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HEADS OR TAILS

Swissmint's coin magazine

Photo: Andrea Campiche



Dürrenmatt

EDITORIAL



Dear reader,

With his novels, stories, comedies and dramas, Friedrich Dürrenmatt was one of the most successful German-speaking writers of international renown. The outstanding dramatist, storyteller, essayist, illustrator and painter would have celebrated his 100th birthday on 5 January 2021. Now is therefore the ideal time to honour the Swiss writer for both his literary work, which has been translated into more than 40 languages, and his artwork with a 20-franc silver coin.

The expression "sly as a fox" is deeply rooted and the pointy-faced predators appear in many fables and fairy tales in the role of the clever and cunning animal. This saying originates from foxes hunting hedgehogs. These spiny curled up animals unroll themselves for swimming, which is why their furry opponents push them into the water so that they can then snatch them without getting pricked. The bimetallic fox coin completes the three-part "Swiss forest animals" series, making the fox the last motif after the roe deer and the hare.

In January 2021, Swissmint completes its first issue with the new Swiss coin sets. These are in the usual brilliant uncirculated and proof qualities. In addition, the new versions of the birthday and baby coin sets are also available.

In this magazine you will find information about Swissmint's other activities and how we allocate our products. We hope you enjoy reading this issue and have fun collecting. Stay safe!

Marius G. Haldimann
Director

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FRIEDRICH DÜRRENMATT

Dramatist, storyteller, essayist, illustrator and painter

This year, Friedrich Dürrenmatt, one of the most successful German-speaking writers of international renown, would have been 100 years old. It is therefore the ideal time to honour this outstanding Swiss writer and artist for his literary work, which has been translated into more than 40 languages, and his artwork with a commemorative silver coin.

Biography

Friedrich Reinhold Dürrenmatt was born on 5 January 1921 in Konolfingen near Bern, as the son of a Protestant pastor. In his autobiographical writings, he recalls how his sheltered childhood was rich both in sensory impressions from the rural surroundings and in stories, especially through his parents' tales from Greek mythology and the Bible. He began to paint and draw early while in Konolfingen, a passion which he was to pursue throughout his life. In 1935, his family moved to the city of Bern, where Dürrenmatt attended the baccalaureate school and passed his final examinations in 1941. He was not a very good pupil and himself described his school days as the worst time of his life. As a young man, he felt trapped in a false idyll during the war years in Switzerland. In 1941, Dürrenmatt began studying literature, philosophy and natural sciences in Bern, spending two semesters in Zurich. During his studies, he produced his first literary texts as well as ink drawings and paintings. In 1946, he decided to give up his studies to pursue writing as a profession and in the same year Dürrenmatt married the actress Lotti Geissler. Three children were born from this marriage. The family lived first in Basel, then in Ligerz on Lake Biel and finally, from 1952, in their own house in the chemin du Pertuis-du-Sault in Neuchâtel. The premiere of his play *It is Written* (in the Schauspielhaus Zurich in 1947) ended in a theatre scandal and earned him the recognition and friendship of Max Frisch. However, the first years as a freelance author were financially difficult for Dürrenmatt. For this reason, he earned his living mainly with theatre reviews, crime novels and radio plays. In 1950, he was commissioned by the magazine *Der Schweizer Beobachter* to write the crime novel *The Judge and his Hangman* and its sequel *Suspicion*. These were later published in book form. His final breakthrough came with the tragicomedy play *The Visit*, which quickly became a worldwide success and helped Dürrenmatt to prosperity. His rise was also reflected in his cars. At first he drove a modest Opel Rekord, but later

acquired a preference for Jaguar. Between 1957 and 1958, Dürrenmatt wrote the script for the film *Es geschah am hellichten Tag* (It Happened in Broad Daylight), which starred Heinz Rühmann. This then served him as a basis for his crime novel *The Pledge*. The following years were marked by his work as a dramatist. Dürrenmatt landed a second worldwide success with the comedy *The Physicists* (which premiered in Zurich in 1962). Although until this time he was mainly associated with the Schauspielhaus Zurich, he became involved in Werner Düggelin's management of the Basel theatres between 1968 and 1969. This brief, intensive collaboration, which he later described as his happiest time in theatre, ended in an argument, some of which became public. After having suffered heart attacks in 1969 and 1975 and increasing disappointments with new plays, he withdrew more and more from theatre from the mid-1970s onwards and instead concentrated on narrative and essayistic prose. After the death of his first wife in January 1983, Dürrenmatt suffered a deep crisis from which he was only able to escape when he met the actress and filmmaker



Charlotte Kerr; they married in 1984. He died of a heart attack in Neuchâtel on 14 December 1990, shortly before his 70th birthday. Dürrenmatt was known for his sociability and love of life (good and sumptuous food, great connoisseur and lover of Bordeaux wines) and did not let his diabetes put him off. His works have been translated into over 40 languages.

