

Obverse

The obverse design references the title of one of Krista Bendová's books, *Opice z našej police* ('The monkeys on our shelf'), depicting three monkeys on or in front of three bookshelves. In the lower left of the design is the Slovak coat of arms, and on the right side are the coin's denomination '10' and currency 'EURO', one above the other. Inscribed along the upper edge are the name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO' and the year of issuance '2023'. The stylised initials 'KL' appear in the centre of the design, referring to the obverse side's designer Karol Ličko.

Reverse

The reverse shows a portrait of Krista Bendová and an open book in the left background with the visage overlying its right page. The drawing on the left page references Bendová's book *Bola raz jedna trieda* ('Once there was a class'). Inscribed along the lower edge are the author's name 'KRISTA BENDOVÁ' and the dates of her birth and death '1923-1988'. Below the book is a stylised letter 'N', referring to the surname of the reverse side's designer Štefan Novotný, 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:	• AUTORKA OBLÚBENEJ DETSKEJ LITERATÚRY (Author of popular children's literature)
Issuing volume:	limited to a maximum of 15,000 coins in either brilliant uncirculated or proof quality
Designers:	obverse: Karol Ličko reverse: Štefan Novotný
Engraver:	Dalibor Schmidt
Producer:	Kremnica Mint (Slovakia)



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Literary Archives

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100th anniversary
of the birth of

Krista Bendová

SILVER COLLECTOR EURO COIN

Bendová with her sons

Krista Bendová (1923 – 1988) ranks among the most outstanding Slovak authors of children's books in the post-war period. Despite showing certain shifts in values, her works have a timelessness that has ensured they are never out of print. She was first published in the literary magazines *Elán* and *Tvorba* and worked on the editorial boards of the magazine *Ohník*, the satirical magazine *Roháč* and the daily newspaper *Pravda*. Outside of writing she was involved in a women's peace movement and in the Union of Slovak Writers. From 1964 she devoted herself to being a professional writer.



Bendová with classmates at the Girls' Gymnasium in Banská Bystrica, 1941 (middle row, fourth from right)

Her first writings for children were all works of verse. Later, she wrote in both verse and prose, before eventually writing entirely in prose. Humour and fantasy gradually came to be the dominant features of her work. She drew themes from children's everyday life, with the child hero becoming both the channel and measure of her lyrical narrative. She used situational comicality to achieve humorous effect. She took a different approach, however, in the collected works *Čo sa robí, čo sa stalo* (1950) and *Pioniersky pochod* (1952), in which an ideological impetus was reflected in her conceptual principle, one she would gradually move away from. Her book *Bola raz jedna trieda* (1956) is written in a 'cheerful teaching' style and became a standard of Slovak children's literature. What is perhaps her most successful book, *Opice z našej police* (1967), was inspired by the childhood lives of her three sons.

Between 1967 and 1969 she wrote a cycle of 64 stories narrated by the character 'Osmijanko', which were published in book

form many times and marked her development into a writer of the modern form of children's book. The way in which naive childlike thinking and action clashes with quotidian life and a banal adult world is captured by the author in the hero of the book *Dobrodružstvá Samka Klamka* (1974). With the book *Rozprávky z Dúbravky* (1981), Bendová's prose writing moved away from a fantasy-versus-reality style and instead drew on the real life of a housing estate. Her books *Šťastný pes* (1988) and *Brumlíčkove rozprávky* (1994) were published posthumously.



Bendová died on 27 January 1988, on the day of her 65th birthday. Her ashes were originally buried at Slávičie údolie cemetery in Bratislava, before later being interred in her home village of Kráľova Lehota, which she always remembered with affection.



Bendová with her first husband Ján Gonda, during her treatment in the High Tatra Mountains, 1946