

RESUME

A TROVE OF VELKÝ BYSTEREC-TYPE COINS FROM STRANÍK NEAR ŽILINA

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The collections of the Museum of Coins and Medals in Kremnica include a trove of coins from the La Tène period. This collection comprises 13 silver tetradrachm coins of the Velký Bysterec type – convex-shaped and depicting a horse. It also includes one gold, mussel-type stater, known as a Boii. Such coins were fairly rare in Púchov culture, which minted its own gold staters (mussel-type and shovel-type). The coins were discovered in a cache under a boulder (Fig. 3). The silver coins from this find had the nominal value of a tetradrachm (within the weight range of 9.11–10.80 g). The collection being processed includes coins minted by five different types of coin die. These include die types B (Tab. I: 2), C (Tab. I: 3, 4), F (Tab. I: 5, 6), G (Tab. I: 7) and probably I (Tab. I: 8–14). All of the I-type coins were made by a single die, as evidenced by what is probably a flaw in the die. Hoards of Velký Bysterec-type coins have been primarily concentrated in the area of Púchov culture in northern Slovakia. Two hoards were found in Dolný Kubín – Velký Bysterec in Likavka and Žilina–Rochovica locations. The most recent knowledge of these coins was provided by hoard 4 from the Folkušová camp, Necpaly location. It included over 80 coins, of which 78–79 coins have been

preserved (comprising mostly Veľký Bysterec-type coins and several rare Boin mussel-type staters – one of them is however a forgery). The first ever die for this type of coins also comes from this location. Available information indicates that the Straník hoard also included an iron spearhead (Tab. II: 1a, 1b). It is a socketed type with a flame-like edge and a mid-rib. These types date back to the LTD phase, i.e. the late La Tène period. In chronological terms, the hoard of the Veľký Bysterec-type tetradrachms, gold Boin stater and iron spearhead makes up a coherent compact group. Hence, we believe that they were buried approximately during the late La Tène period LTD₁ or LTD₂.

UNPUBLISHED MEDIEVAL COINS FROM DEMANDICE FROM THE KREMNICA MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

MAREK BUDAJ

In 2007 a total of 81 coins found in the Demandice area (Levice district) were added to the collections of the National Bank of Slovakia's Museum of Coins and Medals in Kremnica. Unfortunately, no further information about the site of the finds is available. It can, however, be assumed from their composition that there were three separate hoards. These are referred to by the working names Demandice 1–3.

The Demandice 1 hoard consists of the coins minted during the reigns of two rulers: Queen Maria (1382–1387) and her husband Sigismund of Luxembourg (1387–1437). Eleven denarii are from the reign of Queen Maria, including earlier coins bearing the letter "m" (H 566, H = Huszár) and older denarii showing a crown (H 569). The H 569 denarii were minted from as early as 1384 until sometime before Maria's death in 1395, and they were replaced by the new H 566 coins. Of the six H 566 denarii, two bear no mint marks, three bear a „lily–lily“ mark and one bears a „K“ mark. Of all the Kingdom of Hungary coins that have been found and analysed, some 41.6% are denarii without mint marks, 43.5% bear the „lily–lily“ mark and only 1.85% have the K mark. The breakdown of the H 569 denarii by mint marks is fairly interesting. The Demandice 1 collection contained one coin marked with a „T“, one with an „A“ and one with an „I“. Two coins bore a „C–m“ mark,



which may be associated with Kremnica. After the A marks on denarii, the above-mentioned marks are the second most numerous among the coins found – imprinted on approximately 14.4% of the total. All of Sigismund coins found are of fairly common series, with the exception of ducats, which make up 0.70% of the Sigismund coins. The entire Demandice 1 collection was hidden sometime in the late 1430s, and may even be related to the Hussite Wars. Likewise, the 22 coins of the Demandice 2 collection form a chronologically coherent collection. All the coins come date from a period 9–10 years, during the reigns of Vladislaus I and Ladislaus V. A fairly large number of Vladislaus's coins come from Lendava (Alsólendva), located in what is now Slovenia. This location lay within the estates of the Paul Bánfi family (the right of coinage was granted to Paul Bánfi by Vladislaus I in 1441). The most precious coin from this collection is a Ladislaus V denarius with an „I–R“ mint mark, which had not previously been found on these types of coins and is fairly hard to identify. The coin may possibly have belonged to Conrad Polner, who is repeatedly referred to as Rolner or Roller in written sources of 1440–1443. The composition of the Demandice 3 collection is also very interesting. The rarest of these coins has a combined „K–A“ mint mark, not previous seen on this type of denarius (Tab. 3, No 2, Fig. 3). The denarius was minted in 1464 to mark the return of the royal crown to the Kingdom of Hungary. The K mint mark is clearly associated with Kremnica and the letter A may refer to Andreas Modrar (Modrer), mentioned in 1461–1463 as the Chamber Count of Košice and Kremnica. If it does, then it is clear evidence that Modrar was still head of Kremnica Chamber in 1464.

