

Coin details

Denomination: €100

Material: Au 900, Ag 75, Cu 25

Weight: 9.5 g

Diameter: 26 mm

Edge: milled

Mintage: limited to a maximum of 7,000 coins

in proof quality

Designer: Karol Ličko

Engraver: Dalibor Schmidt

Producer: Kremnica Mint

The obverse side of the coin depicts the coronation procession and Bratislava architectural landmarks associated with the coronation – the Vienna Gate of Bratislava Castle, the steeple of St Martin's Cathedral, and the tower of the Old Town Hall. On the left side of the design, the national emblem of the Slovak Republic is in the lower part and the denomination is in the upper part with „100“ positioned above „EURO“. The country name „SLOVENSKO“ appears along the right-hand edge, above the year „2012“. Below the year are the mintmark of the Kremnica Mint and the stylised initials of the coin's designer Karol Ličko.

On the reverse side is a portrait of King Charles III, accompanied by the Hungarian royal crown and a period depiction of Bratislava Castle. In the upper part of the design is the text „KORUNOVÁCIA KAROLA III.“ (CORONATION OF CHARLES III) and in the lower part the name „BRATISLAVA“ and the coronation year „1712“.



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BRATISLAVA CORONATIONS

The 300th anniversary of the coronation of Charles III

Gold Collector Coin

During a reign of almost thirty years, Charles III seldom returned to Pressburg. His time was taken up with fighting battles in southern Hungary and performing official duties in Vienna. One of his most well-known acts was to issue the Pragmatic Sanction, an edict of 1713 that established the indivisibility of the Hapsburg Monarchy and a new order of succession that allowed a daughter to accede to the throne. Since his only son had died in infancy, Charles III was succeeded by his eldest daughter, Maria Theresa, who in a reign of forty years attracted respect and admiration for her statesmanship and for her political and reform activities.

From the Coronation Festivities held regularly in Bratislava since 2003





Pečat Karola III

When, in the wake of occupation by Turkish forces, the capital of the Hungarian Kingdom was relocated from Buda to Pressburg (now called Bratislava), Pressburg became the place

where Hungarian kings were crowned and where the most important Hungarian institutions were based. The Turks had had inflicted a decisive defeat on Hungary in 1526, when they defeated Christian armies at the Battle of Mohács, and in 1536 the Diet of Hungary decided to make Pressburg the new capital. Subsequent coronations were held at the city's Gothic St Martin's Cathedral, where a total of 11 Hungarian monarchs were crowned between 1563 and 1830.

Leopold I (1640–1705), the Holy Roman Emperor and King of Hungary, had only two sons who reached adulthood. The elder son, Joseph (1678– 1711) was heir to his crowns and titles, while the younger son, Charles (1685–1740) should have remained an archduke. When Charles II, the last of the Spanish Hapsburgs, died in 1700, Leopold I staked a claim to the Spanish throne and advocated Charles as his successor in Spain. However, the throne was also claimed by the French Bourbon dynasty, and this situation resulted in the long-lasting War of the Spanish Succession.

When Joseph died, Charles became the sole male descendent of the Habsburg dynasty and he returned to Vienna from Spain. En route, he was crowned Holy Roman Emperor at Frankfurt am Main on 24 December 1711.

Sarcophagus of Charles III in Vienna



Manuscript of Charles III from 1736



St Martin's Cathedral in Bratislava

He became Emperor Charles VI, while as King of Hungary he would be Charles III. His coronation as the Hungarian king was preceded by a session of the Diet of Hungary in Pressburg, which did not immediately give its ascent to the succession. Only after months of negotiations and after Charles pledged to fulfil the conditions laid down by the Hungarian nobility did the Diet approve the coronation, setting the date for 22 May 1712.



Crown jewels

Charles was crowned by the Primate of Hungary, Christian August of Saxe-Zeite. The newly-crowned king proceeded by foot from St Martin's Cathedral to the Church of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary at the nearby Franciscan monastery. During the procession, the Chief Royal Treasurer, Alexander Erdödi, followed behind the king, scattering silver coronation tokens among the crowd lining the route. At the Franciscan church the King invested new knights of the Order of the Golden Spur. This was followed by an oath-taking in Latin in front of the Church of the Merciful Brothers and a ceremony on Coronation Hill next to the Danube river. From there the king went to the archbishop's residence where a ceremonial banquet was laid on for him alone, in accordance with Spanish rules of etiquette which forbade anyone else eating in the presence of the monarch. Others could be present only as standing onlookers or as servers, drawn exclusively from members of the noblest families.

Charles' wife and future queen was the still only 20-year-old Elisabeth Christine of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, a Protestant German family of princely rank. She did not attend the coronation since her position as General Governor required her to stay in Spain and defend her husband's claim to the Spanish throne. In 1714, however, Charles relinquished his claim and Elisabeth Christine returned to Pressburg to be crowned Queen of Hungary.

Charles III and his wife Elisabeth Christine



St Martin's Cathedral in Bratislava, interior

