



Parergon of mining map with measuring and drawing tools, 1763

Goldsmith's products of the guild master from Levoča, Jozef Szillássy, around 1750



Linen maker; coloured engraving after a drawing by J. H. Bikessy, 1816

First page: Peter Michal Bohúň: Janko Francisci as a captain of Slovak volunteer soldiers in the revolution 1848 - 1849. Slovak National Gallery, Bratislava

Organizers of the exhibition:
The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic
The Slovak National Museum

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Ploughing. Illustrations from the book by Juraj Fándly Pilní domajši a polní hospodár, 1792



Majolica from the factory in Holič, 2nd half of the 18th century. Slovak National Museum - Historical Museum, Bratislava



The standard of the Slovak volunteer soldiers from the year 1848 became the basis of the Slovak national flag

Turkey as a dangerous neighbour. Slovakia, therefore, along with Austria and Croatia, took on the role of the shield of Christian Europe.

■ The exhibition captures in 15 thematic parts the main events and historical processes which, from the 16th to the 19th centuries, helped create the mosaic of the history of Slovakia. It pays great attention to the gradual transformation of the medieval Slovak ethnic group into a modern nation, especially in the period of the national revival at the end of the 18th and first half of the 19th centuries. It presents contemporary works of art and artefacts of material culture

as testimonies to a developed character and originality of life in Slovakia. It captures also the significant moments of religious life. It introduces important figures of Slovak history from the given period and sheds light on the contribution of Slovakia to the treasure of education and culture of the nations of Europe and the world. Due to its range, the exhibition can provide only a brief summary of the given period and cannot go into great detail. However, its organizers hope that it will attract the interest of its visitors. It could supply the impulse for a more thorough understanding of the past but also the present of Slovakia.



Ludovít Štúr(1815 - 1856), a leading figure of Slovak national revival, codifier of the standard Slovak language - J. B. Klemens, oil painting, 1873. Matica slovenská, Martin



Framing of the statutes of the association the Matica slovenská, 1863

Dominik Skutecký: Market in Banská Bystrica; oil painting, 1890. Regional Gallery, Banská Bystrica



THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
THE SLOVAK NATIONAL MUSEUM



Slovakia from the 16th to the 19th Centuries



Renaissance stove tile: seated man and woman; clay, polychromic enamel, 16th century. Museum of the Trenčín Region



Siege of Komárno by a Turkish army in 1594; contemporary engraving



Coronation medals of Maria Theresia, 1741



Liberation of the fortress of Nové Zámky from Turkish occupation in 1685; contemporary engraving on copper plate. Slovak National Museum - Historical Museum, Bratislava

■ In the 10th century, the territory of the present-day Slovakia peopled by ancestors of the Slovaks was incorporated into Hungary, a new multi-ethnic entity which was formed under the hegemony of the Hungarian race following its arrival in Central Europe. Slovakia formed a part of Hungary up to the inception of Czechoslovakia in 1918. So the history of Slovakia and the Slovaks was for almost a thousand years closely connected with the history of other ethnic groups living in Hungary - Hungarians, Croatians, Romanians, Germans, Serbians, Poles, Ruthenians

and Jews, and at the same time with the history of the other nations which happened to exist within the empire of the Hapsburgs over the course of centuries. Due to its strategic position, wealth, abundance of natural resources and the diligence of its population, Slovakia was one of the most developed regions in Hungary and the whole of the Central European region. It was remarkable also for the development of its medieval towns and its building industry. Its mining industry and the processing of metals achieved an unusually high standard, too.

■ At the beginning of the 16th century Slovakia entered into a new stage of its history. With the arrival of modern times, its development accelerated. It was substantially influenced by new geopolitical, military, historical and cultural factors: overseas discoveries; the expansion of the Ottoman empire; the ideas and culture of the Renaissance; the reformation and counter-reformation; the rebellions of the aristocracy in the 17th century; later, the Enlightenment and the reforms associated with it; the growth of national consciousness; the crisis and end of feudalism; the beginnings of the industrial

revolution. The single most important development was that the importance of Slovakia within Hungary at the beginning of this period increased considerably. This happened as a consequence of the expansion of the Ottoman Turks into Central Europe, subsequently occupying a large part of Hungary. The offices of central administration were transferred to Slovakia. Due to this, Slovakia became the centre of the country for two and a half centuries. Another, equally important factor was that the southern part of Slovakia had a frontier that was extremely turbulent - with



Madonna by Master Pavol from the Church of St. James in Levoča, beginning of 16th century



Jug made by "habáns", faience, 17th century. Slovak National Museum - Historical Museum, Bratislava



Stained glass painting from St. Martin's Cathedral in Bratislava, 1667



Bratislava - the capital and coronation city of historical Hungary, coloured engraving by J. Hoefnagel, 1593



Matej Bel (1684 - 1749), polymath, evangelical priest and pedagogue. He excelled in the field of homeland study. He was a member of learned societies in Berlin, London, Olomouc and Jena.