

HELVETICA 2002

The coin

The obverse is dominated by the mighty St. Gallen Abbey Church. Above, in circumscription, are the words «KLOSTER ST. GALLEN».

The centre of the reverse shows the seal of the St. Gallen Monastery. This seal features the legend of the town foundation, and shows Saint Gallus encountering a bear, plus the inscription «S'GALLVS». Above, parallel to the edge, is the country designation «HELVETIA» and the year «2002». The face value «20 FR» is shown below.



Characteristics

Subject of the coin

«St. Gallen Monastery»

Artist

Hans-Peter von Ah, Ebikon

Technical data

Alloy: Silver 0.835

Weight: 20 g

Diameter: 33 mm

Legal face value

20 Swiss francs

Date of issue

8th June 2002

Mintage

Standard coinage, uncirculated:

max. 75 000 coins

Proof coin in presentation case:

max. 12 000 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

2002



St. Gallen Monastery

SERIES
WORLD HERITAGE



Official Swiss
commemorative
coins

HELVETICA commemorative coins A special side of Switzerland

Switzerland's commemorative coins are designed by leading native artists. Elegant, valuable, and timeless, they epitomise solid Swiss cultural heritage. As tasteful collectors' pieces at attractive prices, they are highly popular. The commemorative coins have a legal face value and are minted in limited series. The net profits from sales are used by the Confederation to promote cultural projects in Switzerland.

St. Gallen Monastery

At first glance, it is hardly evident that the St. Gallen Abbey was a leading monastery and cultural centre already in the early Middle Ages. Instead the Abbey district leaves a thoroughly Baroque impression. Around the huge, late Baroque cathedral, modern buildings are grouped in an austere arrangement which is continued in the sparse planting of the large Monastery Square. Indeed, besides the imposing Baroque buildings and the closed-in character of the entire complex, the significance of the Abbey district lies above all in the remains of mediaeval walls and various old texts and records that to this day bear witness to the European Christian Middle Ages. The Abbey library, archives and lapidarium are particularly worthy of note. In 1983, UNESCO added the Abbey district of St. Gallen to its list of World Cultural Heritage Sites. The entire complex is acknowledged as a perfect example of a large Carolingian

monastery. In its Baroque library the Abbey, which reached its full religious, economic and cultural flowering under Abbot Gozbert (816 – 837), contains extremely rare manuscripts, particularly the oldest known architectural plans.

The artist

Hans-Peter von Ah was born in Sachseln (Canton of Obwalden) on 24th June 1941. Between 1956 and 1959 he completed an apprenticeship in woodcarving and, at the same time, attended the School of Applied Arts in Lucerne as an auditor. Between 1960 and 1965, he studied at the Vienna Academy of Visual Arts under Prof. Fritz Wotruba and was awarded a diploma as an academic sculptor. Since 1966, he has lectured on three-dimensional design at the Design Faculty of the School of Applied Arts in Lucerne - now the Higher School of Art and Design. He received a recognition award by the Vienna Academy of Visual Arts in 1963 and from the Pro Arte Bern Foundation in 1974. In addition to sculpture, sketches and watercolours, his artistic spectrum also includes creations in the field of plastic arts for public spaces and choir stall design for old and new churches. He has taken part in numerous exhibitions in Switzerland and abroad, and collaborates on various commissions and committees, including the Federal Art Commission from 1985 to 1996, and has held office as Vice-President of the Lucerne Art Association since 1991.

St. Gallen Monastery