A HOARD OF MODERN ERA 17TH CENTURY COINS FROM TREBATICE

JÁN HUNKA

Before 2000, a hoard of approximately 1,000 silver coins was discovered during a family house reconstruction in the municipality of Trebatice near Piešťany. The coins were subsequently offered for sale to the Museum of Coins and Medals in Kremnica, where they remain today. The acquisition included 957 coins, 952 of which are Royal Hungarian denarii from the pe-



riod of Louis II to Matthias II, minted between 1526 and 1620. In addition, the find included only six foreign coins, specifically three single-sided white coins of Ferdinand I from the period prior to 1562 (2 coins) and of Maximilian II from 1575 (1 coin), two Polish half-groschen of John I Albert from 1498–1501 and a 3-kreutzer minted in the Swiss town of Schaffhausen in 1585. The hoard was hidden in about 1620–1623, probably to keep them from the troops of the Prince of Transylvania, Gabriel Bethlen, which were passing through the Piešťany area. Several hoards of Royal Hungarian and foreign coins, hidden because of Gabriel Bethlen's insurrection against the House of Habsburg, have been discovered in this region. An exceptional discovery of 5,230 Royal Hungarian, Polish, Czech and German coins was made in Šterusy near Vrbové. The most recent coins from this discovery indicate that the hoard was hidden in 1619. Smaller collections of coins, hidden in about 1620, were recovered from Prašník behind Vrbové. Velké Kostolany is known for a find of 1,242 Royal Hungarian denarii that was hidden in about 1623. Trebatice's hoard comprised approximately 1,000 coins. Their value at that time is estimated to have been 960 denarii, i.e. almost 10 ducats or 15 thalers. They were certainly not owned by a very rich person, more likely by a middle-class craftsman, a manufacturer of farming products. The predominance of Royal Hungarian coins in the discovery indicates that even if the person was a merchant, he was trading only in local markets.

Why the Trebatice coin hoard is important:

- 1) It is further evidence, in addition to three other coin hoards, that Bethlen's troops were present in that area.
- 2) The presence of foreign coins in the discovery is evidence of their regular (Czech and Polish coins) or less regular (Swiss mintage) circulation in wider Piešťany area.

KREMNICÁ'S COLLECTING ACTIVITIES IN THE 16TH CENTURY

DANIEL HAAS KIANIČKA

The collecting of 'memorable' objects gained momentum in the Renaissance period (first in Italy). The collecting phenomenon was introduced to

the „region behind the Alps“ (i.e. including the Kingdom of Hungary) by Samuel Quicchberg in particular – in his 1565 work *Inscriptiones...* In the 16th century, it was typical to collect not only historical and artistic objects, but also natural objects, as well as odd and exotic items.

The collecting activities of the nobility and middle-classes over the reference period had an element of prestige. They were related to building up the collective memory and to the educational development.

The shaping and passing of memory formed a complicated social process, by which noble people reaffirmed their special position in the society. They presented their membership in the estates of the realm and in their families (strengthening the memory of the House) using various symbolic means, whether through oral tradition or through written, craft and artistic works. Nevertheless, some of the collecting activities of this period were also carried out to pursue the collector's personal interests. The collecting activities of middle-class subjects were in some way derivative of the activities pursued by the nobility, and that was also the case in Kremnica.

