



## Media release

26 May 2011

---

### **“A Bell for Ursli” struck in Gold**

**On 26 May the Federal Mint Swissmint has released the “A Bell for Ursli” gold coin, a tribute to the work of the Grisons painter and graphic artist Alois Carigiet.**

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 new commemorative coin is available from 26<sup>th</sup> May as a limited edition from banks, coin dealers and at [www.swissmint.ch](http://www.swissmint.ch). The net proceeds from the sale of the coins are used to promote cultural projects throughout Switzerland.

#### **Alois Carigiet's storybook character captured children's hearts**

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.

Alois Carigiet was born in Trun (Grisons) in 1902. After a apprenticeship as a painter and decorative designer in an advertising studio in Chur, he worked as a freelance commercial artist in Zurich, producing theatre scenery and posters. He was one of the founders of the legendary Cabaret Cornichon where he was responsible for scenery, costumes and advertising. In 1939, Alois Carigiet withdrew to Platenga in the commune of Obersaxen where he worked as a freelance artist. Alois Carigiet died in Trun in 1985.

((Box))

### **Successful Max Frisch Commemorative Coin**

The uncirculated silver coin dedicated to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Max Frisch (mintage: 50'000 pieces) was sold out within three weeks after its issue last January. Actually still available are the coins in Proof quality.

### **Text and photo material**

Available for download at:

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

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

**Information:** Kurt Rohrer, General Manager Swissmint  
Bernastrasse 28, 3003 Bern  
Tel. +41 31 322 64 85  
Fax +41 31 322 60 07  
Mail [kurt.rohrer@efv.admin.ch](mailto:kurt.rohrer@efv.admin.ch)  
[www.swissmint.ch](http://www.swissmint.ch)

For further information: [www.swissmint.ch](http://www.swissmint.ch)

## 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

<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 <a href="http://www.swissmint.ch">www.swissmint.ch</a>
<i>Coined and issued by</i>	Federal Mint Swissmint CH-3003 Bern <a href="http://www.swissmint.ch">www.swissmint.ch</a>