



Press Release

29th November 2007

Commemorative coin for ice hockey centenary

On the occasion of the double centenary of the Swiss Ice Hockey Association SIHA and the International Ice Hockey Federation IIHF in 2008, Federal Councillor Hans-Rudolf Merz presented the presidents of the two associations with the official Swiss "Ice hockey centenary" commemorative coin – as a symbolic gift on behalf of the Swiss government – about six weeks before the official date of issue on 18th January 2008. The presentation took place at the headquarters of the IIHF where the upcoming centenary year was celebrated during an official ceremony.

In his speech, Federal Councillor Hans-Rudolf Merz emphasised the importance of the sport of ice hockey for society, and especially for young people and public health. Without the excellent work and commitment of the SIHA, the IIHF and their voluntary members, ice hockey would not enjoy its present significance: "Ice hockey makes contacts beyond national frontiers and language boundaries." For this reason, the Swiss commemorative coin is intended as a token of recognition for the associations celebrating their centenaries and for all those who share an interest in ice hockey. Following the speech of Federal Councillor Merz, young ice hockey players unveiled a giant effigy of the centenary coin on the ice rink specially prepared for the centenary.

Graphic design

The centenary coin is a silver coin with a face value of 20 Swiss francs. It succinctly expresses the fascination and dynamic nature of the sport despite the space

constraints (33 mm diameter): the effigy depicts ice hockey players engaged in a tackle. The leitmotif for the design stems from Bern graphic designer Roland Hirter. He concentrates on the key features of ice hockey as a sport: tackles, strength, dynamic force and team spirit. In his artistic realisation, he centres on reduction and restricts himself to a clear representation of the essential.

Silver coin available in 2008

The "Ice hockey centenary" commemorative coin will be available from the Federal Mint Swissmint at www.swissmint.ch or from coin dealers and banks with effect from 18th January 2008. It will be produced in limited edition in the two minting qualities "uncirculated" and "proof" (highest minting quality). The Federal government will use proceeds from the sale to promote cultural projects throughout Switzerland.

Short portrait of Roland Hirter

Roland Hirter was born in Zollikofen near Bern in 1943. After his studies as graphic designer at the School of Applied Arts in Bern and a study visit to Finland, he spent four years working for a design studio in Bern. In 1970, he turned freelance in Bern. His work encompasses logos, pamphlets, brochures, posters and packaging. In 1972, he won the design competition of the "50 years of radio" commemorative stamp. Since then, he has been able to design more than 25 other stamps for the Swiss Post Office and the United Nations, among them a number of sports stamps. Since the mid 1990s, he has designed most of Swissmint's printed matter and is also responsible for the reverse side of commemorative coins issued since 2004. His most well-known work is probably the motorway tax sticker.

Text and photo material

This Press Release and photo material (press photos of the official presentation at 13:00) will be available for download on Thursday, 29th November 2007 at: <http://www.swissmint.ch/en/latestnews-mediainformation-pressreleases.pressreleases.html>

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Silver coin "Ice hockey centenary"



Legend:

The official commemorative coin of Switzerland celebrating the centenary of the national and international ice hockey associations in the year 2008.

Editorial note:

Photo material of the silver coin is available for download at:

<http://www.swissmint.ch/en-latestnews-mediainformation-presspictures.html>

<i>Effigy</i>	"Ice hockey centenary"
<i>Artist</i>	Roland Hirter, Bern
<i>Technical data</i>	Alloy: Silver 0.835 Weight: 20 g Diameter: 33 mm
<i>Legal face value</i>	20 Swiss francs
<i>Date of issue</i>	18 th January 2008
<i>Mintage</i>	Standard coinage, uncirculated: max. 50,000 coins Proof coin in presentation case: max. 7,000 coins
<i>Recommended retail prices</i>	Standard coinage: CHF 20.- Proof: CHF 55.-
<i>Sale</i>	Coin dealers, banks and online at www.swissmint.ch
<i>Coined and issued by</i>	Federal Mint Swissmint CH-3003 Bern www.swissmint.ch