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HEADS OR TAILS

Swissmint's coin magazine



EDITORIAL



Dear Reader

Traditions are once again experiencing a revival so it's not all that surprising that yodelling is also regaining popularity. This renaissance could be due to a sense of nostalgia, or the desire for something quintessentially Swiss. The Swissmint Yodelling coin responds to this trend. When designing the new Yodelling coin, graphic designer Gabriel Giger also incorporated the related disciplines of flag throwing and alphorn blowing into his design. The new coin will be issued in time for the Swiss Yodelling Festival in Brig-Glis, which is expected to attract 150,000 visitors.

A trip on the steamboat "Uri" might also awaken feelings of nostalgia. The highlight of the trip would surely be a visit to the first-class salon, richly decorated in neo-Baroque style. Switzerland's oldest paddle steamer is the first motif chosen for the new three-part commemorative coin series "Swiss steamboats". We were able to engage the services of well-known marine artist Ueli Colombi to design this series.

The subject for this year's trial minting is yodelling. Please take a look at the article on changes we are making to our ordering process. In this issue of **Heads or Tails** you will also find articles on ways to pay for your order, mintage figures and sales deadlines for collector's coins, Swissmint taking part in the Bern Museum Night 2017 and much more.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and have fun collecting!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marius G. Haldimann'.

Marius G. Haldimann
Director

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2017 SWISS YODELLING FESTIVAL IN BRIG-GLIS

The soul-stirring sound of Switzerland

In June 2017, the 30th Swiss Yodelling Festival will take place in Brig-Glis with 15,000 performers and over 150,000 visitors expected to attend. Performers, guests, visitors and Valais residents can look forward to four activity-packed days with first-rate performances, warm camaraderie and of course the chance to see or purchase Swissmint's new "Yodelling" commemorative coin.

"Whenever I hear a yodel, it speaks directly into my heart and soul. A yodel call has no words because words simply cannot do justice to the feelings it conveys. You can put your whole being into a yodel," said author Heinrich Federer, describing the emotional pull of the yodel.

Yodelling originated as a call from mountain to mountain, a way of communicating from one alpine farmstead to another. A love for nature and for one's homeland are still central to this unique and instantly recognisable Alpine music. The original "natural" yodel was a form of communication in mountainous and inaccessible regions and was also used during cattle drives. A yodel or "jutz" is a melody sung using non-lexical vocables, i.e. sounds that are not words, with frequent repeated changes in pitch between the chest register and the head register (falsetto). Well-known natural yodels that are often improvised spontaneously include the "Muotataler Jüüzli", which is sung with two or three voices, and the polyphonic "Zäuerli" and "Ruggusserli" from Appenzell.

In Switzerland and other Alpine countries, yodelling developed into song in the 19th century, usually as the choruses of folk songs. The yodel song, now performed with two-, three- or four-part harmonies and usually accompanied by a Swiss accordion, is the genre most favoured by yodellers in the Swiss Yodelling Association. This association, the Eidgenössischer Jodlerverband (EJV), was formed in 1910. Its members take part in regional and cantonal competitions each year as well as participating in the Swiss Yodelling Festival held every three years. The Swiss Yodelling Association comprises not only yodel choirs and individual yodellers, but also alphorn blowers and flag throwers.

The festival

This year's event will be the 30th Swiss Yodelling Festival and the event is returning to Brig, thirty years after it was first hosted by the town. From 22 to 25 June 2017 the spectacular Valais scenery will provide the backdrop for this festival of age-old Swiss traditions – the perfect romance. An anticipated 150,000 visitors will be entertained by up to 15,000 yodellers, flag throwers and alphorn blowers. To ensure that the event truly captures the hearts of all those involved, the 80-strong organising committee and hundreds of volunteers are already hard at work even now, with several months still to go.

Visitors to the Swiss Yodelling Festival in Brig-Glis can look forward to a varied, action-packed and melodious programme. The festival will begin on the Thursday with an enjoyable evening in the Simplonhalle entitled "Sounds of the Alps" and showcasing various aspects of Swiss yodelling and alphorn blowing. The concert audience will enjoy traditional songs and alphorn pieces interspersed with modern elements, bringing to life for them the vibrant culture of Switzerland. The festival will begin in earnest at 1.30pm on Friday in the gardens of Stockalper Castle (Stockalpergarten), where visitors can enjoy a wide variety of different performances and presentations.





At the same time, the performances will start at the various venues around the town, plus of course all the other activities at the yodelling village – where there will be over 20 festival marquees and chalets – and along the “yodelling festival mile” between Brig and Glis.

On the Saturday, participants will primarily be involved in the many performances to be held at the different venues, and visitors will be able to enjoy the unique atmosphere there and throughout the festival site as the city plays host to the countryside.

