



MEDUS MONĒTA

HONEY COIN

LATVIJAS BANKA
EIROSISTĒMA

Informācija par monētu iegādi pa tālrungi +371 67022722.
Latvijas Bankas kases atrodas K. Valdemāra ielā 1B, Rīgā,
un Teātra ielā 3, Liepājā.

Monētu iegāde internetā: www.e-monetas.lv
Call by phone +371 67022722 for information on purchasing the coins.

The Cashier's Offices of Latvijas Banka are situated
at K. Valdemāra iela 1B, Riga, and Teātra iela 3, Liepāja.

Buying coins on the internet: www.e-monetas.lv
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Bites Zemi apsaimniekojušas jau miljoniem gadu. Nemitīgajā cīnā par iztiku brieda cilvēku gana savīgā draudzība ar bitēm, vispirms tikai piesardzīgi izmantojot bišu darba dāsnās dāvanas dabas vidē. Pirmais mūsu senču nogaršo-tais medus bija ievākts no meža bišu pūžiem. Senākie 10. gs. pr.Kr. cilvēku veidotie stropi atrasti Tuvajos Austrumos tagadējās Izraēlas teritorijā. Tikai 18. gs. nogalē vācu zemēs izveidojās zinātniskas biškopības pamati. 19. gs. ar biškopības lietpratēju centriem dažādās pasaules valstis tika radīti un pilnveidi saliekamie stropi ar izņemamiem rāmīšiem jeb kārēm, ar bišu darba gaitām paredzētām skrejām.

Dravnieka darbs ar aromātiskajām bišu vaska šūnām un zeltaino medu, ko mēdzam saīdzināt ar dzintaru, latviešiem izsenis bijis saistīts ar veselīgu dzīvesveidu un dainu poētisma apgarots. Kur bites rosās, tur dabā valda tīrība, harmonija un kārtība. Tur arī cilvēki top domās gaišāki un miesā veselāki.

Senajā Ēģiptē medu lietoja, ārstējot ievainojumus un slimības. Ēģiptes faraoni medu izmantojuši arī reliģiskajos rituālos. Senajā Grieķijā matematikis Pitagors (~580.–500. pr.Kr.) un filozofs Dēmokrīts (~460.–370. pr.Kr.) uzskatīja medus ēšanu par ilga mūža priekšnoteikumu. Savukārt dabas zinātņu pamatlīcējs Aristotelis (384.–322. pr.Kr.) ieteica medu pret acu slimībām, un medicīnas pamatlīcējs Hipokrāts (~460.–370. pr.Kr.) aicināja medu lietot gan tīrā veidā, gan kopā ar ūdeni vai vīnu. Viņš uzskatīja, ka medus ir barojošs, piešķir sejai labu izskatu un tam piemīt ārstnieciskas īpašības. Senie grieķi tik loti cienīja medu, ka medus bite tikusi attēlota uz viņu naudas zīmēm. Savukārt romieši izmantoja medu arī kā naudas veidu, jo daudzi cilvēki nodokļus maksāja medū.

Aptuveni 6 000 gadu pr.Kr., kad klimats kļuva siltāks, bites parādījās arī tagadējās Latvijas teritorijā. Arheoloģiskie izrakumi liecina, ka jau 2.–4. gs. cilvēki uzturā lietojuši medu. 10.–14. gs. līdzās dzintaram un labībai medus un vasks bija nozīmīgas maiņas un tīrgus preces. 19. gs. sākumā daudzi muīžnieki savos mežos ieřkoja pastāvīgas dravas. 19. gs. nogalē bišu dravas bija katrā piektajā zemnieku saimniecībā, taču tajās bija tikai dažas saimes, jo medus tika lietots pašu vajadzībām.

Mūsdienās Latvijā medu patērē uzturā tīrā veidā, konditorejā, dzērienos, tautas medicīnā, pirts procedūrās, masāžās un kosmētiskajos līdzekļos. Medū ir antioksidenti un vitamīni, minerālvielas un mikroelementi, tam ir arī antibakteriāla iedarbība.

Katra bite savā 30–80 tūkst. lielajā saimē nekad negul, vāc barību un būvmateriālus savam mājoklim un izaudzē arvien jaunu paaudzi. Savāktais nektārs un ziedputekšņi pārtop medū un bišu maizē. Mūsdienu pasaulē bites, kas ir līdz pusotram centimetram gari un aptuveni desmitdāļu grama smagi spārnoti kukaiņi, katru gadu cilvēkiem sarūpē fantastisku medus daudzumu.

