



Maria Theresa

Kollár was a personal adviser to Maria Theresa on legal history, property law, and education policy. The sovereign appointed him to the Court Study Commission, which was tasked with establishing an Academy of Sciences in Vienna along the lines of the French Academy of Sciences; in the end, however, the project was not implemented. He published the journal *Privilegierte Anzeigen* (Privileged News), providing an overview of the latest scientific findings. Kollár was involved in education reform and was one of authors of the education reform law entitled Ratio Educationis. When the law was being drafted, Kollár was in charge of all gymnasiums in Vienna and he had the reform proposals classroom-trialed at two of them. Empress Maria Theresa held Kollár in very high regard, and his political opinions influenced the State Council in its course of action. As a reward for his exceptional service, the empress restored him to the ranks of the nobility by making him squire of Keresztény village in the Hungarian county of Šopron. She also showed her attachment to Kollár by being godmother to his daughter, who was named Maria Theresa in the sovereign's honour.

Adam František Kollár

Members of the Hungarian nobility burning Kollár's books



Coin details

Denomination: 10 eur

Composition: Ag 900/1000

Cu 100/1000

Weight: 18 g

Diameter: 34 mm

Incuse edge lettering: • VZDELANEC • DVORSKÝ RADCA MÁRIE

TERÉZIE (• SCHOLAR • COURT COUNCILLOR OF MARIA THERESA)

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

in either brilliant uncirculated or proof quality

Designer: Zbyněk Fojtů

Engraver: Filip Čertaský

Producer: Kremnica Mint (Slovakia)

The coin's obverse design depicts part of a period library together with the name of one of Kollár's scientific works: *Analecta monumentorum omnis aevi Vindobonensia* (Viennese Anthology of Texts of All Ages) At the left of the central bookshelf is the coat of arms of the Slovak Republic. Along the top edge, in semi-circle, is the name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO', and at the bottom is the year of issuance '2018'. The coin's denomination and currency '10 EURO' are shown in two lines within a bookshelf at the lower left. On the upper bookshelf, between two books on the left, are the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint (consisting of the initials 'MK' between two dies) and the stylised letters 'ZF', the initials of the coin's designer (Zbyněk Fojtů).

The reverse depicts a portrait of Kollár. At the left, inscribed in semi-circle along the edge, is his name 'ADAM FRANTIŠEK KOLLÁR', and at the right of the portrait are the years of his birth and death '1718 - 1783'.



Published by Národná banka Slovenska, March 2018
 © Copyright 2018, Národná banka Slovenska
 Photographs: TV Matica slovenská, Wikimedia (Bwag), Progress Promotion
<http://www.nbs.sk/en/banknotes-and-coins/euro-coins/collector-coins>



300th anniversary of the birth of

Adam František Kollár

Silver collector coin

Adam František Kollár—scholar, polyglot, legal historian, and court councillor—was a Slovak intellectual of international repute. In his lifetime, he was well known across Europe and was dubbed the “Slovak Socrates” for his learning, wisdom and cognisance.

Kollár was born on 15 April 1718 in Terchová, now in Slovakia. He was educated at Jesuit-run schools in Banská Bystrica, Banská Štiavnica and, finally, Trnava, where he became a novice with the Society of Jesus. After completing his novitiate in Trenčín, he studied at the Philosophy Faculty in Vienna from 1740 to 1742. He continued his education from 1746 to 1748, studying theology and the languages Hebrew, Turkish, and Persian. Having decided not to become a priest, he ended his theology studies in the second year and left the Jesuits with the Pope’s approval. In addition to the languages he studied in Vienna, Kollár was fluent in Latin, Greek, German, Hungarian, French, and Italian. He lived and worked in Vienna until his death, on 10 July 1783.

In 1748 Kollár began working at the Imperial Library in Vienna, first as a scribe and later as custodian. In 1772 he was appointed director of the institution, and in 1774 he was awarded the additional title of court councillor. His work at the library centred on extending and cataloguing its collections, producing a four-volume systematic catalogue of

Literary works by Kollár



A plaque commemorating Kollár

*A. F. Kollár
Director*

theological texts, and completing and publishing a listing of manuscript codices. It was thanks to his efforts that the Imperial Academy of Oriental Languages was established in Vienna in 1778.

In his philosophical and legal opinions, Kollár advocated the theory of enlightened absolutism, and these opinions became part of the policies pursued by Empress Maria Theresa. He criticised certain representatives of the Catholic Church, the privileges of the nobility, and the economic and social situation of serfs, expressing these views in his 1764 work *Originibus Et Usu Perpetuo Potestatis Legislatoriae Circa Sacra Regum Hungariae Libellus Singularis* (On the Origins and Perpetual Use of the Legislative Powers of the Apostolic Kings of Hungary in Matters Ecclesiastical). The book caused outrage, its further publication was banned, and there were calls for Kollár to be banished. He also translated Maria Theresa’s *Urbarium* into Slovak and wrote several works of history, including *Humillimum promemoria de ortu, progressu et in Hungaria incolatu gentis Ruthenicae* (On the Origins, Expansion and Settlement of the Ruthenian Ethnic Minority in Hungary). In the area of languages, he translated the Turkish chronicle *Crown of Histories* and published a Latin grammar and Latin textbooks. Kollár’s works of poetry are less well known and include Latin verses dedicated to Maria Theresa and her husband, Francis of Lorraine, as well as to Empress Catherine II of Russia.

Terchová, the village where Kollár was born



The Hofburg in Vienna, which housed the Imperial Library where Kollár worked



Literary works by Kollár