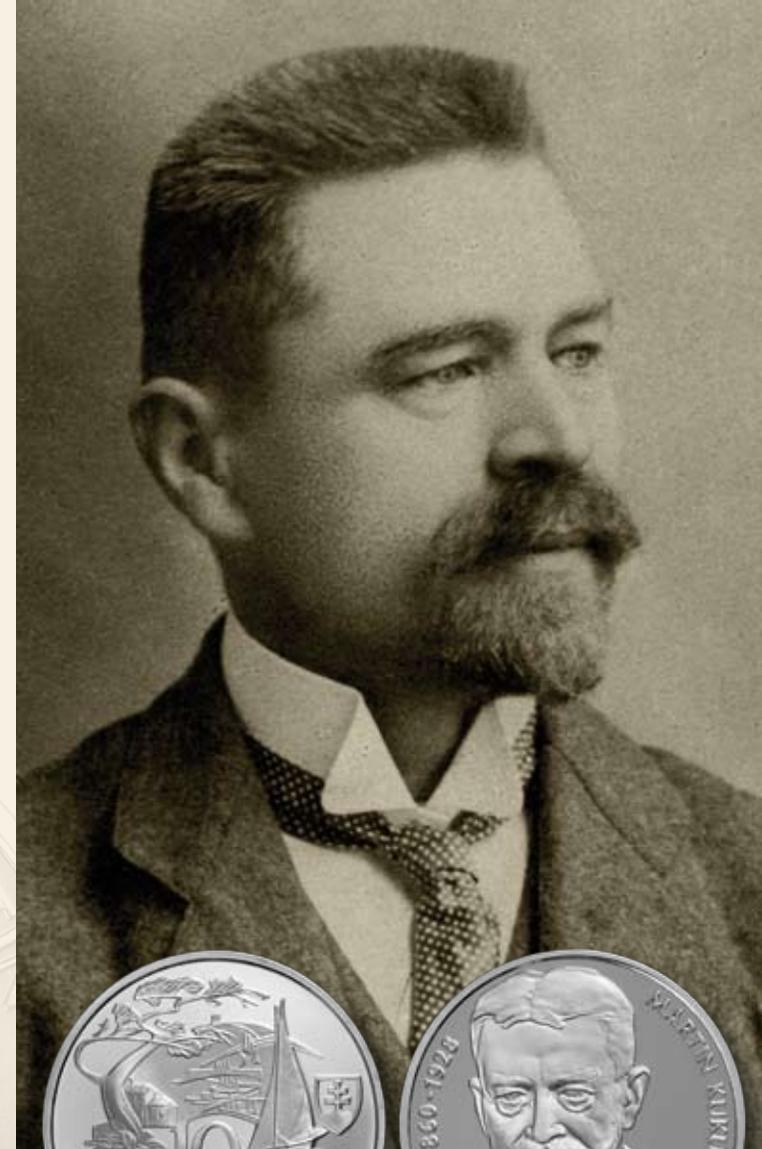
- Martin Kukučín was born on 17 May 1860 in Jasenová.
- In 1883 he published his first short story "Na hradскеj ceste".
- From 1885 to 1893 he studied at the Medical Faculty of Charles University in Prague.
- In 1893 he left to work as a doctor in Selce on the Dalmatian island of Brač (present-day Croatia).
- In 1908 he moved to Punta Arenas in Chile, where many Croatian emigrants took up residence.
- He established the tradition of rural novels with his work *Dom v stráni*.
- His extensive work includes four novels, forty-five short stories and novelettes, two extensive travelogues and three stage plays.
- From 1922 he alternately lived in Slovakia, South America and Croatia.
- He died on 21 May 1928 in Pakrac near Croatian Lipik.
- His remains were moved to Slovakia on 29 October 1928.