Events on the Sunday start with the official ceremony in the Stockalpergarten and culminate with the festival procession starting at 2pm and involving more than 50 groups showcasing the wide variety of traditions.

So let us all feast our ears on pure and natural yodelling surrounded by majestic mountains and the sound of the alphorn so at home among their peaks, while our eyes feast on the elegant Alpine art of flag throwing.

Information and getting there

For up-to-date information about the Swiss Yodelling Festival at Brig-Glis, visit the homepage at

www.jodlerfest-brig.ch, where you can also book accommodation. For travel to the festival we recommend you use the public transport services which will operate almost 24/7 to take visitors to their destinations.

Sources: swissinfo.ch, Brig-Glis Swiss Yodelling Festival

Swissmint welcomes you to Brig-Glis

With its Mediterranean charm, magnificent Stockalper Castle and panoramic view of the Alps, this Upper Valais town provides a spectacular setting for the Swiss Yodelling Festival. The festival hubs are essentially the “Yodelling mile” (Gliserallee, procession) and the “Yodelling village” (with refreshment tents). Swissmint will have a sales stand on the “Yodelling mile” and will be selling the new Yodelling coin. Come along and purchase yours. On Saturday, 24 June from 2pm to 3pm coin designer Gabriel Giger will be at the stand to sign autographs. We look forward to seeing you.

Prize draw for tickets to the Swiss Yodelling Festival

We are holding a prize draw to win 2 x 2 tickets to the festival worth 40 Swiss francs apiece. They entitle the holder to attend the Swiss Yodelling Festival from Friday 23 to Sunday 25 June 2017 and include entry to all the performance venues. Ticket holders are also entitled to free travel on public transport in the region: from Brig to their overnight accommodation and back.

To take part in the prize draw, please send an e-mail marked “Jodlerfest 2017 Brig” to info@swissmint.ch by 31 May 2017. Remember to include your address, telephone number and e-mail address. Good luck!

DESIGN: GABRIEL GIGER



Gabriel Giger was born in 1981. Before starting his apprenticeship in graphic design, he attended a preparation course at the Valais cantonal school of art (ECAV) in Sierre. Having gained professional experience in Vancouver, he then worked as Junior Art Director at advertising agency GGK Zürich while at the same time attending the ADC/BSW Kreativschule (Ad School) and training as a creative concept developer. With this experience in the field of advertising, he returned to Valais in 2008 to open his own graphic design studio in Leuk-Stadt. His work includes corporate design, poster and advertising campaigns, illustrations and comics. As a well-known cartoonist for the Walliser Bote newspaper he has caricatured political events in Valais since 2009 and also draws for Nebelspalter magazine and other publications. Since 2012 he has taken part in the exhibition of the top Swiss press illustrators in Bern and has received multiple awards. His book “Nid ganz hundärt!” (Not quite a hundred) contains a selection of his cartoons. For further information visit: www.gigergraphics.ch

PRODUCT INFORMATION

COMMEMORATIVE COIN "YODELLING"



Face value: 20 Swiss francs
Alloy: silver 0.835
Weight: 20 g
Diameter: 33 mm



Uncirculated

Mintage
Uncirculated: 30,000 units, of which
– in a folder: 2,000 units
Proof: 5,000 units, of which
– signed: 200 units (certificate from the artist)

Design: Gabriel Giger, Leuk-Stadt

Issue date: 4 May 2017
Selling period: up to 3 May 2020
or while stocks last



Proof



Folder



STEAMBOAT “URI”

Switzerland’s oldest paddle steamer still in service

In 1899, Lake Lucerne steamer company DGV ordered a salon steamer from boatbuilders Sulzer in Winterthur. The ship was duly launched two years later and named “Uri”. Since then, the paddle steamer has travelled well over two million kilometres, which is no wonder given that it used to be in operation almost all year round. In honour of this floating monument, Swissmint has chosen the “Uri” to grace the first coin in its three-part “Swiss steamboats” series.

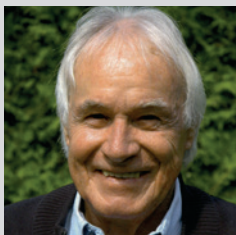
What could be more pleasant than a trip on the legendary “Uri” on a warm summer’s day. With the wind in your hair, and the constant, soothing reverberations of the engines and splashing of the paddles in your ears, you can feast your eyes on the picturesque – and in places wild and untamed – shores of Lake Lucerne.

The “Uri”, Switzerland’s oldest paddle steamer and the oldest ship in the SGV company’s fleet, embarked on its maiden voyage in 1901. The ship can take 800 passengers and offer both first- and second-class accommodation. The “Uri” is a classic example of a Sulzer paddle steamer, many of which were manufactured around the beginning of the twentieth century. They boast excellent handling in the water, stability in rough weather and fuel economy. The “Uri” is powered by an inclined 650 HP Sulzer two-cylinder condensing compound steam engine.