Direct information on collecting in Kremnica is found in the 16th century and later sources. The oldest documented collectors in the territory of what is now Slovakia included humanist Johannes Sambucus and the Fugger family's commercial agent Hans Dernschwam. Others included Kremnica residents Wolfgang Roll († 1589), Vice-Count of the Kremnica Chamber, and Georg Freiseisen († 1603), manager of public mining business Goldkunsthåndlung. Both of them collected books, artistic and precious objects, jewellery, weapons, objects associated with their professions, and specific coins and medals. Their libraries, among the largest in the mining towns of central Slovakia, were well-known (with Roll's library containing 123 publications and Freiseisen's 111). Each owned gold and silver medals that had a combined weight of several kilograms. Roll and Freiseisen kept precious and exceptional objects in their homes, as a way of demonstrating their social status, strengthening the family memory, and presenting certain aesthetics and symbolism (feeling). For them, collecting was certainly an interesting pastime, and the interiors of their homes were carefully designed as a coherent means of expression.

Other collectors have also been documented in Kremnica – such as Georg Egger, Vice-Count of the Kremnica Chamber, Sebastian Henckel von Donnersmarck, accountant at the Kremnica Chamber, Abraham Eisker, engraver and medallist, Georg Fleisch, Vice-Count of the Chamber, and others. Some

sources also mention medium-sized and smaller collections of books and pictures.

The phenomenon of Renaissance collecting also took root in Kremnica in the 16th century (especially in its second half), but was mostly confined to the town's elites. The collectors mentioned (many of whom came to Kremnica from abroad, especially German lands, from where they brought various novelties and new trends) were in the main burghers, and particularly members of the nobility. Many other, smaller collectors must have existed in Kremnica, but their activities have largely gone undocumented. However, any evaluation of the collecting in Kremnica should be made with caution. Preserved testaments indicate that, among the upper and middle echelons of the burghers not associated with royal offices, collecting only began to gain ground slowly. If we compare the collecting activities of Kremnica inhabitants to those in Banská Štiavnica and Banská Bystrica, we find that the collecting level in these towns was very similar. On the other hand, it should be stressed that Kremnica's collectors could not compete with ruling and aristocratic collectors, or with collections held by major scholars.

KREMNICA AND ITS ENVIRONS ON SAMUEL MIKOVINY TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS A PROBE INTO THE PICTURE OF THE PAST LANDSCAPE AND IN PARTICULAR THE ROAD NETWORK

JURAJ HIRČÁK

This paper describes the past landscape from the perspective of historical geography. This description is primarily focused on reconstructing the road network, in relation to the possible use of these maps to trace in particular the human geography components of the landscape. The Mikoviny maps date from the 1730s and 1740s. They emerged almost 50 years before the maps of the Josephinian Land Survey (Kremnica and its environs were mapped in 1782–1784). The Mikoviny maps make clear that the creation of individual settlements in this area had already been completed in that period. The situation is different if we trace old roads. In addition to the existence



of the roads known today, which link Kremnica to the narrower Pohronie (the region along the Hron River) and Turiec Basin, we can also see links to other regions, notably Banská Bystrica and the surrounding area, and Upper Nitra. The roads include a number of mountain tracks. Compared to the Josephinian Land Survey maps, we can identify certain changes in the road network development, which might be related, inter alia, to greater demand for road modification and for adaptation to transport needs. This outline is supplemented with objects primarily related to mining, such as mine windlass, what is known as the Turčekovský Water Supply System, as well as to hygiene in the town of Kremnica – the water supply system in the Zvolen Valley.

KREMNICA MINING WORKS IN THE BANSKÁ ŠTIAVNICA COPY OF THE GOLDEN MINING BOOK OF 1764

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LUCIA KRCHNÁKOVÁ

The Golden Mining Book (*Zlatá kniha banícka*) of 1764 is an important historical source for information about mining in central Slovakia, including the leading mining town of Kremnica. Štiavnica's unique copy, kept in the Slovak Mining Archive, includes valuable mining maps and technical drawings, including descriptions of the Kremnica mining area. In this paper we attempt to describe and analyse, a task that encouraged us to examine the original work in greater detail. In addition to the main imperial and royal mining company *Goldkunsthandlung*, the Golden Book deals with two private mining companies *Stadt Cremnitz und Rosayischen Handlungs Gewerkschaft* and *Roth und Raflische Handlungs Gruben*; other topics include crushers, smelting works and their equipment, as well as personnel issues. We have supplemented the paper using further archival sources as well as particular names of the mining officials serving in Kremnica in that year. The Golden Book also includes information on profits or losses of individual mining facilities. An exceptional and particularly valuable section concerns Kremnica mint's rolling and coining machines, which are not mentioned at all in the other two copies, currently kept in Austria.



