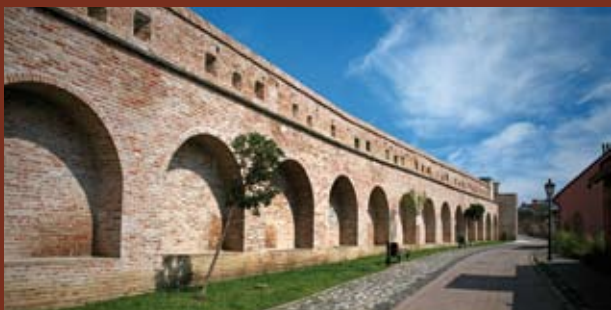


complex of classical and early-Baroque university buildings gradually arose on the site of a Dominican church and monastery. Among these buildings was the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, the first early-Baroque building in Slovakia, whose colossal main altar is one of the largest of its kind in central Europe. The Italian artisans invited to work on the university also made their mark on other buildings in the town. Many burgher houses from the 16th and 17th centuries in fact have an older medieval core, as recent archaeological findings have confirmed.

The power of the town was worthily represented by the Town Hall, its buildings dating from the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries, to the 19th century. The central Town Hall building is an example of classical architecture with art nouveau elements. Over the centuries, further religious landmarks were added to the centre of the town, including the Church of St Joseph, the Church of the Holy Trinity and the Ursuline Church of St Anne, with convent. Trnava's first theatre was built in 1831, with active assistance from the local townspeople. Towards the end of the 19th century, the town's Jewish community built two synagogues in an oriental style. The last church to be built in Trnava was the Lutheran church, finished in the mid-20th century, which has a functionalist exterior.

Trnava occupies a key place in the history of Slovakia, and its rich cultural legacy ranks it among the country's most beautiful towns.



The town fortification wall, originally of almost 3 km in length, 9–10 metres high and 3 metres deep. The town was accessible through four gates, protected by a moat and drawbridges.

#### Coin data

Denomination: **20 euro**

Material: **Ag 925/1000**  
**Cu 75/1000**

Weight: **33.63 g**

Diameter: **40 mm**

Edge: relief inscription **“NAJKRAJŠIE HISTORICKÉ MESTÁ”**  
 (“Most beautiful historical towns”) with a dividing mark in the form of a stylized key between the beginning and end of the inscription

Volume: limited to **20,000 pieces**

Designer: **Mgr. art. Roman Lugár**

Engraver: **Dalibor Schmidt**

Producer: **Kremnica Mint**

The obverse side of the coin shows the historical townscape of Trnava University and the University Cathedral of St John the Baptist. The national emblem of the Slovak Republic is in lower left part of the field, next to the country name **SLOVENSKO**. Below them are two horizontal lines and the year **2011**.

The reverse side depicts Trnava's significant architectural landmarks: the synagogues, the Church of St Anne, the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Church of St Jacob, the Basilica of St Nicholas, the Town Tower, the Church of the Holy Trinity, the Church of St Joseph, and the fortification tower. To the side of this scene is a depiction of the Virgin Mary of Trnava. In the upper part of the field are two lines of text, reading **“TRNAVA PAMIATKOVÁ REZERVÁCIA”** (“Historical Preservation Area of Trnava”), and below them are two horizontal lines and the nominal value of **20 EURO**. The stylised initials of the coin's designer, **Mgr. art. Roman Lugár**, and the mark of the Kremnica Mint are set in the tower placed at the base of the coin.



**Historical Preservation  
Area of  
TRNAVA  
Silver Collector Coin**

Published by: © Národná banka Slovenska, September 2011

Photo: Bedrich Schreiber

Cover photo: Basilica of St Nicholas – originally a Gothic church of the 14th century, later extended in the Baroque style.

<http://www.nbs.sk/en/banknotes-and-coins/euro-coins/collector-coins>

**T**rnava is among the most prominent towns in Slovakia, well-known for its rich past and abundance of historical buildings. The outstanding architectural landmarks that define the centre of Trnava were erected over several centuries, and it is because of them that the town was declared a Historical Preservation Area in 1987.

Trnava arose from settlements that lay at the crossroads of major trade routes. The first recorded mention of the town was indirectly made in a deed of the Archbishop of Esztergom dated 1211. This document refers to the church that previously stood on the site now occupied by the 14th century Basilica of St Nicholas – the town’s most iconic landmark. Having been granted the privileges of a free royal town by the Hungarian King Bela IV in 1238, Trnava is considered to be the oldest recorded royal town in Slovakia. When its extensive fortifications were constructed in the 13th century, Trnava covered an area of 56 hectares, making it one of the largest towns in central Europe. The mendicant orders of Franciscans, Dominicans and Poor Clares played a key role in the cultural and social life of Trnava. The steeples of their churches, such as the Poor Clare’s Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (with convent) and the Franciscan’s Church of St Jacob (with monastery) are established features of the Trnava skyline. The town’s oldest place of worship is the Church of

St Helen, which dates back to the first quarter of the 14th century. At the centre of Trnava is the Square of the Holy Trinity (Trojičné námestie), which was formed at the end of the 13th century and beginning of the 14th century. It is dominated by the Town Tower, a Renaissance watchtower whose construction began in 1574. The tower is 57 metres high and has a viewing platform at 29 metres that offers a unique view of the town as well as the Small Carpathian Mountains. It is also further evidence of the town’s progress and prosperity all those years ago. The most significant period in Trnava’s history began in the 16th century, when the southern parts of the Hungarian Kingdom were either occupied or besieged by Turkish forces. At this time, Trnava assumed the role of the country’s ecclesiastical and cultural capital. The Seat of the Archbishop of Esztergom, the Primate of Hungary, was transferred to Trnava in 1543 and Church Synods were convened in the town. With Trnava having a central role in the Esztergom Archdiocese for almost 300 years and boasting numerous churches, it came to be known as “Little Rome”. In 1562, Archbishop Mikuláš Oláh commissioned the building of the Archbishop’s Palace in the Square of St Nicholas (Námestie sv. Mikuláša), and the same prelate was also behind the construction of the Oláh Seminary, the first theological seminary in the territory of present-day Slovakia. At this time, Trnava was becoming a centre of higher education, with Cardinal Peter Pázmaň founding the country’s first university there in 1635. An impressive



Interior of the Cathedral of St John the Baptist



Church of the Holy Trinity, viewed from the Town Tower



Town Tower



Church of St Jacob



Cathedral of St John the Baptist



Church of St Anne



Church of St Joseph



Synagogue status quo ante



Town Hall