

Obverse

The coin's obverse design depicts Esztergom's Primatial Basilica of the Blessed Virgin Mary Assumed Into Heaven and St Adalbert. Below it is the facsimile signature of Cardinal Rudnay, along with the Slovak coat of arms and the coin's year of issuance '2019'. To the right of the signature, next to the edge, is the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint (Mincovňa Kremnica), consisting of the letters 'MK' placed between two dies. Below the mint mark are the stylised letters 'PV' referring to the designer Peter Valach.

Reverse

On the reverse there is a portrait of Cardinal Rudnay with his cardinal's coat of arms depicted to the left of it. Below the coat of arms, in descending order, are the cardinal's first name 'ALEXANDER', last name 'RUDNAY', and the year of his appointment as Archbishop of Esztergom '1819'. To the right of the portrait are the currency denomination '10' and the currency name 'EURO', one above the other. The words 'VYMENOVANIE ZA OSTRIHOMSKÉHO ARCIBISKUPA' (Appointment as Archbishop of Esztergom) are inscribed in semicircle around the edge of the design from centre left to upper right.

Coin details

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| Denomination: | €10 |
| Composition: | .900 silver, .100 copper |
| Weight: | 18 g |
| Diameter: | 34 mm |
| Edge lettering: | • ALEXANDER RUDNAY - UHORSKÝ PRÍMAS 1819 (Alexander Rudnay - Primate of the Kingdom of Hungary 1819) |
| Issuing volume: | limited to a maximum of 11,000 coins in either brilliant uncirculated or proof quality |
| Designer: | Peter Valach |
| Engraver: | Dalibor Schmidt |
| Producer: | Kremnica Mint (Slovakia) |



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Original Slovak text written by Diana Duchoňová
from the Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences
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200th anniversary
of the appointment
of Alexander Rudnay
as Archbishop
of Esztergom

SILVER COLLECTOR COIN

Alexander Štefan Rudnay was born on 4 October 1760 in Svätý Kríž nad Váhom (now Považany). His father was a member of the lower nobility and an office holder of Nitra County. After his secondary education at the Piarist Gymnasium in Nitra and the Catholic Gymnasium in Bratislava, he completed two years of studies at the Philosophical Faculty of the Royal Academy in Trnava. Afterwards, he studied theology in Buda, before entering the general seminary of Pressburg Castle (now Bratislava Castle). He was ordained in 1783 in Trnava.



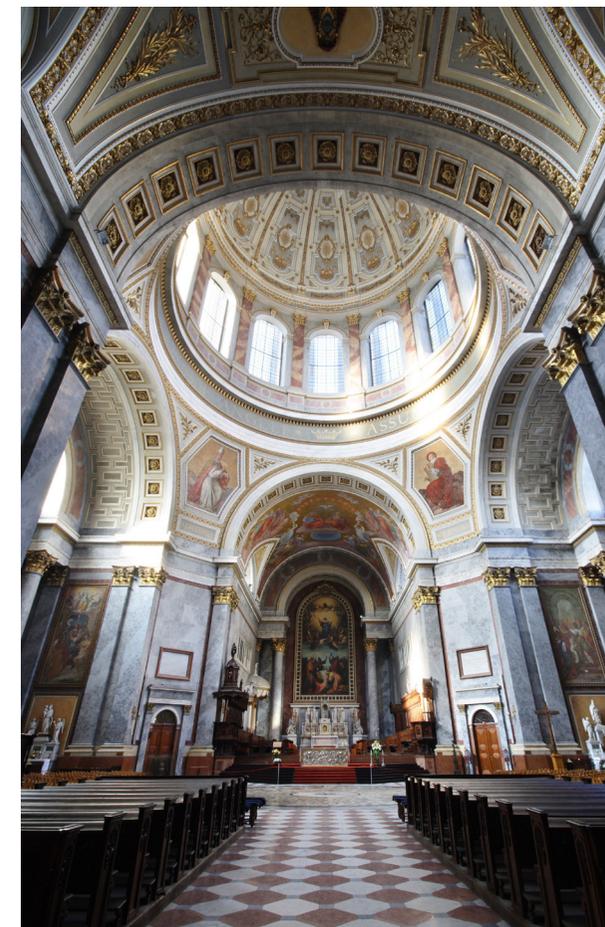
The Primatial Basilica of the Blessed Virgin Mary Assumed Into Heaven and St Adalbert, Esztergom

After finishing his studies as a 24-year-old new priest, he worked as a teacher for Count František Berényi in Laskár village (now part of Nováky). He was then appointed as a chaplain, first to Častá village and then to Svätý Beňadik village (now Hronský Beňadik). In 1786 he was appointed as an archivist at the Vicariate of Trnava and later became secretary of its chancery. He subsequently served as a parish priest in Krušovce, as

a canon in Esztergom, and as rector of the seminary in Trnava. In the period 1809-1810 Rudnay was appointed as an adviser on Hungarian ecclesiastical affairs to the Governor's Council in Buda and to the Hungarian Court Chancery. This was followed by his consecration as Bishop of Transylvania in 1816. His appointment as Archbishop of Esztergom and Primate of the Kingdom of Hungary came in 1819. Pope Leo XII created him a cardinal in pectore in 1826 and made the appointment public in 1828. It was as cardinal that he made his most famous statement: *"Slavus sum, et si in cathedra Petri forem, Slavus ero"* (I am a Slav, and I shall remain one, even if I were to sit in the Chair of Saint Peter).

In 1820 the seat of the Archbishop of Esztergom was moved back to Esztergom from Trnava, where it had been situated since the sixteenth century. In 1822 the Archbishop began the construction of Esztergom Basilica, which was not completed until after his death. In that same year he convened in Pressburg (now Bratislava) the Hungarian National Synod, its main achievement being the publication of national translations of the Bible, including a translation in the Slovak language as codified by Bernolák's group. The first Slovak translation of the Bible was done by Juraj Palkovič. Rudnay's activities also had an impact on the publishing policy of the Buda University Press, which began issuing primary school textbooks in 'Bernolák Slovak', which resulted in their wide dissemination in Slovak Catholic primary schools. Rudnay patronised the Slovak Educated Brotherhood (Slovenské učené tovarištvo), Bernolák's group, and the

Slovak national movement. He led the way for others of Slovak origin to assume significant positions in the Church in the then Upper Hungary, including positions in the episcopacy. The influence of these appointments would be felt not just in the territory of present-day Slovakia, but also in Lower Hungary, Transylvania and Croatia, as national languages started to be used in religious education and religious ceremonies. Cardinal Rudnay died in Esztergom on 13 September 1831, at the age of 71.



Interior of Esztergom Basilica