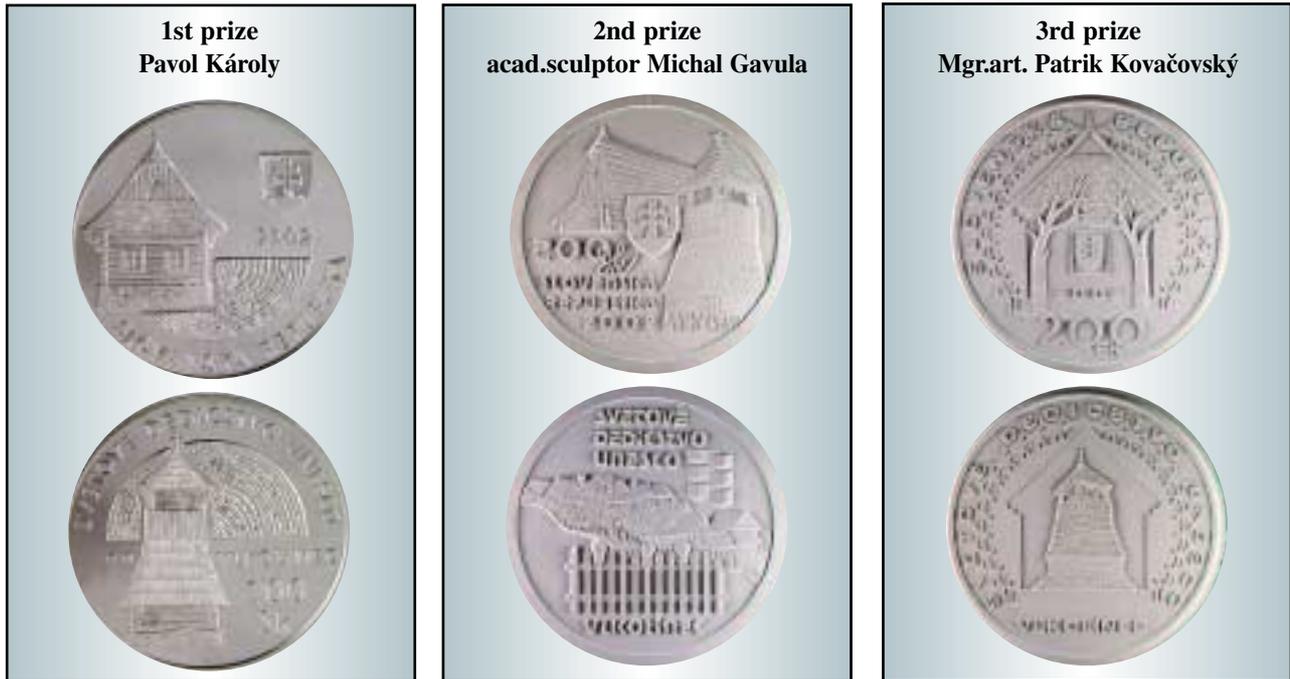




## **COMMEMORATIVE SILVER COIN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE VLKOLÍNEC, FOLK ARCHITECTURE RESERVATION**



In December last year, the National Bank of Slovakia issued a commemorative gold coin devoted to the Vlkolínec folk architecture reservation. A commemorative silver coin with the same theme is now being prepared. They both follow the gold and silver coins produced in previous years for the Slovak localities inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List – Banská Štiavnica and Spišský hrad. In future years, the National Bank of Slovakia intends to issue coins with motives of the caves of the Slovak Karst and the town monument reservation of Bardejov, other Slovak localities included in the list.

The village of Vlkolínec is situated in northern Slovakia on the slopes of the Veľká Fatra mountains and is included in the territory of the town of Ružomberok. It is a remarkably well preserved residential complex with wooden log architecture, typical of the mountainous and neighbouring regions. From the point of view of its homogeneity, there is no similar complex in the world. There are 45 authentic homesteads with many archaic constructional elements. A belfry built of logs in 1770 and a covered well from 1860 are especially notable. It was made a folk architecture reservation in 1977, and added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1993.

In January 2001, the National Bank of Slovakia announced a public anonymous competition for a design for the coin. Ten artists submitted eleven designs for the competition. An expert commission recommended awarding of the first prize to the design of the Kremnica artist Pavol Károly and realization of this design. He also designed the commemorative gold coin for Spišský Hrad. The commission appreciated the purity of

his design and the connection between the designs of the obverse and reverse, as well as the harmonious combination of the inscription and pictorial elements. A typical Vlkolínec log house is depicted on the obverse and another typical building – the log belfry appears on the reverse. Both sides bear a sensitively chosen element – a depiction of a cross-section of a tree as the traditional building material, with the annual tree rings indicating the authenticity and historic value of the settlement.

Academic sculptor Michal Gavula won the second prize. On his obverse the commission positively evaluated properly selected typical Vlkolínec objects – a log house and the belfry. The reverse has an extraordinarily effective view of the village of Vlkolínec in its natural setting. The third prize was awarded to Mgr.art. Patrik Kovačovský, whose design shows unity of composition between obverse and reverse and high quality of workmanship. The artist used the silhouette of a house as a basic element, and inserted the natural motif of trees into it on the obverse, and the architectural element of the belfry on the reverse. Ornament and letters also contribute to the unity of obverse and reverse.

The commemorative silver coin has a value of 200 Sk, a diameter of 34 mm and weight of 20 g. Fourteen thousand three hundred of them have been struck at the Kremnica Mint, including 11,500 ordinary and 2,800 proof. The coin will be issued on the basis of decree no.153/2002 Z.z., on 10th June 2002.

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