Over the years the “Uri” underwent various upgrades and repairs, and had its share of minor incidents. In 1949 it was converted to burn heavy oil instead of coal and then between 1960 and 1961 it had a protective roof installed as well as a retractable wheelhouse and a telescopic chimney and masts, which enabled it to pass under the Acheregg motorway bridge (Stansstad). When the ship was completely refurbished between 1991 and 1994, these alterations were reversed and the resplendent neo-Baroque first-class salon designed by Filippo Cassina (Milan) restored to its former glory. The furniture and richly decorated ceilings were completely reconstructed, while the bow decoration had already been replaced with the Uri bull emblem in 1981 after being damaged in an accident.

Sources: Dampferfreunde Vierwaldstättersee (steamer friends of Lake Lucerne), Wikipedia

DESIGN: UELI COLOMBI



Marine artist Ueli Colombi was born in Thun in 1940. Even as a schoolboy he was fascinated by ships and spent every minute of his free time on or near the water. After training to be a sailor with Schweiz. Reederei AG in Basel, the son of well-known Thun architect Livio Colombi completed an apprenticeship as a draughtsman and then took a degree course at the technical university to become an architect. In between whiles, he was constantly taking to the water. After his degree, Colombi worked in Vancouver (Canada) for several years as an architect, then returned to Switzerland to continue in the same profession. It is no surprise that his projects included the restoration of steamboats, for example the “Blümlisalp”. At some point, he began to create stone lithographs of Swiss steamboats, before moving on to acrylic paintings. His subjects are people and ships, and he has been a full-time artist since 2005.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

COMMEMORATIVE COIN "STEAMBOAT URI"



Uncirculated



Face value: 20 Swiss francs
Alloy: silver 0.835
Weight: 20 g
Diameter: 33 mm

Mintage
Uncirculated: 30,000 units, of which
– in a folder: 2,000 units
Proof: 5,000 units, of which
– signed: 200 units (certificate from
the artist)

Design: Ueli Colombi, Sigriswil

Issue date: 4 May 2017
Selling period: up to 3 May 2020
or while stocks last



Proof



Folder



PRODUCT INFORMATION

2017 CLASSIC COIN SET *Brilliant uncirculated with bimetallic coin "Gentian"*



Brilliant uncirculated

Face value: 18.85 Swiss francs
 Alloy: copper-nickel and aluminium-bronze
 Measurements: 171 mm x 106 mm x 8 mm
 Mintage: 9,000 units
 Issue date: 26 January 2017
 Selling period: up to 25 January 2020
 or while stocks last



2017 CLASSIC COIN SET *Proof with bimetallic coin "Gentian"*



Proof

Face value: 18.85 Swiss francs
 Alloy: copper-nickel and aluminium-bronze
 Measurements: 171 mm x 106 mm x 8 mm
 Mintage: 2,500 units
 Issue date: 26 January 2017
 Selling period: up to 25 January 2020
 or while stocks last



PRODUCT INFORMATION

2017 BABY COIN SET *Brilliant uncirculated with bear medal*



Face value: 8.85 Swiss francs
Alloy: copper-nickel and aluminium-bronze
Measurements: 171 mm x 106 mm x 8 mm

Mintage: 10,000 units

Issue date: 1 January 2017
Selling period: up to 31 December 2019
or while stocks last



Brilliant uncirculated



2017 BIRTHDAY COIN SET *Brilliant uncirculated with birthday medal*



Face value: 8.85 Swiss francs
Alloy: copper-nickel and aluminium-bronze
Measurements: 171 mm x 106 mm x 8 mm

Mintage: 3,000 units

Issue date: 1 January 2017
Selling period: up to 31 December 2019
or while stocks last



Brilliant uncirculated



SWISSMINT – FOCUS



Spotlight on folders

In the last issue of **Heads or Tails** we presented the new addition to our range – commemorative coins in folders. The colour-illustrated card folder contains the relevant uncirculated bimetal or silver coin and also provides additional information on the topic and the designer in four languages. It comes in a slipcase in CD format with technical data about the minting on the reverse.

The folder is convenient for storage and ideal for anyone who later just wants to find out some additional information. The folder is available on its own or via subscription and would also make the perfect gift.

