



## HELVETICA 1997 The commemorative coin «Jeremias Gotthelf»

On the obverse the commemorative coin represents in honour of Jeremias Gotthelf a half-length portrait of him after a contemporary work of art. The coin also represents his characteristics: bald forehead, side-whiskers, tie. The pen in his hand is the attribute of author. The nominal value of 20 Swiss francs figures in the center of the reverse and bears the artistic inscription «CONFOEDERATIO HELVETICA» and «1997».

### Characteristics

#### Model

«Jeremias Gotthelf»

#### Artist

Samuel Buri, Basel

#### Technical Data

Alloy: Silver 0.835

Weight: 20 g

Diameter: 33 mm

#### Legal tender value

20 Swiss francs

#### Date of issue

21st August 1997

#### Mintage

Standard coinage, incirculated:

160 000 pieces

(the piece 20 Swiss francs)

Proof in coin case:

20 000 pieces

(the piece 50 Swiss francs excl. value added tax)

#### Coinage

Swiss Federal Mint

#### Distribution

Swiss National Bank

CH-3003 Berne

Phone 031 312 02 11

Fax 031 312 19 53

#### Responsible for the issue:

Federal Administration of  
Finances

CH-3003 Berne

Phone 031 322 60 68

Fax 031 322 60 07

1 9 9 7



**Jeremias  
Gotthelf**



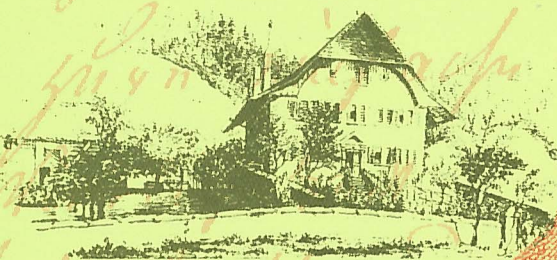
Official Swiss  
commemorative  
coins



Since 1936 the Confederation issues commemorative coins with a contemporary topic. HELVETICA is the official label of these coins.

These coins are the creations of famous Swiss artists. The Federal Administration of Finances in co-operation with the Federal Office of Culture performs competitions of fine arts or places corresponding individual orders.

The net profits resulting from the sales of the series are appointed to support Swiss cultural projects by means of lump sum payments.



Jeremias Gotthelf 1797-1854

The 4th October 1997 recurs to the 200th anniversary of the most popular Swiss poet, Jeremias Gotthelf, surnamed Albert Bitzius, descended from a patrician family. He was born in Murten as the son of a vicar. After completing his studies in theology at the Universities of Berne and Göttingen he worked as a curate and parson in various Bernese communities. His rural narrative power as author brought Switzerland a great cultural value. Considered as precise and subtle, he was an inconvenient observer in his time. Jeremias Gotthelf died in Lützelflüh at the age of only 57.

A selection from his most famous works: Ulric, the farm labourer; Ulric, the lessee; Anne Bäbi Jowäger, Spirit and money, The black spider.

#### The Artist

The artist Samuel Buri was born 1935 in Täuffelen on the lake-side of Bienne. His participation in a christmas competition in 1952/53 at the Art Gallery of Basel was the beginning of his career of art. After completing his studies he spent a formative period of 20 years in France and was selected for a Government contract to create a medal. Various exhibitions at home and abroad brought him many awards. The characteristic of his art is the intensity of the colours. Today, Samuel Buri lives and works in Basel and Habkern (canton of Berne).