



Press Release

20th 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 appears on 20th January 2011.

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, 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.

Commemorative coins and currency coin sets available with immediate effect

Swissmint will present the new products at the World Money Fair in Berlin (28. – 30.01.2011) and at the Basel Coin Fair (Basler Münzenmesse, 05./06.02.2011), where they can be purchased on the stands. They are also available online at www.swissmint.ch or from coin dealers and banks. With the proceeds from the sale of coins, the minting profit, the Swiss government promotes cultural projects throughout Switzerland.

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>

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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