Swissmint participates in Bern's 2017 Museum Night

Nowadays all self-respecting cities have a museum night or something similar. In Bern, this was held on 17 March 2017 and encompassed 37 venues. In addition to the museums themselves, the Federal Palace, the city hall, churches, libraries, archives and collections also opened their doors. Swissmint's neighbour, the Swiss Federal Archives, adopted the motto "Money rules the world" for this year's tour. Of course any exhibition focusing on state expenditure and what Swiss citizens spend their money on needs a section on the currency itself to be complete, so in collaboration with the Federal Archives Swissmint provided historical photos of the mint. It also provided a display case with illustrations and examples of the coins that Swiss citizens have used for payment since the federal currency was introduced in 1850 – as well as current collector's products of course.



Photo: Felix Wey

SWISSMINT-NEWS

Coins with a certificate from the artist

Proof coins with a certificate bearing the original signature of the artist will go on sale at 8am on the issue date 4 May 2017. No reservations are possible. Sales per household are limited to two of each coin design.

Announcement: Trial minting of the Yodelling commemorative coin

The issue date for this year's trial minting featuring the Yodelling design will be 14 September 2017. We are working to simplify the order process at the same time and will describe the trial minting itself and the ordering options in detail in **Heads or Tails 3/2017**. No reservations will be possible.

Gentian proof coins sold out

The bimetal gentian coins, the second issue in the Flora Alpina series, have proven extremely popular and all gentian proof coins have already sold out. If you have missed these coins, we recommend you get in contact with a coin dealer in your area.

Payment options for coin orders

Commemorative coins have a face value and are legal tender. For this reason, Swissmint only ships orders after payment has been received. In our Internet shop at www.swissmintshop.ch we offer two additional payment options, namely credit card (VISA or Mastercard) or PostFinance Card. For customers living outside Switzerland these options are particularly attractive as they avoid the need to incur high bank charges for transfers.

Mintage figures and sales deadlines for commemorative coins

The number of coins minted will always be the same as the published total figure. All issues are available only while stocks last, but must be sold at the latest three years from the date of issue. Restrikes are not planned. For older issues of coins we recommend you get in contact with a coin dealer in your area.

Subscription

Want to make sure you never miss an issue? With the exception of special products, you can subscribe to receive all commemorative coins. You

undertake to purchase the quantity you subscribe to, and we guarantee you will receive these, irrespective of the issue. If you would like to change or cancel your subscription – that's no problem: you can do so at any time and the change will be effective as of the next issue. Simply write to us or e-mail us. We regret that for contractual reasons subscriptions cannot be altered or cancelled over the phone. Our subscription forms are available from our Customer Services or at www.swissmint.ch.

Volume discounts

From this year you benefit from a volume discount in the case of certain products. For coin sets and coins in the "proof" quality and depending on the alloy and quantity ordered, you will receive up to CHF 30 discount per unit.

Product/quality	Volume discounts	Discount per unit
Proof bimetal*	From 10 units	CHF 5
Proof silver*	From 10 units	CHF 5
Proof gold*	From 5 units	CHF 30
Coin sets	From 10 units	CHF 10

* no volume discount on Proof with artist certificate

Counterfeit coins from China

There are few collectors who wouldn't want to have a 100 franc Vreneli coin in their collection, and perhaps even a 1928 five franc coin or one of the rare mintings from 1896. Nowadays these can be acquired easily – and for very little, as for some time now imitations of rare collector coins that are no longer legal tender have been available on sales platforms such as eBay, Ricardo and Alibaba. These generally originate from China and are usually made of a non-precious metal (nickel silver or brass). They sometimes have a thin silver or gold plating. Although in the past imitations were offered as replicas and had "Replica" or "Copy" stamped on them, today most imitations do not bear this stamp. Clearly coins stamped as replicas are difficult to sell. Authenticity information is also often hazy.

Coin imitations that are not marked as such are classed as counterfeit goods. Thus anyone who produces, imports or sells such coins is liable to



prosecution. It is not the Federal Police or Swissmint who are responsible for prosecuting such offences but the cantonal police authorities. Serious collectors should steer clear of unstamped replicas. This will ensure that should their collections be dissolved (e.g. by heirs) no imitations are traded as originals, thus possibly deceiving other collectors or causing problems with the police. Our advice: Only buy your collector's coins, especially expensive rarities, from trustworthy coin dealers. This will spare you expense and disappointment.

Agenda

This year, Swissmint will once again have a stand at the following coin fairs:

6 May 2017	Berna coin fair Kulturcasino, Bern
16 and 17 September 2017	The Stuttgart coin fair, Hanns-Martin-Schleyer- Halle, Stuttgart
28 and 29 October 2017	Zurich international coin fair Swissôtel, Zurich-Oerlikon

Issues planned for 14 September 2017

"Saint Bernard Barry" 50-franc gold coin

2017 Christmas coin set

Trial minting of the 20-franc "Yodelling" commemorative coin

Facebook

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CH-3003 Bern
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