### Coin data

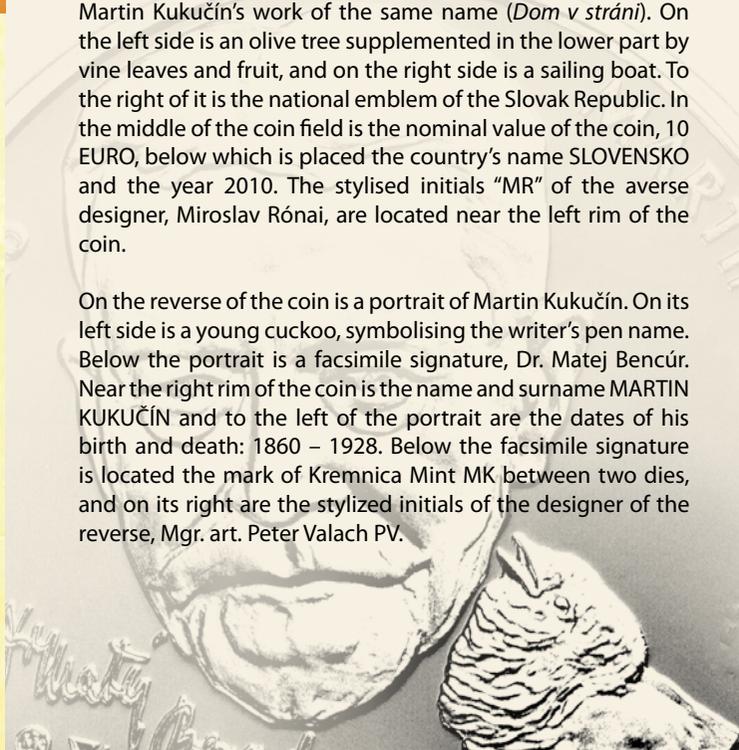
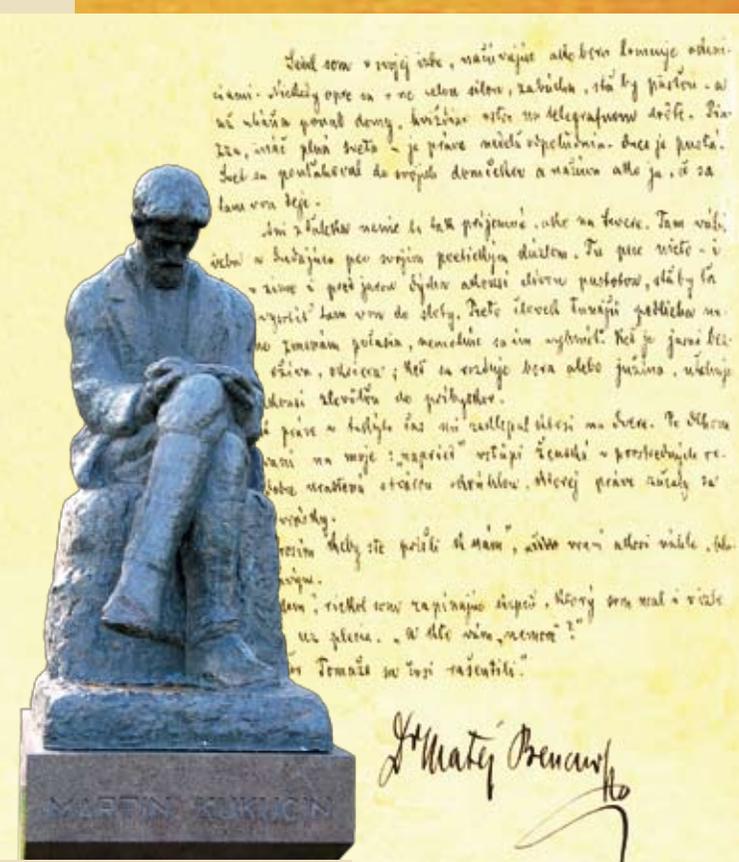
Denomination: <b>10 euro</b>
Material: <b>Ag 900/1000</b> <b>Cu 100/1000</b>
Weight: <b>18 g</b>
Diameter: <b>34 mm</b>
Edge inscription: – <b>PROZAIK – DRAMATIK – PUBLICISTA</b> (prose writer – dramatist – publicist)
Mintage: limited quantity of maximum <b>30,000 pieces</b> (BU + PROOF).
Designers: <b>Miroslav Rónai</b> (obverse) <b>Mgr. art Peter Valach</b> (reverse)
Engraver: <b>Dalibor Schmidt</b>
Producer: <b>Kremnica Mint</b>

On the obverse of the coin is portrayed a landscape of Brač Island, with the authentic "house on the hillside" known from Martin Kukučín's work of the same name (*Dom v stráni*). On the left side is an olive tree supplemented in the lower part by vine leaves and fruit, and on the right side is a sailing boat. To the right of it is the national emblem of the Slovak Republic. In the middle of the coin field is the nominal value of the coin, 10 EURO, below which is placed the country's name SLOVENSKO and the year 2010. The stylised initials "MR" of the averse designer, Miroslav Rónai, are located near the left rim of the coin.