Dürrenmatt attic

As a student, Dürrenmatt lived in an attic at his parents' house at 49 Laubeggstrasse in Bern. During his time there, he decorated all of the walls and the ceiling with his own paintings. After his parents moved away, the works were painted over. Information from the owners of the house and Dürrenmatt's sister led the office for monument preservation of the city of Bern and the Swiss Literary Archives to discover the lost wall paintings. They were uncovered, restored and made accessible to the public.

Paintings and literary works

Dürrenmatt drew what he needed for his literary work. Often the drawings were based on biblical and mythological themes (the labyrinth, the Minotaur or the Tower of Babel) – in addition to many humorous and quickly thrown together caricatures. Today, his paintings and drawings are curated by the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel, which opened in 2000. The literary estate he bequeathed to the Swiss Confederation led to the creation of the Swiss Literary Archives in 1991.

Dürrenmatt and Frisch

After the premiere of the play *It is Written*, Frisch contacted Dürrenmatt and a friendship developed which ultimately collapsed under the pressure of the increasing fame of Switzerland's two most famous writers. While Dürrenmatt was known as the cheerful comedian, Frisch represented the serious moralist.

Awards and recognition

In addition to seven honorary doctorates, Dürrenmatt was awarded numerous important literary prizes, including the Swiss Schiller Foundation Grand Prix (1960), the Austrian State Prize for European Literature (1983) and the Georg Büchner Prize (1986). An asteroid has also carried his name since 2000.

By issuing the 20-franc silver coin on the occasion of Friedrich Dürrenmatt's 100th birthday, Swissmint is honouring this successful German-language writer of international renown.

Sources Dürrenmatt biographer Ulrich Weber: from the Killy Literaturlexikon, texts from the Swiss Literary Archives and Blick newspaper

**FRIEDRICH
DÜRRENMATT**
100 JAHRE ANS
ANNI ONNS 2021

A summary of the exhibitions and events surrounding the anniversary can be found at www.duerrenmatt21.ch

DESIGN: REMO MASCHERINI



Remo Mascherini was born in Florence, Italy, in 1958 and grew up in Kehrsatz in the canton of Bern after his parents moved to Switzerland. After he finished school, he completed four years of vocational training in engraving under the renowned Bernese relief engraver Klaus Graber. He also attended the Bern School of Arts and Crafts (now called the School of Design), where he completed courses in the subjects of engraving, drawing and three-dimensional design. Having spent many years working for companies in the packaging and graphic arts industry, he has a wealth of professional experience, particularly in his specialisation of relief and steel-plate engraving. Since 2009, he has been designing his engraving templates and reliefs on screen using a CAD/CAM system. In 2013, Remo Mascherini took up the post of engraver at Swissmint.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

COMMEMORATIVE COIN "FRIEDRICH DÜRRENMATT"



Face value: 20 Swiss francs
Alloy: silver 0.835
Weight: 20g
Diameter: 33mm



Uncirculated

Mintage
Uncirculated: 15,000 units, of which
- in a folder: 1,000 units
Proof: 5,000 units, of which
- signed: 250 units* (certificate from the artist)

Design: Remo Mascherini, Flamatt

Issue date: 21 January 2021
Sales period: until 20 January 2024 or while stocks last



Folder

* Sales per household are limited to one piece.



Proof with certificate of authenticity



Variation "signed" with additional a certificate from the artist

photo: Andrea Campiche

FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF FRIEDRICH DÜRRENMATT TOGETHER WITH SWISSMINT AND DISCOVER HIS WORKS OF ART AT THE CENTRE DÜRRENMATT.

Swissmint is giving away 15 x 2 admission tickets, including a guided tour of the Dürrenmatt Centre, to mark the launch of the "Friedrich Dürrenmatt" commemorative coin

Most German-speaking people are accompanied by this brilliant writer like a shadow and everyone encounters Dürrenmatt's literary work at some stage in their lives. Less well known, however, is his artistic work. For this reason, Swissmint is giving away 15 x 2 admission tickets including a guided tour of the Dürrenmatt Centre. After your eyes have feasted on the visual delights, your palate can experience some culinary treats at an apéritif.

Date: Saturday, 5 June 2021
(subject to COVID-19 restrictions)
Location: Neuchâtel
Start: approximately 2pm
End of the Event: approximately 4.30pm

Conditions of participation

The closing date is 28 February 2021 (postmark). The winners will be notified in person. Prizes will not be paid out in cash. No legal recourse is possible. No correspondence will be entered into. The competition is not open to Swissmint employees. Each person is allowed to submit only one entry form.

Send the entry form (or a copy) to:

The Federal Mint Swissmint
Bernastrasse 28
3003 Bern



Simply answer the following questions correctly and send in the completed entry form.

Which birthday would Friedrich Dürrenmatt have celebrated on 5 January 2021?

