

Design: Niklaus Heeb

Niklaus Heeb was born in Basel in 1965. After finishing school in 1984, he attended the introductory semester in biochemistry at the University of Basel. Thereafter he passed the preparatory course at the School of Design in Basel and studied to become a scientific illustrator at the Zurich University of Design and the Arts (HGKZ) from 1986 – 1991. Since that time he has worked as a freelance artist and illustrator for clients that include zoos, museums, universities and print media. From 1996 – 2000 he studied integrative biology at the University of Basel, graduating in 2002. In 2000, he received the HGKZ sponsorship award and has been lecturing at this institution from 2002 onwards. He has also been heading the Scientific Visualization field of studies since 2006. Various publications and exhibitions at home and abroad. Involvement in various research projects.



Characteristics

Effigy

«Golden eagle»

Artist

Niklaus Heeb, Rodersdorf

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

18th January 2008

Mintage

Standard coinage, uncirculated:

max. 95 000 coins

Proof coin in presentation case:

max. 12 000 coins



Coined and issued by

Federal Mint Swissmint

CH-3003 Bern

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www.swissmint.ch

Official commemorative coin 2008

Golden eagle Swiss National Park



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Swissmint

Special coin series: National Park

With the «King of the Skies», the golden eagle, in 2008 the Federal Mint Swissmint is continuing the four-part series «Swiss National Park», dedicated to the most important animals in the park. The subject of the 2007 coin was the ibex, with the red deer and marmot to follow in 2009 and 2010. Since its foundation in 1914, animals have enjoyed a protected environment in the National Park.

It is the oldest nature reserve in the Alps, enjoying an excellent international reputation thanks to its strict protection provisions.

www.nationalpark.ch



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. The net proceeds from the sale of the coins are used to promote cultural projects throughout Switzerland.

The golden eagle

After the bearded vulture, the golden eagle is the largest domestic bird of prey and one of the most powerful predatory birds in the world. Females are always larger than males:

the wingspan of the female is around 220 cm, that of the male around 200 cm. Its talons, the size of a man's hand with rear claws often exceeding 5 cm in length, are an especially impressive feature. The golden eagle's majestic shape and its proud and determined look have led to it being adopted as a heraldic animal in many places. With their wide expanses of land in elevated mountain regions, good availability of food and many nesting opportunities, the Alps offer an ideal habitat for the golden eagle. Thanks to these conditions, the king of the skies has succeeded

in surviving the former habitat destruction by mankind. The most important prey of the golden eagle in summer is the marmot. In winter, it also hunts young hoofed animals such as chamois, roe deer, ibex and red deer or feeds on carrion. Today, golden eagles are once again increasingly to be seen in the Alps. The Swiss National Park in the Engadine and in the Münstertal valley is, for example, currently home to six pairs.