



## Press Release

Bern, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2006

### A new commemorative coin 2006 dedicated to the Federal Parliament Building

**swissmint, the Official Mint of the Swiss Confederation, brings out on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2006 a commemorative coin in silver with the topic "Federal Parliament Building". The new coin with the prominent edifice will be presented to the members of the parliament the day before its official issue.**

#### **The Federal Parliament Building – a Mirror of Switzerland**

After an eight-year construction period, the Federal Parliament Building was ceremonially inaugurated by the United Federal Assembly on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1902. It was placed as a kind of keystone between the existing East and West wings.

In architectural terms, the Parliament building may be assigned to the historicism style. It incorporates a wealth of stylistic elements, and with the rich artistic adornments, the building appears almost opulent, typifying the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Never before or since has the democratic concept of Switzerland been implemented materially and artistically in such a way in a building. In his design, Hans Wilhelm Auer (1847-1906), the architect of the Parliament building, wanted to integrate "the whole of Switzerland" in physical terms as well. He put this into practice in that, for example, the types of stone used represent Switzerland's geology in all its diversity. For the interior design, too, materials from all regions of Switzerland were used and craftsmen from these regions were employed in the execution of the work.

#### **Artist: Benjamin Pfäffli**

Benjamin Pfäffli was born in Biel on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1961. In 1978, he began an apprenticeship as a typesetter with the Stämpfli company in Bern. Following the end of his training in 1982, he worked for a year in the Stämpfli design department. He then managed the typesetting department at the Löffler printing company in Sumiswald for four years. During this period, Benjamin Pfäffli attended a part-time course at the College of Typographical Design in Aarau, where he trained with Dario Zuffo as a typographical designer in just under three years. In August 1987 he opened his own design studio, initially in Zollbrück, later in Burgdorf. His area of activities encompasses corporate design, development of logos, POS material, cultural posters and CD covers. More information: [www.atelier-bene.ch](http://www.atelier-bene.ch)



### **Culture promotion with Swiss commemorative coins**

Since 1974, Switzerland has been issuing official commemorative coins every year. The net proceeds from sale of the coins go towards promoting cultural projects throughout Switzerland.

### **Text and photo material**

The text and photo material is available for downloading from:

<http://www.swissmint.ch/e/presse/index.shtml>

### **Further information**

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## Press release, Commemorative coin "Federal Parliament Building" - Annex

Design: Benjamin Pfäffli, Burgdorf



### Characteristics

Coin picture	"Federal Parliament Building"
Artist	Benjamin Pfäffli, Burgdorf
Alloy	Silver 0,835
Weight	20 g
Diameter	33 mm
Face value	20 Swiss Francs
Date of issue	8 <sup>th</sup> June 2006
Mintage	Standard coinage, uncirculated: max. 65,000 Proof coin in presentation case: max. 8,000
Prices	CHF 20 standard coinage CHF 50 proof coin in presentation case
Available from	Coin dealers, banks and online at <a href="http://www.swissmint.ch">www.swissmint.ch</a>
Coined and issued by	swissmint, Swiss Federal Mint CH-3003 Bern

### Note for editors:

Photo material is available at: <http://www.swissmint.ch/e/presse/bilder.shtml>