ON THE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN PAVEL KRIŽKO AND KAREL KÁLAL

KAROL HOLLÝ

The main body of the text is an edition of two letters from the correspondence between Pavel Križko (1841 – 1902) and Karel Kálal (1860 – 1930) in 1898. In his preface to the edition, the author presents his research into the historical context of the two letters. The author underlines the importance of researching Križko's correspondence, only a fraction of which has received any attention so far. The author analyses the so-far unexplored relationship between Pavel Križko and the Czech Slovakophile Karel Kálal. Next, the author gives a brief introduction to Karel Kálal, focussing on his national and ideological orientation and how Karel Kálal was perceived by the Slovak patriots. The text also discusses the possibility that Karel Kálal visited Kremnica. Finally, the author analyses the content of the published letters. In the first letter, Kálal poses questions about Križko's concept of the Slovak nation (especially the nation's prospects in the context of Magyarisation) and Križko's attitude towards Hungarian science and historiography. Križko's extensive reply sets out his views on the given questions. Inter alia, he describes his concept of Slovak history and his positive attitude to the Prague-based Slovakophile association Československá jednota (Czech-Slavic Unity). The letter makes a significant contribution to our understanding of Križko's opinions. The letters contain other specific information whose significance the author explains in notes and references.

THE TOWN CASTLE OF KREMNICA IN THE LIGHT OF NEWER KNOWLEDGE

LUBOŠ KÜRTHY

The Town Castle is a highly remarkable and unique type of fortification structure that, unlike most castles in Slovak territory, was commissioned by feudal lords rather than by a sovereign. The Town Castle of Kremnica was built at the initiative of the town leaders in order to administer and



defend the town. Like the rulers of Italian city-states, the Kremnica elite owned the castle.

The Town Castle has the oldest preserved fortification of any of the well-known town castle fortifications in central Slovakia (Banská Bystrica, Banská Štiavnica, and the presumed castle in Krupina). All town castles of this region share the same basic features: a central stand-alone church building (usually close to a chancel house), surrounded by walls with all important town castle elements, such as fortified towers, gateways (including barbicans in earlier periods), a presbytery and a town hall. While town castle fortifications in Banská Bystrica and Banská Štiavnica consisted of a single wall, those in Kremnica were built to a more complex design, including two parallel walls, as far back as the 14th century.

The origins of Kremnica's Town Castle date back to the construction of the original church and nearby chancel house, which was part of the then inner bailey from the very beginning. The initial impetus for such extensive construction could only have been the intention of the King of Hungary, Charles Robert of Anjou, to establish a town on that site in 1328. After this date, during or before the end of the 14th century, a remarkable castle complex with inner and outer baileys was built.

The integral fortification system included defensive and partially residential square towers (the north and south entrance towers with staircases and what is known as the Clock Tower on the west side), as well as a semi-circular tower on the east side (the Miner's Bastion), which opened into the area between two parallel defensive walls and served exclusively for defence. The Town Hall, situated in the close vicinity of the South Tower's staircase, was just a partially defensive structure. Built to convey the prestige of the castle, the Town Hall extended quite boldly out in front of the southern outer bailey, and therefore could fully serve as a defensive tower fortification when necessary. It is not completely known what the St Catherine's Church originally looked like prior to 1400. The outer wall of the then chancel with preserved details (its cylindrical shaft with a corbel and a base, its walled-up portal to the sacristy) was built in the second half of the 14th century at the latest. Extensive work continued there in the 1480s (including the entrance portal and vestibule, southeast chapel, chancel vault and southeast oratory vault).

The castle underwent further construction modifications after 1560 and during 1611–1612. Since the 17th century, the castle's defensive role has



waned, with its sacral role coming to the fore. The last truly comprehensive change to the castle's architecture was Franz Storno's restoration that reflected the contemporary ideal of historical Romanticism in 1883–1886 (re-Gothicisation).

