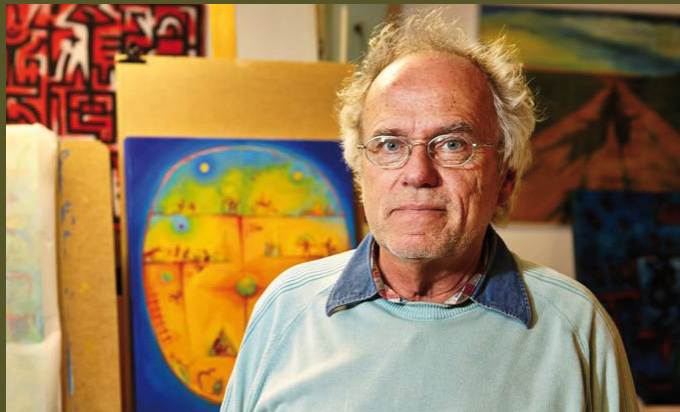


Design: Thyl Manuel Eisenmann

Thyl Eisenmann was born in Faido in 1948 and grew up in Kriens in the Canton of Lucerne. After his school leaving examination and a year of art history at the University of Zurich, he studied at the Lucerne School of Design (SfG). Having graduated as an art teacher and spending an additional year in the sculpture department of the same school, followed by taking up a part-time teaching post, he studied printing techniques at various institutions, including the Academy for Applied Art in Vienna. He is especially fond of polychrome copperplate printing. For the majority of the popular, Fasnacht-inspired «Lucerne art prints» he used the etching technique, more precisely aquatint. As well as holding numerous exhibitions in Switzerland and abroad, Thyl Eisenmann expanded his repertoire with book illustrations, stage design, wall design (Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research, Birmensdorf) and heading further education forums and painting holidays. He is a member of Visarte, and lives and works in Lucerne. You can gain an insight into his wide-ranging work on his website at www.thyleisenmann.ch.



Characteristics

Effigy

«Gansabhauet Sursee»

Artist

Thyl Manuel Eisenmann, Lucerne

Technical data

Alloy: outer ring in aluminium-bronze,
core made of copper-nickel

Weight: 15 g

Diameter: 33 mm

Legal face value

10 Swiss francs

Date of issue

30 January 2014

Mintage

Standard coinage, uncirculated:

max. 90 000 coins

Proof coin in presentation case:

max. 11 000 coins



Coined and issued by

Federal Mint Swissmint

CH-3003 Bern

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

Fax +41 (0)31 322 60 07

www.swissmint.ch

Official commemorative coin 2014

«Gansabhauet Sursee»

Swiss customs



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Swissmint

Commemorative coin series: Swiss customs

With the «Gansabhauet Sursee» commemorative coin, the Federal Mint Swissmint is continuing the «Swiss customs» series. The previous issues were dedicated to the following customs: 10-franc bimetal coins: 2011 «Bern Onion Market», 2012 «Cow fighting», 2013 «Silvesterchlausen»; 5-franc bimetal coins: 1999 «Fête des Vignerons, Vevey», 2000 «Basler Fasnacht», 2001 «Zürcher Sechseläuten», 2002 «Escalade, Geneva» and 2003 «Chalandamarz».

Gansabhauet Sursee

On St. Martin's Day, 11 November, a large number of customs and traditions are celebrated all over Switzerland. This has not come about by chance but reflects the fact that this date once marked the beginning of the forty-day fasting period before Christmas. The harvest had been gathered in, farmhands and maidservants received their wages and the authorities claimed their tithes. Among the taxes were geese, and farmers were able to curry favour with the lords of the manor by serving a fattened St. Martin's Day goose. In Sursee, however, the goose plays a very different role, one in which it literally loses its head.

At the «Gansabhauet», two dead geese are suspended by the neck, one after the other, from a wire rope on a stage erected in front of the Town Hall. Young men and occasionally also women, dressed in red cloaks, a sun mask placed over their heads, try to sever the goose's neck with a single sabre blow. To ensure that this is not too easy, a pointed cap is pulled down over the participants' faces, preventing them from seeing, the dragoon sabre is blunt and a glass of red wine together with a number of 360° turns are sufficient to cause confusion. It generally takes from five to twenty strokes to behead both geese. Successful participants are rewarded with the goose. The event is accompanied by children's attractions such as pole climbing, sack racing and «Chäsزänne», in which the aim is to win a piece of cheese by making the craziest possible grimace.

Official commemorative coins

Each year, the Federal Mint Swissmint issues a small number of commemorative coins featuring carefully selected subjects. The coins in bimetal, silver and gold bear an official nominal value and are available in various minting qualities – as collectors' pieces in their own right or as an exquisite gift.

