



Media release

26 May 2011

New Swiss commemorative coins

On 26 May the Federal Mint Swissmint is releasing the “A Bell for Ursli” gold coin. It is also continuing the mountain railway series with the “Pilatus Railway” as its subject.

The story of “Schellen-Ursli” has fascinated children and adults alike for over 60 years. Now the Federal Mint Swissmint has chosen the much-loved picture-book character as its subject for the 2011 gold coin. The special minting has a face value of 50 Swiss francs and is available now in “proof coin” quality.

The special coin draws its inspiration from one of Switzerland’s best-known children’s books. Written in rhyme by Selina Chönz and illustrated by Alois Carigiet, the “A Bell for Ursli” tale first appeared in 1945. Since then, generations of children have accompanied the little boy Ursli on his hazardous journey to the Alpine hut to fetch the big cowbell. And they have shared in his delight when with the largest bell, he was finally able to lead the traditional Engadine Chalandamarz parade.

Silver for the steepest cog railway in the world

Also appearing on 26 May is the 20 franc “Pilatus Railway” silver coin. It follows the coins featuring “Vitznau-Rigi Railway” (2008), “Brienz-Rothorn Railway” (2009) and “Bernina Railway” (2010) in the “Mountain Railways” series . It will be officially launched on 1 July on the occasion of the Pilatus-Kulm opening event.

The Pilatus Railway which came into operation in 1889 is one of the most audacious mountain railway projects of the pioneering era. With a gradient of 48 per cent, it is today regarded as the steepest cog railway in the world. The line ascends in 30 to 40 minutes from Alpnachstad to Pilatus-Kulm where an incomparable view over Lake Lucerne, central Switzerland and the mountains of the Alps awaits guests.

Swissmint media release 26.5.2011: New Swiss commemorative coins

The new commemorative mintings are available as a limited edition from banks, coin dealers and at www.swissmint.ch. The net proceeds from the sale of the coins are used to promote cultural projects throughout Switzerland.

Pictures of the “A Bell for Ursli” commemorative coin

http://www.howald-pr.ch/media/bilder/schellenursli_bildseite.jpg

http://www.howald-pr.ch/media/bilder/schellenursli_wertseite.jpg

Pictures of the “Pilatus Railway” commemorative coin

http://www.howald-pr.ch/media/bilder/pilatusbahn_bildseite.jpg

http://www.howald-pr.ch/media/bilder/pilatusbahn_wertseite.jpg

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Fact sheet

Gold coin "A Bell for Ursli"



Caption: The Federal Mint Swissmint has chosen the much-loved picture-book character as its subject for the 2011 gold coin

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| <i>Effigy</i> | "A Bell for Ursli" |
| <i>Artist</i> | based on Alois Carigiet's original Bell-Ursli |
| <i>Technical data</i> | Alloy: Gold 0.900 Weight: 11.29 g Diameter: 25 mm |
| <i>Legal face value</i> | 50 Swiss francs |
| <i>Date of issue</i> | 26 May 2011 |
| <i>Mintage</i> | Proof coin in presentation case: max. 6,000 coins |
| <i>Standard price</i> | 580.00 CHF |
| <i>Sales</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 |

Fact sheet

Silver coin "Pilatus Railway"

"Mountain Railways" series



Caption: Silver for the steepest cog railway in the world: commemorative coin "Pilatus Railway"

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| <i>Effigy</i> | "Pilatus Railway" |
| <i>Artist</i> | Benno K. Zehnder, Gelfingen |
| <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> | 26 May 2011 |
| <i>Mintage</i> | Standard coinage, uncirculated: max. 50,000 coins Proof coin in presentation case: max. 7,000 coins |
| <i>Standard prices</i> | Standard coinage: 30.00 CHF Proof: 60.00 CHF |
| <i>Sales</i> | Pilatus-Bahnen AG, coin dealers, banks and online at www.swissmint.ch |
| <i>Coined and issued by</i> | Federal Mint Swissmint CH-3003 Bern www.swissmint.ch |