

Obverse

The collector coin's obverse design depicts two warriors of the period in combat. The Slovak coat of arms appears on left side of the design, and directly above it is the year of issuance '2020'. Along the upper edge, mainly in the left quadrant, is the name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO', which is separated from the central image by a semicircular band of period ornamentation. There is beading all around the rim of the design. Above the bottom edge are the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint (Mincovňa Kremnica), consisting of the letters 'MK' placed between two dies, and the stylised letters 'LR' referring to the coin's designer Roman Lugár.



Svatopluk I and his three sons, Mojmir II, Svatopluk II and Predslav – a sgraffito work at Prostějov Chateau, Czechia (1900–01)

Reverse

On the reverse there is an imagined portrait of Svatopluk II on horseback and, in the background, a semicircular band of period ornamentation. To the right of the portrait are the coin's denomination '100' and currency 'EURO', one above the other. Along the edge of the upper half of the design is the inscription '894 – 899 NITRIANSKE KNIEŽA', stating the subject's position as Prince of Nitra and the length of his reign. Along the lower edge is the name 'SVĀTOPLUK II.'. As on the obverse, the rim is beaded.

Coin details

Denomination:	€100
Composition:	.900 gold, .075 silver, .025 copper
Weight:	9.5 g
Diameter:	26 mm
Edge lettering:	milled
Issuing volume:	limited to a maximum of 5,000 coins in proof quality
Designer:	Roman Lugár
Engraver:	Dalibor Schmidt
Producer:	Kremnica Mint (Slovakia)



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Svatopluk II, Prince of Nitra

SILVER COLLECTOR EURO COIN



Great Moravian cross found during an archaeological excavation at Veľká Mača, circa 9th or 10th century

Before he died, Svatopluk I, ruler of Great Moravia, divided the governance of the country between his sons. One of them, Svatopluk II, most likely became Prince of Nitra. He was subordinated to his older brother, Mojmir II, ruler of Great Moravia (894–906).

In a written record from 899 Svatopluk is referred to as ‘the boy’ (‘puer’ in Latin), in other words he was not yet a man. There was a great age difference between him and his brother Mojmir, and it is assumed they had different mothers. Mojmir’s mother may have been Svätōžizňa, a Czech princess who married his father in October 871. According to the Annals of Bavaria, written in the 16th century by Johannes Aventinus, Svatopluk I was remarried in 885 to

the sister of Arnulf, margrave of Carinthia from 876 to 887, king of East Francia from 887 to 899 and Holy Roman Emperor from 896 to 899. Svatopluk II was probably a product of this marriage.

Supported by Aribio, margrave of the Bavarian Eastern March, Svatopluk II rose up against his brother in 898. On the subject of Svatopluk’s sons, Byzantine Emperor Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus (913–959) wrote the following: *“There was dispute and rupture between them, and they embarked on an internal war, one against the other.”* The Annals of Fulda provide more detail: *“Then, however, in the year of the Lord’s incarnation 898, dissension and great discord arose between the Moravian brothers Mojmir and Svatopluk and their subjects, to the extent that if one brother could have gained overall power, he would have condemned the other to death.”* Emperor Arnulf ordered the margrave Liutpold, who administered the Bavarian Nordgau and Carinthia, and the margrave Aribio to come to the aid of Svatopluk II, and their large Bavarian forces pillaged the territory of Great Moravia. In early 899 the Bavarians embarked on a further destructive incursion into Great Moravia, but they could not prevent the defeat of Svatopluk II. After being imprisoned by Mojmir in a castle, Svatopluk was eventually freed by Bavarian forces on a third incursion. As recorded in the Annals of Fulda: *“The Bavarians made another daring incursion into Moravia, laying waste to the territory and plundering whatever they could; they*



Replica of a hillfort entrance at Bojná, location of the largest archaeological find of Slavic artefacts in the territory of Slovakia

freed the boy Svatopluk [II], son of the former ruler Svatopluk [I], and his people from their castle prison, before setting the castle ablaze and, in their mercy, taking him back to their homeland.”

Svatopluk II was Prince of Nitra for less than five years (896–899), with the Great Moravian state managing to overcome his rebellion. So it was that in 899, at Mojmir’s invitation, papal legates were able to come to Moravia to consecrate a new Moravian archbishop and three bishops subordinate to him. One of the newly consecrated bishops is known to have gone to Nitra.