STORNO'S RETURN TO THE MIDDLE AGES THE RENOVATION OF ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH IN KREMNICA IN 1884–1886

BARBORA GLOCKOVÁ

In the last two decades of the 19th century, Kremnica was affected by serious structural stability problems, which changed the appearance of the town dramatically. A few of its key landmarks were removed (including the parish church in the main square, the Bystrica Gate and the Upper Gate). Other structures thus became more prominent and important, and the town decided to invest in their comprehensive renovation. Among them was St Catherine's Church at the Town Castle. It was in poor technical condition and therefore required renovation.

Despite its difficult financial situation, the town started preparations to renovate the church, and commissioned the task to renowned architect Imre Steindl – probably at the initiative of the Bishop of Banská Bystrica, Arnold Ipolyi. The castle and the church were subsequently comprehensively renovated by Franz Storno, a building entrepreneur based in Sopron. His project included not only architectural modifications, but also modifications of the interior and furnishings (pews, statues, altars, wall paintings, coloured glass windows, a new choir, etc.). Storno's approach was marked by the contemporary interest in Historicism (re-Gothicisation) and establishing modern ways of preserving historical buildings. His structural modifications aimed at achieving a unity of style based above all on medieval art or the style of the period in which the church was built.

After the church was emptied in November 1883, the renovation began. The town obtained a permit for the work from the Ministry of Culture in June 1883. Storno commissioned his son, Kálmán, to manage the task. To supervise the project, the town appointed a special commission headed by

town burgomaster Jozef Chabada. The renovation began with the church roof, followed by the tower, and then other parts. 1885 saw the building of a new choir for the organ, the painting of the church, and the installation of coloured glass windows and new neo-Gothic altarpieces. The last step included the installation of new pews and a new pipe organ made by the Rieger brothers of Krnov (Jägerndorf). The construction costs exceeded 89,000 gulden. The church was reconsecrated on 15 August 1887.

The first real restoration of the castle church described above dramatically changed not only its overall exterior (such as the new tower helmet, the new southern facade), but notably its interior. Huge amounts of money were invested in the renovation, which engaged some of the period's finest artists and restorers. It should be also be noted that the renovation was thoroughly documented – thanks not only to Franz Storno, but also to Kremnica archivist and historian Pavol Križko (in a 1887 publication). A particularly important fact is that Kremnica's craftsmen and artists (stonemasons, joiners, visual artist Béla Angyal) also contributed to the renovation.

EVOLUTION AND COMPOSITION OF THE MUSEUM'S NUMISMATIC COLLECTIONS

MAGDALÉNA KAMHALOVÁ

Over the course of its 125-year history, the Museum of Coins and Medals in Kremnica has grown into a major numismatic centre whose sphere of operation extends throughout Slovakia. Although it started out as a conventional town museum of local history in the late 19th century, its collections even then included numerous numismatic items. The museum's numismatic collections are now among its defining possessions and are divided into coins, medals, paper money, and the financial sector. Their formation and evolution can be roughly broken down into three stages.

The first stage covers the period from the museum's establishment in 1890 (including preparatory activities) until 1955, during which time the museum was part of the Kremnica town archives. Today's collections have their origins in a collection of historical items, known as 'the treasure', that the town authority started putting together at least as far back as the 17th century (two

registers of these items are preserved, one dated 1724 and the other 1767). The treasure included documents, seals, testing needles for precious metals, gold, clothing, mine troughs, and mining hammers, as well as numerous coins and medals (such as proof gold Ferdinand III denarii of 1648 and 1649, and specimen Leopold I denarii that the Kremnica Mint struck between 1 July 1662 to 9 March 1665 using a Taschenwerk mill. According to a report by town archivist Pavol Križko, the archives in 1872 included 8 gold, 97 silver and 9 copper coins and medals. After the archives were relocated to a separate building in 1889, Križko singled out items worthy of display in a museum, established separate records for them, and thus laid the foundations of the museum. It began operating as a museum in 1890, with Križko recording its collections in two catalogues – one for various museum items and the other solely for coins and medals. He sorted the coins and medals by metal content, classifying them as gold, silver, copper, bronze, brass or what is known as new silver. He kept records of paper money, lottery tickets, vouchers and worker tokens in the catalogue of other museum items. During this initial period, additions to the numismatic collections comprised mainly gifts from members of Kremnica families, town officials, minters and merchants. There was not a defined acquisition programme in this period. The items donated included older small-value circulation currency, as well as many examples of contemporary Austro-Hungarian coins and banknotes, often as manifolds and of poor quality. Occasional finds were also included, as were sporadic purchases of precious coins and medals made at the order of the Town Council. At the end of the period when it was administered by archivists and town officials, the museum held 9 gold coins, 520 silver coins, and some 500 copper and bronze coins, dating from antiquity to the first Czechoslovak Republic.

