



Press Release

28th January 2011

New Swiss commemorative coins

The Federal Mint Swissmint is issuing a silver coin to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Max Frisch. In addition, it is starting the "Swiss customs" series with the motif "Bern Onion Market". The two commemorative coins appeared on 20th January. They will be followed on 26th May by the "A Bell for Ursli" gold coin and the "Pilatus Railway" silver coin.

This year Max Frisch would have celebrated his 100th birthday. The Federal Mint Swissmint is taking this centenary as the occasion to commemorate a silver coin to one of Switzerland's most famous authors. The commemorative coin, which depicts a typical portrait of Max Frisch, was presented for the first time on 20th January. It has a face value of 20 Swiss francs and is available in the two minting qualities "uncirculated" and "proof" in a presentation case.

The commemorative coin "Max Frisch" was designed by Lausanne artist Daniel Frank. It took several drafts before the final effigy was decided. Daniel Frank explains it as follows: "I was fascinated by the face of Max Frisch because it changed so often throughout his life. The frontal view finally appeared to be best suited for the coin as it portrays his empathy, his questioning look and his unfaltering will to elucidate things without wanting to master them."

New series depicting cultural diversity in Switzerland

The commemorative coin "Bern Onion Market" marks the start of a series entitled "Swiss customs". The Swiss government will start the issue from 2011 onwards. The Onion Market is a folk festival loved by young and old and takes place on the fourth Monday of November. Early in the morning, the Old City turns into a giant market where farmers from the region offer braided bunches of onions and other products for sale. The Onion Market is also known for its confetti battles, onion tart and a fair-ground. The braided bunch of onions is the main symbol of the festival and appears

on the new commemorative coin. Next to it is the Bear of Bern, the heraldic animal of the City of Bern. The coin is not only interesting as a collector's item, it is also a genuine souvenir for visitors to Bern.

Stefan Haenni, an artist from Thun, designed the bimetallic coin. The "Bern Onion Market" has a face value of 10 Swiss francs and is available in the minting qualities "uncirculated" and "proof" in a presentation case. It also supplements the Swiss circulation coins in the 2011 coin set.

Further commemorative coins in 2011

On the issue date of 26th May, Swissmint is launching another silver coin and gold coin: With the motif of the "Pilatus Railway", Swissmint continues the series of commemorative coins started in 2008 on the subject of mountain railways. The motif selected for the gold minting is the figure of "A Bell for Ursli" drawn by Alois Carigiet and made famous by the Swiss picture book of the same name.

The new commemorative coins issued on 20th January and the annual coin sets for 2011 can be purchased directly at the World Money Fair in Berlin. They are also available at www.swissmint.ch or from selected coin dealers and banks. The proceeds from the sale, the minting profit, will go to support cultural projects throughout Switzerland.

Text and photo material

Available for download at:

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

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

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Fact sheet

Silver coin "100th anniversary of Max Frisch's Birthday"



Caption:

Dedicated to famous Swiss authors: Commemorative coin "Max Frisch"

<i>Effigy</i>	"Max Frisch"
<i>Artist</i>	Daniel Frank, Lausanne
<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>	20 th January 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: CHF 20.00 Proof: CHF 55.00
<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

Bimetallic coin "Bern Onion Market"

Series: Swiss customs



Caption:

Start of the new series on the topic of Swiss customs: Commemorative coin "Bern Onion Market"

<i>Effigy</i>	"Bern Onion Market"
<i>Artist</i>	Stefan Haenni, Thun
<i>Technical data</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>	20 th January 2011
<i>Mintage</i>	Standard coinage, uncirculated: max. 94,000 coins Proof coin in presentation case: max. 12,000 coins
<i>Standard prices</i>	Standard coinage: CHF 10.00 Proof: CHF 30.00
<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