On the reverse of the coin is a portrait of Martin Kukučín. On its left side is a young cuckoo, symbolising the writer's pen name. Below the portrait is a facsimile signature, Dr. Matej Bencúr. Near the right rim of the coin is the name and surname MARTIN KUKUČÍN and to the left of the portrait are the dates of his birth and death: 1860 – 1928. Below the facsimile signature is located the mark of Kremnica Mint MK between two dies, and on its right are the stylized initials of the designer of the reverse, Mgr. art. Peter Valach PV.



**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the Birth of  
Martin Kukučín  
Silver Collector Coin**



**Martin Kukučín (the pen name of Matej Bencúr) was born on 17 May 1860 in Jasenová. He is one of the most noted Slovak prose writers. His work continues to be read and it still engages today by way of its universal themes and natural language. He belongs among those authors who were the first to introduce the characters of ordinary country people with their rustic language into Slovak literature, a groundbreaking approach that influenced the further development of Slovak prose.**

He is best known to readers mainly for his short humorous prose pieces from the rural society (e. g. Rysavá jalovica) or student setting (e. g. Mladé letá) and for his novel Dom v stráni. Kukučín set out to captivate the reader by means of his attractive and often humorous-comical themes; however, he is also the author of psychologically incisive short story Neprebudený, which attests that he also sought to have his prose explore the realms of the serious and more difficult spheres of human existence.

His medical occupation predetermined to a certain extent his view of mankind; however, as a believer, he sought something deeper beyond tangible reality, something that goes beyond our pragmatic existence. His worldview and his writing were influenced by impulses from European, mainly Russian, realistic literature, with which he became familiar during his studies in Prague. During that time, he wrote his famous short stories Neprebudený (1886), Mladé letá (1889), Vianočné oblátky (1890), Keď báčik z Chochoľova umrie (1890), Dedinský román, Na podkonickom bále (1891). In this period he also wrote Dve cesty, a "metaphysical" story, in which he



The house where M. Kukučín was born, Jasenová Village



Kukučín and his wife, Perica

explore the theme of death and the search for the purpose of earthly existence; the story goes significantly beyond the "realistic" writing. In 1892, besides a short story from a Slovak village, entitled Mišo, he also published Zápisky zo smutného domu, an autobiographical novel in Neruda/Dostoyevsky-style. In 1893, his extensive story Dies irae was published, which presents the problem of guilt in human relations within the setting of a cholera epidemic. In the same year he graduated from the Faculty of Medicine in Prague. He could not find employment in Slovakia, and so he accepted an offer of work at Selce on the Croatian island of Brač, where he started to work as a municipal doctor.

The new environment entranced him and after several years of work, his most famous novel Dom v stráni (1904) appeared. At Brač he married Perica Didolič, and he also decided to convert from the Evangelical faith to Catholicism. Issues of the significance of faith in human life had always been present in his writings, and, in later works, he began to concentrate on existentialist reflections on life, which led to the definitive separation from his previous "ideal realistic" writing.

After fourteen years of stay on Brač, he decided to move to Punta Arenas in Chile, where he worked as a doctor in the colony of Croatian emigrants (1907 - 1922). Besides travelogue features, he wrote there his most extensive

novel Mať volá, a work based on parables, intended as a metaphor for a return to his native land. As a result of the economic crisis, he lost all his savings in Chile, travelled back to Slovakia, but after a short time returned once again to Brač. He died at the age of 68 in Pakrac near Lipik spa as a result of complications after pneumonia. In the same year, his remains were moved to Slovakia, to the National Cemetery in Martin.



*Autor on himself*

*I dare say you should know at best that I am a man of tenacious nature, and – however laughable it may sound coming from the mouth of a doctor – a man who believes in God and relies on Him that He knows best what is good for us, letting Him steer that fragile boat of our existence. And believe me, never has there befallen me a moment of despair or of hopelessness, not here nor anywhere else. I am so merry here today, without any affectation merry, as only a carefree man can be merry, a man who was never disappointed with anything, not even a single hope, and who even received hundred times more than he deserved and ten times more than he expected. I am today a man most content and – happy in my own way.*

*from a letter to Ján Slávik sent from Brač, 21 September 1895*



Commemorative plaque at the town hall of Selce, where the doctor's office of M. Kukučín was situated



In April 2008, House on the hillside had a premiere as a drama for the stage in the SND theatre



Kukučín's house at Brač