

## Design Benno K. Zehnder, Gelfingen

The painter Benno K. Zehnder was born in Wettingen AG in 1941 where he also grew up. After finishing grammar school in Immensee SZ, he attended Lucerne School of Art. He spent the years between 1964 and 1970 in London, initially attending courses on painting and art history at Goldsmiths College, after which he created exhibitions for the Swiss Centre, the Design Centre, the Royal Academy and the City of Worcester among others. From 1970 to 1973, he was a lecturer and head of the Master of Arts course in Film Animation at the City of Birmingham Polytechnic. After this time, he headed the Department for Visual Communication at the former Bath Academy of Art in Corsham/Wiltshire up to 1982. From 1982 to 1997, he was Director of Lucerne College of Design after which he became a Professor at Lucerne University of Art and Design. In addition to his painting and drawing work, Benno K. Zehnder is heavily involved with colour concepts and mural painting for schools, hospitals and churches among others.



## Characteristics

### Effigy

«100 years of Bernina Railway»

### Artist

Benno K. Zehnder, Gelfingen

### Technical data

Alloy: Silver 0.835

Weight 20 g

Diameter 33 mm

### Legal face value

20 Swiss francs

### Date of issue

21<sup>st</sup> January 2010

### Mintage

Standard coinage, uncirculated:

max. 50 000 coins

Proof coin in presentation case:

max. 7 000 coins



### Coined and issued by

Federal Mint Swissmint

CH-3003 Bern

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[www.swissmint.ch](http://www.swissmint.ch)

## Official commemorative coin 2010

## 100 years of Bernina Railway Mountain Railway series



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

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## Commemorative coin series: Mountain Railways

This year sees the issue of the third coin in the mountain railway series in the form of the «Bernina Railway» which is celebrating its centenary. The series focuses on railway lines whose importance is attributable both to the pioneering spirit of their builders and to their tourist interest. Previous issues in this series include the Vitznau-Rigi Railway (2008) and the Brienz-Rothorn Railway (2009).

### 100 years of Bernina Railway

In 2010, the Rhaetian Railway (RhB), together with the entire Val Poschiavo, Valtellina and Upper Engadine region is celebrating the centenary of the Bernina line. With good reason: the Bernina line has lost nothing of its fascination since its completion in 1910. On the contrary: thanks to the world-renowned Bernina Express and the UNESCO World Heritage status conferred on it in 2008, it now ranks among the best-known railway lines in the world.

Initial endeavours to construct a rail link between the Val Poschiavo and the Engadine go back to the latter years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. «Lively, friendly and businesslike relations between Grisons and the Valtellina

called for a fast and modern means of transport over the Bernina Pass...» reported the «Schweizerische Bauzeitung» in its 1912 edition. Indeed: the journey time for horse-drawn post between Samedan and Tirano was a good nine hours. This fact, together with the advance of technology, that is to say the use of electric traction energy, soon led to the realisation of the Bernina line. Today the panoramic coaches of the Bernina Express carry spellbound passengers through three linguistic regions, over 196 bridges and viaducts and through 55 tunnels and galleries from Chur to Tirano – from the glaciers to the palms – in around four hours.

### Official commemorative coins

Each year, the Federal Mint Swissmint issues a small number of commemorative coins featuring carefully selected subjects. The coins in bi-metal, silver and gold bear an official nominal value and are available in various minting qualities. The net proceeds from the sale of the coins are used to promote cultural projects throughout Switzerland.

