



## Press release

26 January 2017

---

# New Swiss commemorative coins: "Gentian" and "500 Years of Reformation"

**On 26 January 2017, the Federal Mint Swissmint will launch two new commemorative coins for coin enthusiasts and collectors. The bimetallic "Gentian" coin is the second coin to be issued in the "FLORA ALPINA" three-part series. The topic of the silver coin is the "500 Years of Reformation".**

Starting in Wittenberg, 500 years ago Europe was in the grip of the Reformation, which led to cultural, social and political upheaval which still has an impact today. In Switzerland, due to the action of Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin, the Reformation became an important catalyst on the road to the modern age, democracy and human rights. Like in the rest of Europe, the anniversary of the Reformation is also being celebrated in Switzerland. But it is not a celebration of Martin Luther's thesis, which according to tradition saw the light of day in Wittenberg in 1517. It is far more about the Reformation as a movement whose cultural, social and political potency still has an impact 500 years later. The main focus of the anniversary is the question of what the Reformation means for today's generation and those of tomorrow, and not a return to a mystical date in time. This brings the achievements of the Reformation into the spotlight without forgetting the drawbacks and puts it into the service of ecumenical commitment. On the occasion of the "500 Years of Reformation" anniversary, Swissmint is issuing a 20-franc silver commemorative coin. This was designed by the graphic artist Ben Pfäffli from Burgdorf. Further information is available at [www.ref-500.ch](http://www.ref-500.ch).

Each year, the unique Alpine flora attracts countless visitors to the mountains. The mountain spring is particularly impressive. While the last snowfields gradually melt away, plants are blossoming and sprouting wherever you look. Particularly eye-catching in this display of colour is the deep blue of the gentian. Together with the

edelweiss and Alpine rose, it is one of the most popular Alpine flowers. This is commonly understood to mean the "stemless gentian", of which there are several subspecies. The most well known are the frequently occurring species Clusius' gentian (*gentiana clusii* or limestone gentian) and Koch's gentian (*gentiana acaulis* or siliceous gentian). Gentian is a plant species from the gentian family (*gentianaceae*). The 300 to 400 plant species which are found almost all over the world are predominantly indigenous to the temperate climate zones of the northern hemisphere and also the Andes. The gentian decorates the second commemorative coin in the three-part FLORA ALPINA series. Again, it is the graphic artist Jenny Leibundgut, from Bern, who designed the new 10-franc bimetallic coin.

The new commemorative coins are available from 26 January 2017 as limited editions at [www.swissmintshop.ch](http://www.swissmintshop.ch), as well from some coin dealers and banks. At the same time, the annual circulation coin sets will also appear. Alongside the classic coin sets and the baby coin set, a birthday coin set will be issued this year for the first time. The colourful, illustrated slipcase makes it a cherished birthday present which will go down well with all ages.

#### **The Federal Mint Swissmint**

The Federal Mint Swissmint produces the country's coins for use in everyday payment transactions. The Federal Mint also regularly issues commemorative coins and coinage of a higher standard for the numismatic market. Coins in bimetal, silver and gold bear an official nominal value and are available in various minting qualities. Swissmint is also the official authority for public and private clients seeking authenticity checks and expert opinions.

#### **Note to the press:**

This press release and images can be downloaded at:

<http://www.swissmint.ch/e/aktuell/medien.php>

<http://www.swissmint.ch/e/aktuell/medien/index.php>

**Further details:** Urs Liechti  
Bernastrasse 28, 3003 Bern  
Tel. +41 58 465 12 95  
Fax +41 58 462 60 07  
[urs.liechti@swissmint.ch](mailto:urs.liechti@swissmint.ch)  
[www.swissmint.ch](http://www.swissmint.ch)