The second stage in building the museum's numismatic collections began in the mid-1950s, when the museum was separated from the town archives and established in its own building as the District Museum of Local History (Okresné vlastivedné múzeum). The museum purchased from the Kremnica Mint a large part of an exhibition entitled „Kremnická mincovňa – Jej život v minulosti a v prítomnosti – Mincovníctvo na Slovensku“ (The Kremnica Mint – Its life past and present – Minting in Slovakia). The purchase included more than 500 coins, numerous medals, badges and decorations, plaster and bronze models, tokens, minting devices and other materials from the mint's manufacturing process. Subsequent additions included donations from the Kremnica Mint (including a find of nearly 1,500 copper ‚libertás‘



coins from the reign of Francis II Rákóczi), from the Town Council, and from individuals (the items donated mostly comprised various medium- and small-value circulation currency from the Kingdom of Hungary, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Czechoslovakia and, to a lesser extent, other territories). An acquisitions committee was established at the museum in 1956 and produced proposals for an acquisitions programme. The primary objective was to document Kremnica Mint's centuries-long production history. It had been a long-time since paper currency items were added to the museum's collections. From the 1960s the museum began systematically to establish a numismatic department, and increasingly made purchases at auctions and from antique shops and collectors. Its principal focus was on coins and medals produced by the Kremnica Mint. In addition, the museum purchased examples of all new coins issued by the Czechoslovak State Bank (Czechoslovakia's central bank). The Kremnica Mint furnished the museum with trial series issued by Czechoslovakia and the wartime Slovak state, as well as coins minted in Kremnica for foreign countries (Poland, Romania, Greece, Cuba, Mongolia, Algeria, Tunis, Guinea, Sudan, Senegal, Mali, Cape Verde, Lebanon, Iraq). The most numerous additions to the numismatic collections were medals, badges and decorations. The museum's increasing numismatic focus was acknowledged in 1976 when it was renamed the Museum of Coins and Medals. In 1978, to mark the 650th anniversary of the establishment of the town and its mint, the museum opened an exhibition entitled „Z dejín kremnického baníctva, mincovníctva a medailérstva“ (From the history of Kremnica's mining, minting and medal-making). The numismatic section of the exhibition centred on coins and medals produced by the Kremnica Mint (including rare specimen coins), as well as numerous items related to alloy testing, items related to the pre-minting and minting processes (e.g. metal material for metal processing, metal strips for coin planchets, rolled metal sheets, planchets, a cutting press, screw presses, products of the die-making process), graphic designs from competitions, plaster casts of both approved and rejected original models, bronze models intended for reduction, and so on. By the end of this second stage, the collections of currency and related materials included almost 10,000 items, and the medal collection was of a similar size. Three experts were curating the numismatic collections at that time.

The current stage in the museum's numismatic activities begins with changes that took place after 1989. After temporarily operating under the