*Ej, slīpkūt, pie bitūtes,
Mācies bites tikumiņu:
Ne tai kunga, ne stārasta,
Saldu medu salasot.*

Mūsu Dievzemītes veidols gadu gadiem kopts un lolots. Savu valsti tās pilsoņi rosiņā ikdienā piepilda kā bites stropu. Tāpēc "Medus monēta" ir čakluma un darba salduma simbols.



Nominālvērtība – 5 eiro, svars – 16.50 g,
forma – sešstūris ar vilņotām malām un nošķeltām virsotnēm,
attālums starp sešstūra pretējām virsotnēm – 29.00 mm,
metāls – 925° sudrabs, apzelts (995° Au), kvalitāte – *proof*,
monētas josta – gluda.

Monētas dizainu izstrādājis Artūrs Analts.
Monēta kalta UAB Lietuvos monetų kalykla (Lietuva).

Face value: 5 euro; weight: 16.50 g; shape: hexagon with wavy edges and split off peaks; the distance between the upper and lower peak of the hexagon – 29.00 mm; metal: silver of .925 fineness, gold plated (.995); quality: proof; edge: plain.

The coin has been designed by Artūrs Analts
and struck by UAB Lietuvos monetų kalykla (Lithuania).

*Lazybones, go to a bee
To learn its virtue.
It has neither masters nor elders
In its sweet daily job.*

Bees have been working hard on the Earth for millions of years. The rather selfish friendship of humans with bees emerged as a result of continuous fight for livelihood. Initially they used the generous gifts arising from efforts of bees in a cautious manner in natural surroundings. It was the honey harvested from the nests of forest bees that our ancestors tasted first. The oldest man-made beehives of the 10th century BC have been found in the Middle East in the territory of the present-day Israel. The scientific foundations of beekeeping were laid in German states only at the end of the 18th century. In the 19th century, beekeeping specialists in various countries across the globe contributed to the creation and improvement of the modern hives with removable frames (or honeycombs) and with bee-entrances.

The job of beekeepers involves work with aromatic beeswax cells and golden honey we tend to compare to amber. Since time immemorial, Latvians have associated the work of beekeepers with a healthy lifestyle, and it has also been surrounded by the poetic atmosphere of folk songs. A place bustling with bees tells us that it is dominated by cleanliness, harmony and order. It is the place where people's thoughts become lighter and their bodies healthier.

Honey was used to cure wounds and illnesses in ancient Egypt. Egyptian pharaohs also made use of honey during religious rituals. In ancient Greece, mathematician Pythagoras (~580–500 BC) and philosopher Democritus (~460–370 BC) believed that eating honey was a precondition for a long life. Meanwhile, Aristotle (384–322 BC), the founding father of natural sciences, recommended honey as a means for curing eye diseases, while Hippocrates, the founder of medicine, invited people to use honey both on its own and together with water or wine. He believed that honey was nourishing, that it made one's face look better and that it had medicinal properties. The ancient Greeks appreciated honey to the extent that they featured a honey bee on their coins. Meanwhile, honey served as a valid form of currency for the Romans since many people paid their taxes in honey.

Approximately 6 000 years BC, when the climate got warmer, the territory of the present-day Latvia saw the first bees. Archaeological excavations suggest that it was already in the period from the 2nd to the 4th centuries that people consumed honey. Between the 10th and 14th centuries, honey and beeswax along with amber and cereals played an important role as exchange and market goods. At the beginning of the 19th century, many landlords set up permanent apiaries in their forests. At the end of the 19th century, every fifth farm had an apiary; however, it usually consisted of some bee colonies since honey was used entirely for self-consumption.

Today honey in Latvia is consumed on its own, it is used in confectionery, beverages, traditional medicine, bath-house rituals, massages and cosmetics. Honey contains antioxidants and vitamins, mineral substances and trace elements, and it has antibacterial effects.

None of the bees living in a colony consisting of 30–80 thousand bees ever sleeps, each bee collects food for the colony and construction materials for the hive and breeds new generations of bees. The collected nectar and pollen are turned into honey and bee bread. Bees, which are up to one and a half centimetres long winged insects weighing about one tenth of a gram, produce a fantastic quantity of honey for people every year.

The image of our *Dievzemīte* (the Land of God) has been nurtured and cherished for years. Citizens, who are as busy as bees in their day-to-day lives, enrich their country like bees fill a hive. Therefore, the "Honey Coin" is a symbol of diligence and sweetness of work.