HELVETICA 2000

The coin

The main motif on the face is an angel, offering the message of peace to the group of persons facing her. To the right is the Latin inscription «PAX IN TERRA», meaning «peace on earth».

The reverse continues the theme on the face via an olive branch - the sign of peace. The flowing diagonal of the branch separates the circular surface area into two zones. To the upper right there is the year «ANNO DOMINI 2000», and below, the designation «HELVETIA» and the nominal value, «FR 20».

Characteristics

Effigy
«2000 years of Christianity - PAX IN TERRA»

Artist
Roman Candio, Solothurn

Technical data
Alloy: Silver 0.835
Weight: 20 g
Diameter: 33 mm

Legal tender value
20 Swiss francs

Date of issue
21st January 2000

Mintage
Standard coinage, uncirculated:
100 000 pieces
Proof coin in presentation case:
15 000 pieces

Coinage
'swissmint'
Official Mint of the
Swiss Confederation
CH-3003 Berne

Issued by:
'swissmint'
Tel. +41(0)31 - 322 60 68 (Marketing)
Fax +41(0)31 - 322 60 07

2000

**2000 years
of Christianity**
PAX IN TERRA

HELVETICA
commemorative coins
A special side of Switzerland

Since 1936, the Swiss Confederation has been issuing commemorative coins to mark significant historical and cultural events, or to honour outstanding personalities. Tribute is also paid to typical aspects of Swiss culture.

True to tradition, the commemorative coins are the work of Swiss artists. In collaboration with the Federal Department for Culture, 'swissmint' allocates the commissions and holds design competitions.

These special coins will bear a legal tender value and will be minted in a limited run. The Confederation will use the net profit from the sale of these commemorative coins to promote cultural projects in Switzerland.

2000 years of Christianity - PAX IN TERRA

Over the last 2000 years, peace has been lacking in our world on countless occasions. The profound longing for peace on earth cannot be fulfilled while mankind confuses peace with domination, with superiority, with self-interest, with wealth or with economic growth. Peace cannot be prescribed from a position of superiority, it cannot be forced upon others. The peace of which the angel speaks is an invitation to all men to share in prosperity, to distribute the riches of this earth in an equitable way, to greet strangers with an open mind, to assist the weak, to help the less privileged to be recognised, to acknowledge the dignity of each individual, to return the exile to the fold, to free the peoples in debt of their financial burden, to treat creation with respect...

If one of God's angels appears to foretell peace, it is to signify a peace that is not only feasible for mankind but that first and foremost calls for acceptance as a gift from God.

Professor Hermann-Josef Venetz, Biblical Institute of Fribourg University, Switzerland

The artist

Roman Candio was born in Murgenthal, Canton of Aargau, in 1935 and grew up in Fulenbach, Canton of Solothurn. After completing teacher training in Solothurn, he taught as a primary school teacher from 1955 until 1958 before turning to a career in art. He attended the Lucerne School of Art from 1958 until 1959 and then from 1959 until 1960 the State Academy of Art in Düsseldorf. Subsequently, he assisted the church painter Ferdinand Gehr to create major wall and ceiling paintings. After study periods in Italy, he has lived in Solothurn since 1961, where he works in the fields of painting, drawing and sculpture. Among others, he has created works for public buildings (window, wall and ceiling paintings, tapestries and reliefs for churches, hospitals, administrative buildings and schools). In 1968, Roman Candio received the Canton of Solothurn Promotional Award. In 1991, he was awarded the Canton of Solothurn Arts Prize for his creative painting and his work in the field of «art and buildings». He has held various individual and collective exhibitions in Switzerland and abroad.