Slovak Ministry of Culture (from 1 January 1991) and then the Slovak Ministry of Finance (from 1 January 1992), the museum was placed under the authority of the National Bank of Slovakia from 1 April 1994. During the 1990s the museum became more firmly focused on its numismatic profile, and improved its specialist and presentational activities. The museum embarked on extensive acquisition efforts, launched a conservation and restoration programme, and actively promoted itself at home and abroad through numerous exhibitions of numismatic history and medals. Its largest international numismatic project was the exhibition cycle entitled „Mince a medaily zo Slovenska“ (Coins and medals of Slovakia), which provided a broad insight into the history of money and medal-making in the territory of present-day Slovakia and promoted the new Slovak currency. In several variations this exhibition was presented in the United States (Colorado Springs, 1994), Mexico (Mexico City and Toluca, 1995), Portugal and Spain (Lisbon, Madrid, 1996), the Netherlands (Amsterdam, 1999) and Hungary (Budapest, 2000). In 1998 the NBS approved basic strategic documents setting out its long-term objectives for specialist museum activities, one of which was to open a permanent exhibition of numismatic history. Entitled „Two faces of money – money and medal-making in the history of Slovakia“, the exhibition opened on 30 May 2003. The exhibition presents the evolution of payment means and monetary conditions in the territory of what is now Slovakia, from prehistory to the present, and describes the history of medal-making in this region, from its beginnings in the 16th century until today. Another integral aspect of this history of money and medals are the histories of the local mining industry, the town itself, the mint and the museum. The majority of the exhibits, mostly originals, come from the museum's collections. More than 3,300 items from the collections of coins and related materials are on display, including several finds, around 300 medals, 380 paper notes and duty stamps, and several related items. The museum's approved development strategy also sets out its acquisition programme. Its objectives include building a general collection of coins, paper currency and other payment means that have been used in Slovak territory, ranging from the oldest items to items from the present day, supplemented with various types, variants and vintages of historical and modern coinage produced by Kremnica Mint and other mints of the Kingdom of Hungary or the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Another objective is gradually to complete the collections of all available historical and contemporary paper currency

ever used Slovak territory, and to document the history of money and finance (e.g. shares, bonds, prison and camp vouchers, promissory notes, savings books and coupon books, and materials documenting the past and present activities of financial institutions in Slovakia). The museum has examples of all the circulation and commemorative currency issued by euro area countries, including Slovak collector euro coins issued by the National Bank of Slovakia. As for medals, the acquisition programme envisages completing the collections of medals minted by the Kremnica Mint from the beginning of the 16th century to the end of the empire (most notably including precious Renaissance and Baroque works, the different variants of medals, and the materials used), and acquiring items related to Slovakia and medals designed by Czechs and Slovaks in the 20th and the 21st centuries. Purchasing and acquisition efforts continue to cover related numismatic materials (graphic designs, models, working tools and manufacturing aids, special-purpose and substitute means of payment, worker and labour tokens, other tokens, scales, weights, photographs, and written materials). The success of the acquisition programme over the past 23 years can be seen in the fact that our collections have been expanded by approximately 21,000 items.

ABOUT KREMNICA MUSEUM'S EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

LUBICA MAJEROVÁ – AGÁTA LEŠKOVÁ

There are two levels of museum education – emotional and scholarly (sharing knowledge with a certain group of visitors in a specific manner). The current trend in the museum's communication with visitors is moving from the fascination with objects to the fascination with events, or from the admiration for items in the museum's collections to interactivity and experience.

The Kremnica museum's visitor educational activities date back to the period after World War II, taking the form of lectures and concerts, and also thematic exhibitions. The first exhibition of this sort was installed in the museum's vestibule in May 1956, and was devoted to the 35th anniversary of the founding the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (it attracted 2,300

visitors). The lectures were given by Otto Hellenstein and Teodor Lamoš, not only at the museum but also at external venues (hospitals, recreational and spa facilities). This was also the first time that lectures for schools appeared on the agenda.

New possibilities for developing the museum's educational activities came in the late 20th and the early 21st centuries. The organisation of cultural-educational, teaching and lecturing events began. For example, after the renovation of the Town Castle, its premises were used as a creative space for craftspeople, while the St Catherine's Church became used as a concert venue. Art and knowledge competitions were also held. The museum invited falconers and fencers to work with it, and even made use of puppets from a puppet theatre to complement its numismatics exhibition.

The museum's educational work is primarily focused on supporting learning in the museum environment. A wide range of methods are employed, with something for visitors of all ages and educational backgrounds, and with provisions made for disabled and socially disadvantaged visitors. The museum environment certainly offers interesting ways to complement school education. Rather than providing comprehensive information, museum educational activities ought to be inspirational and encourage dialogue as well as repeated museum visits. The Kremnica museum caters especially for children from all types of schools and after-school facilities, from children attending summer camps, from members of pensioners' associations, from families with young children, and so on. The museum offers several forms of education, including one-off educational programmes as well as long-term educational projects. These are broken down into four basic groups – education through arts, history re-enacted, object learning, and community learning. They take advantage of the museum's collections, which are the source and culmination of all of the museum's activities.