## Fact sheet

### Bimetallic coin "Gentian"

FLORA ALPINA series



Images shown enlarged

Folder

<i>Effigy</i>	Gentian
<i>Artist</i>	Jenny Leibundgut, Bern
<i>Technical specifications</i>	Alloy: outer ring in aluminium-bronze, core made of copper-nickel Weight: 15 g Diameter: 33 mm
<i>Legal face value</i>	10 Swiss francs
<i>Date of issue</i>	26 January 2017
<i>Mintage</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uncirculated: <b>29,000 units:</b> 18,000 units in a blister pack, 2,000 in a folder and 9,000 in coin set*</li><li>• Proof: <b>5,500 units:</b> 3,000 in presentation case with numbered certificate of authenticity and 2,500 in coin set*</li></ul>
<i>Recommended prices</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uncirculated, in a blister pack: CHF 20 / Coin set: CHF 40 in a folder CHF 30</li><li>• Proof in presentation case: CHF 45 / Coin set: CHF 85</li></ul>
<i>Sold by</i>	Online at <a href="http://www.swissmintshop.ch">www.swissmintshop.ch</a> or phone +41 58 4 800 800 as well some coin dealers and banks
<i>Coined and issued by</i>	Federal Mint Swissmint, CH-3003 Bern, <a href="http://www.swissmint.ch">www.swissmint.ch</a>

\* Contents of coin set = 7 circulation coins and 1 commemorative coin

## Fact sheet

### Silver coin "500 Years of Reformation"



Images shown enlarged

Folder

<i>Effigy</i>	500 Years of Reformation
<i>Artist</i>	Ben Pfäffli, Burgdorf
<i>Technical specifications</i>	Alloy: silver 0.835 Weight: 20 g Diameter: 33 mm
<i>Legal face value</i>	20 Swiss francs
<i>Date of issue</i>	26 January 2017
<i>Mintage</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uncirculated: <b>30,000 units</b> 28,000 units in a blister pack, 2,000 in a folder</li><li>• Proof in presentation case: <b>5,000 units</b> with numbered certificate of authenticity</li></ul>
<i>Recommended prices</i>	Uncirculated in a blister pack: CHF 30 in folder: CHF 40 Proof in presentation case: CHF 60
<i>Sold by</i>	Online at <a href="http://www.swissmintshop.ch">www.swissmintshop.ch</a> or phone +41 58 4 800 800 as well some coin dealers and banks
<i>Coined and issued by</i>	Federal Mint Swissmint, CH-3003 Bern, <a href="http://www.swissmint.ch">www.swissmint.ch</a>

## Fact sheet

### Coin sets 2017

#### 2017 CLASSIC COIN SET with bimetallic coin "Gentian"

*Legal face value: 18.85 Swiss francs*  
*Alloy: Copper-nickel and aluminium-bronze*  
*Measurements: 171 mm x 106 mm x 8 mm*



*Quality: Brilliant uncirculated*  
*Mintage: 9,000 units*  
*Recommended price: CHF 40*  
*Date of issue: 26 January 2017*



*Quality: Proof*  
*Mintage: 2,500 units*  
*Recommended price: CHF 85*  
*Date of issue: 26 January 2017*

#### 2017 BABY COIN SET with bear medal

*Quality: Brilliant uncirculated*  
*Legal face value: 8.85 Swiss francs*  
*Alloy: Copper-nickel and aluminium-bronze*  
*Measurements: 171 mm x 106 mm x 8 mm*



*Mintage: 10,000 units*  
*Recommended price: CHF 40*  
*Available since: 1 January 2017*

#### 2017 BIRTHDAY COIN SET with birthday medal



*Mintage: 3,000 units*  
*Recommended price: CHF 40*  
*Available since: 1 January 2017*

*Sold by:* Online at [www.swissmintshop.ch](http://www.swissmintshop.ch) or phone +41 58 4 800 800 as well some coin dealers and banks

*Coined and issued by:* Federal Mint Swissmint, CH-3003 Bern, [www.swissmint.ch](http://www.swissmint.ch)