Otakar Španiel a vznik prvních československých mincí

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Otakar Španiel and appearance of the first Czechoslovak coins

Otakar Španiel is generally known as an author of the first Czechoslovak coins. It is possible to deduce from his correspondence with the state authorities – preserved in the National Museum – how complicated was his way from the original models to the final proof coins. Competition for the Czechoslovak coins was announced by the Bank Office of the Ministry of Finance in time when the mint in Kremnica lacked the technical equipment needed, because the Hungarian government had all machines and precious metal transported out of the country after the war. And more – attitude of the Ministry of Finance was not always helpful towards Španiel, which is clear from postponing his payment for models of the 10-, 5- and 2-heller pieces delivered by the artist. Španiel was unfairly regarded as the person responsible for delay in striking of the first coins, because the dies were not accepted for production, and he – after finishing his first plaster models – was actually not responsible for their creation. On contrary, his work must be highly appraised.

Czechoslovak crown; appearance; Otakar Španiel (1881–1955); Czechoslovakia.

koruna československá; vznik; Otakar Španiel (1881–1955); Československo.