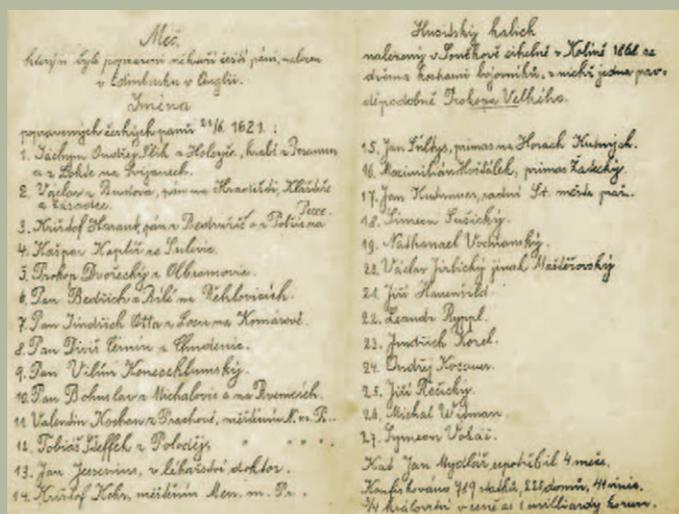


The uprising of the Bohemian estates was suppressed at the Battle of White Mountain in 1621 which was followed by cruel reprisals. Jesenius was accused of rebellion and insulting the crown, for which he was sentenced to death. He was executed along with another 26 Bohemian nobles in the Old Town Square in Prague on 21 June 1621.



Execution of 27 Bohemian nobles at the Old Town Square



List of 27 executed Bohemian nobles

Coin details

Denomination: €10

Composition: Ag 900/1000

Cu 100/1000

Weight: 18 g

Diameter: 34 mm

Incuse edge inscription: LEKÁR – VEDEC – PRIEKOPNÍK ANATÓMIE

(DOCTOR – SCIENTIST – PIONEER OF ANATOMY)

Issuing volume: up to a maximum of 11,000 coins

(comprising brilliant uncirculated and proof)

Designer: Mária Poldaufová

Engraver: Dalibor Schmidt

Producer: Mincovňa Kremnica

The obverse of the coin shows a dramatic rendering of Jesenius performing the first public autopsy in Prague in 1600, with a silhouette of the Church of Our Lady before Týn in the background. In the upper part is the coat of arms of the Slovak Republic. To its right appears the country name SLOVENSKO. Under the coat of arms is the denomination 10 EURO in two lines. At the bottom edge is the year 2016. To the lower left is the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint 'MK' and the stylised letters 'MP' representing the initials of the designer, Mária Poldaufová.

The reverse side shows a portrait of Ján Jesenius. To its right appears the name and surname JÁN JESSENIUS and on the left side, in two rows, are the dates of his birth and death 1566 and 1621.



Published by: © Národná banka Slovenska, November 2016

Photo: Wikimedia, Progress Promotion, the digital library and digital archives of Slovak National Library, the municipality of Turčianske Jaseno, the library of Wroclaw University

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



Ján Jesenius

450th anniversary of his birth

Silver Collector Coin

Ján Jessenius was one of the world's leading scientists at the turn of the 16th century. His work in medicine was extremely innovative in its time and he is considered one of the founders of anatomy. He also wrote and published works on philosophy, history and religious doctrine.

He came from an aristocratic family from Turiec with roots in Horné Jaseno (today Turčianske Jaseno). He was born on 27 December 1566 in the Polish city of Wrocław, where he also graduated from grammar school. He went on to study medicine and philosophy at Wittenberg and Leipzig Universities and at the famous medical faculty of the University of Padua. He received a Doctorate in Medicine in 1591 for his work *De Putrescentis Bilis in Febre Tertiana Exquisita Intermittente Loco* (On the Locus of Putrefying Bile in Acquired Malaria Tertiana). Around the same time, he earned a Doctorate in Philosophy for his treatise *Provinciis contra tyrannos* (For the Defence against Tyrants).

He started his medical career in Wrocław, but he soon became the personal physician of the Saxon Elector in Dresden while at the same time holding the post of professor of surgery and anatomy at Wittenberg. He was elected Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and later Rector of the University, which was proof of his acceptance and recognition.

Ján Jessenius's most famous achievement was performing the first public autopsy, which took place in Prague in June 1600. While the professional community was thrilled, the autopsy was condemned by laypersons. He published a paper on the procedure entitled

Ján Jessenius memorial room including portrait in Turčianske Jaseno



Major published works of Ján Jessenius



Johannis Jessenii á Jessen, *Anatomiae Pragee, Anno MDC ab se solemniter administratae historia* (History of the Prague autopsy solemnly performed in 1600 by Ján Jessenius of Jaseno). His other notable scientific publications include a work on surgery *Institutiones chirurgicæ* (1601) together with his works on bones *De ossibus tractatus* (1601) and on blood *De sanguine* (1608).

After 1600 he taught in Prague and served as personal physician to Emperor Rudolf II. His anatomy classes were celebrated and very progressive for their time. He also became interested in politics, probably as a result of his experiences at the imperial court.

Being a Protestant, he took strong views on the defence of his religion and this brought him into conflict with the emperor. He resigned from his post as the emperor's personal physician and travelled to Vienna to work for his brother Matthias II, King of Hungary, with whom he broke up after Matthias's election as emperor in 1612. In 1617 Jessenius became Rector of Charles University in Prague. Jessenius's political engagement in favour of the Bohemian estates grew into direct opposition to Catholic imperial centralism and when a full uprising of the estates broke out, he became one of its leading personalities. In 1618 he travelled with a diplomatic mission to Hungary to lobby the Hungarian estates not to elect Ferdinand of Habsburg as their king. He was arrested and imprisoned in Bratislava and Vienna. After his release, his political writings grew increasingly radical, though his last years were mostly dedicated to university work.

Wrocław townscape from that period



Depiction of public autopsy from the 16th century



Prague townscape from that period

