



The coin

The centre of the obverse shows a stylised representation of the Matterhorn. Here the extensive snow fields are broken up by delicately structured areas of rock. At the top as circumscription the name «MATTERHORN • CERVIN» is to be seen.

The reverse, a typographical design, shows in the lower half a large figure «50» for the value, and beneath it in smaller writing the letters «FR» for francs. The designation of the country and the year of issue «CONFOEDERATIO HELVETICA 2004» are shown parallel to the edge, in two staggered lines. Above the centre there is a small Swiss cross.



Characteristics

Effigy

«Matterhorn • Cervin»

Artist

Stephan Bundi, Boll

Technical data

Alloy: Gold 0.900

Weight: 11.29 g

Diameter: 25 mm

Legal face value

50 Swiss francs

Date of issue

May 2004

Mintage

Proof coin in presentation case only:
max. 7 000 coins

Coined and issued by *swissmint*

Official Mint of the

Swiss Confederation

CH-3003 Bern

Tel. +41 (0)31 322 60 68 (Marketing)

Fax +41 (0)31 322 60 07

www.swissmint.ch

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Matterhorn

A splendid piece of Switzerland

The commemorative coins of Switzerland are designed by important native artists. Elegant, valuable and timeless, they epitomise the country's solid cultural heritage. As tasteful collectors' pieces available at attractive prices, they are also extremely popular. The commemorative coins have a legal face value and are minted in limited series. The net profit from their sales is used by the Confederation to promote cultural projects in Switzerland.

The Matterhorn

It would be a hard task to track down a mountain more famous than the Matterhorn anywhere in the world, for in it the concept of «mountain» strives to take on concrete form and presses this to perfection. All its features underline and celebrate this: its glorious appearance, its unique shape reflecting the ancient laws of harmony, and its awe-inspiringly solitary position. From Zermatt, the view of the Matterhorn somehow evokes the

alchemistic fable of the unicorn, slumbering in the depths of the soul, which – quite unlike our world wrapped up in the polar opposites of light and darkness – promises eternally glorious, three-dimensional unity. The single horn with the three visible ridge-lines as mystical allegory of the eternal and as symbol of the divine. That is why it exerts an irresistible attraction on people, beyond all rational judgement, and that is why it is naturally regarded far and wide as the most difficult and most rewarding goal for the mountaineer. © Ernesto Perren

The artist

Stephan Bundi was born in Trun (Grisons) in 1950. Today he lives and works in Boll near Bern. After leaving school, he successfully completed the preliminary course in 1966, and in 1971 obtained the Diploma in Graphic Design at the Bern School of Design. From 1973 to 75 he attended a course at the State Academy of Visual Arts in Stuttgart (book design and illustration). Since 1975 Stephan Bundi has had his own studio, and since 1980 he has

been lecturer and adviser at various design schools. His area of work embraces communications design for publishing houses, theatres, concerts, film producers, museums, consumer and capital goods, as well as advertising in the PR area. He has received numerous awards for his posters, CD programmes and books. Stephan Bundi's works are to be found in many exhibitions and collections in Switzerland and abroad.

