

Obverse

The obverse depicts the climbers Ivan Fiala and Michal Orolín after reaching the summit of Nanga Parbat in 1971; they are holding an ice axe to which is attached the Czechoslovak flag, and Fiala is also holding the karabiner that he would leave on the summit. In the lower part of the design is the name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO'. Inscribed below the left side of that name are the coin's denomination '10' and currency 'EURO', one above the other, and below the right side are the year of issuance '2021' and the Slovak coat-of-arms, one next to the other.

Reverse

The right side of the reverse design depicts the summit of Nanga Parbat. On the left side, in the foreground, there is the figure of a climber on a rock face. In the upper left quadrant is the name 'NANGA PARBAT', with the first part above the second part. Inscribed above the mountain's name is its height '8125 m', and below the name is year '1971', when the mountain was first summited by Slovak climbers. At the lower right edge are the stylised letters 'MP', referring to the coin's designer Mária Poldaufová, and the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint (Mincovňa Kremnica), consisting of the letters 'MK' placed between two dies.

Coin details

Denomination:	€10
Composition:	.900 silver / .100 copper
Weight:	18 g
Diameter:	34 mm
Edge lettering:	• PRVÝ ÚSPECH SLOVENSKÝCH HOROLEZCOV V HIMALÁJACH (The first success of Slovak climbers in the Himalayas)
Issuing volume:	limited to a maximum of 11,000 coins in either brilliant uncirculated or proof quality
Designer:	Mária Poldaufová
Engraver:	Dalibor Schmidt
Producer:	Kremnica Mint (Slovakia)



Published by Národná banka Slovenska, July 2021

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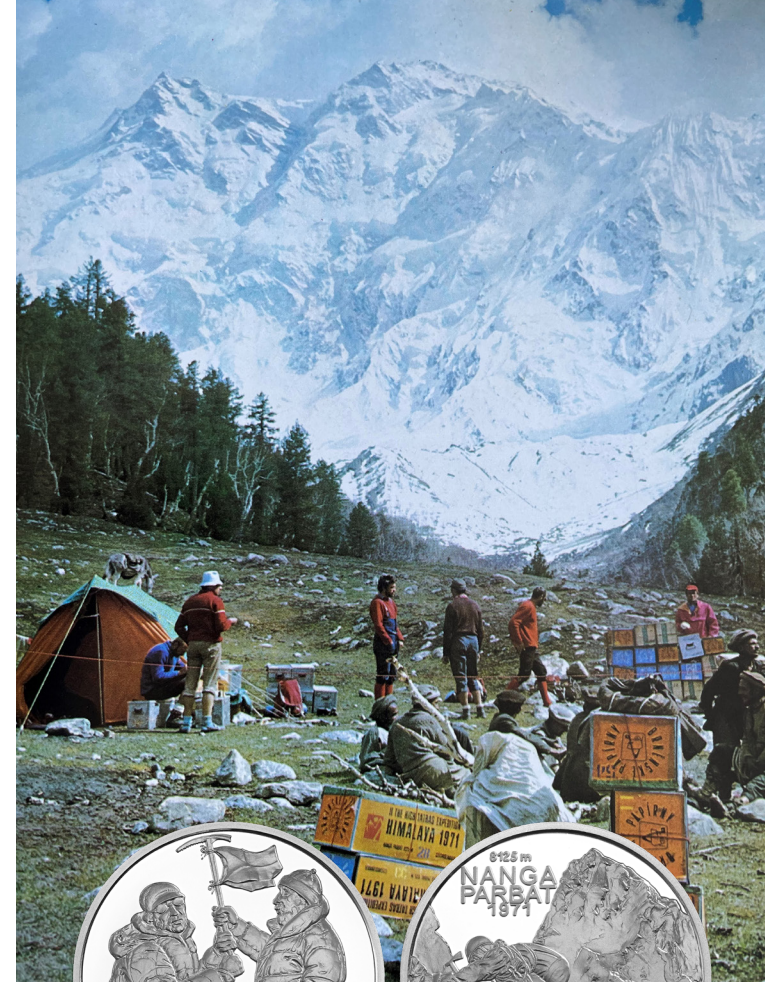
Translated by Národná banka Slovenska

Photographs from the book *Nanga Parbat 8125 m* by Arno Puškáš and Ivan Urbanovič, published by Šport, 1974.

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50th anniversary of
the first successful ascent
of an eight-thousander
(Nanga Parbat)
by Slovak climbers

SILVER COLLECTOR EURO COIN



Back at base camp, mission accomplished

Nanga Parbat stands at 8,125 metres above sea level, and when British climber Albert F. Mummery died on the mountain in 1895, it was the first time anyone had attempted to summit one of the world's fourteen eight-thousanders. The next five summit expeditions to Nanga Parbat were German expeditions in the pre-war 1930s, none of which were successful. The mountain was finally conquered in 1953, by which time it had already claimed the lives of 31 climbers and porters. Its nickname *Killer Mountain* was well earned, and the superstition among locals in the valleys below was that whoever touched the mountain, died.

The only member of the German-Austrian first successful expedition who actually reached the summit was the legendary Austrian climber Hermann Buhl. By the end of 1970 Nanga Parbat had been climbed a further



Oxygen equipment was used only for medicinal purposes



Standing on Nanga Parbat's foresummit at around 11 a.m. on 11 July 1971, with the Shoulder ('Rameno') and the summit of Nanga Parbat in the background

two times. In the 1950s expeditions were vying to make the first ascents of Himalayan eight-thousanders, but Czechoslovak mountaineering was unable to join the race. It was not until 1958 that Czechoslovak climbers were able even to visit the Caucasus Mountains in the then Soviet Union, where they recorded one success after another and gained valuable experience.

In 1969 Slovak mountaineer Ivan Gálffy organised an expedition of Slovak Tatra-based mountaineers to make the first Czechoslovak attempt to climb Nanga Parbat. Following the so-called Buhl route, they got as high as 6,690 metres, to a point below the Rakhiot Peak. The great public interest in their attempt and the experience they accrued were key factors behind deciding to organise a second expedition in 1971. Gálffy's 16-member team included 13 climbers, a doctor and two film-makers, and they made the journey to Pakistan by lorry. The route chosen for the ascent was again via the Rakhiot Flank. Despite struggles at the Rakhiot icefall, the climbers drew on their previous experience and managed to establish high camps: a second camp (at 5,300 m) on 24 May; a third camp (at 6,120 m) on 28 May; and the first tent of a fourth camp (at 6,950 m) on 3 June. Their progress, however, was halted by prolonged snowfall. It was not until 9 July that several members of the team were able to set out from the fourth camp with equipment for setting up a fifth camp, from where four of them would

make a summit attempt. So it was that Ivan Fiala, Milan Kriššák, Michal Orolín and Ľudovít Záhoranský pitched a small tent at 7,600 m and spent the night in it without sleeping bags and in sitting positions. At six o'clock in the morning on 11 July, the four climbers set out for the summit; two of them had ice axes and two only ski poles. First Kriššák gave up the attempt, and then so did Záhoranský, from above 8,000 metres at the ice-covered summit face.

An hour after midday Fiala scaled the main summit of Nanga Parbat, and a few minutes later he was joined there by Orolín. The pair's success was due to the whole expedition's efforts. The ascent triggered a wave of joy in Czechoslovakia in general and among the Slovak public in particular – from the highest state authorities to ordinary people in the humblest villages.



Michal Orolín standing on the summit of Nanga Parbat at around 2 p.m. on 11 July 1971