☐ 80 years old ☐ 90 years old ☐ 100 years old

With which book did Friedrich Dürrenmatt make his final breakthrough as a writer?

☐ A Dangerous Game ☐ The Visit ☐ An Angel Comes to Babylon

In which Swiss city did Friedrich Dürrenmatt live until the end of his life?

☐ Basel ☐ Neuchâtel ☐ Zurich

Customer number (if known)

Surname

First name

Address

Postcode/city/town

Telephone no.

Email address

FOX

Shrewd master of survival

The expression "sly as a fox" is deeply rooted and the pointy-faced predators appear in many fables and fairy tales in the role of the clever and cunning animal. Foxes live almost everywhere, whether in warm North Africa or in cold Siberia, and they know exactly how best to find food even under difficult conditions. After the deer and the hare, the fox is the third and last motif in the three-part "Swiss forest animals" series.

The red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) belongs to the family of dog-like predators and is unmistakably similar to both dogs and wolves. Foxes can be found on almost all continents, and the forest has long since ceased to be their only habitat. The red fox is known for its twilight and nocturnal forays through the front gardens of big cities, behaviour which can be attributed to its sensory organs. Its eyes can clearly see its surroundings in the dark, by rotating its ears it can locate a squeaking mouse from a distance of more than 100m and its unique sense of smell is 400 times stronger than ours. These attributes make it an adaptable survivor who likes to rummage around our bins for food. An adult fox's body is just under 1m long and can reach a height of up to 50cm due to its relatively short legs. Its modest body weight of 6kg to 7kg is camouflaged by its thick fur. Until the mating season in spring, foxes do not travel in skulks but rather as solitary animals. In January, however, a dog fox looks for a suitable vixen. Female foxes give birth to 3 to 5 pups after a gestation period

of 50 days. During rearing, the male foxes act as providers by bringing food to the den. In addition to mice, insects and berries, a hare or a young deer are also on the menu.

The saying "sly as a fox" comes from the hunting of hedgehogs. These spiny curled up animals unroll themselves for swimming, which is why their furry opponents animals push them into the water so that they can then snatch them without getting pricked.

The fox completes the "Swiss forest animals" series. The bimetallic coins together form an ensemble of illustrative art.

Sources: www.wikipedia.org and www.geo.de

DESIGN: NAOMI GIEWALD



Naomi Andrea Giewald was born in 1966 in Thal. After prematurely ending her kindergarten teacher studies, she took the preliminary course at the School of Design in St. Gallen, followed by a three-year apprenticeship as a textile printing designer at Alfatrend AG in Horn, obtaining a Federal VET Diploma and distinction. She then worked for many years at the textile design company Ultramarin AG, with industrial photographers and at an advertising agency. She has been running her own graphic art and design studio since 2004. Her repertoire includes corporate design, textile printing, signage and illustrations. In 2013, she created illustrations for four Swiss Post AG stamps on the theme of Swiss wildlife. The emotional messages in her images and artwork play an important role in bringing significance to the products. Further information can be found at grafik-atelier.ch

PRODUCT INFORMATION

COMMEMORATIVE COIN "FOX"



Uncirculated

Face value: 10 Swiss francs
Alloy: bimetallic (copper-nickel and aluminium-bronze)
Weight: 15g
Diameter: 33mm

Mintage
Uncirculated: 28,000 units, of which
- in a folder: 1,000 units
- in coin set: 8,000 units
Proof: 5,500 units, of which
- signed: 250 units* (certificate from the artist)
- in coin set: 2,500 units

Design: Naomi Giewald, St. Gallen

Issue date: 21 January 2021
Sales period: until 20 January 2024 or while stocks last



Folder

* Sales per household are limited to one piece.



Proof with certificate of authenticity



Variation "signed" with additional a certificate from the artist

Photo: Andrea Campiche



2021 COIN SETS

PRODUCT INFORMATION



Brilliant uncirculated

2021 CLASSIC COIN SET
Brilliant uncirculated
with "Fox" bimetallic coin

Face value: 18.85 Swiss francs
Alloy: copper-nickel and aluminium-bronze
Measurements: 171mm x 106mm x 8mm

Mintage: 8,000 units
Issue date: 21 January 2021
Sales period: until 20 January 2024
or while stocks last



Proof

2021 CLASSIC COIN SET
Proof
with "Fox" bimetallic coin

Face value: 18.85 Swiss francs
Alloy: copper-nickel and aluminium-bronze
Measurements: 171mm x 106mm x 8mm

Mintage: 2,500 units
Issue date: 21 January 2021
Sales period: until 20 January 2024
or while stocks last



PRODUCT INFORMATION

2021 BABY COIN SET

*Brilliant uncirculated
with bear medal*



Face value: 8.85 Swiss francs
Alloy: copper-nickel and
aluminium-bronze
Measurements: 171mm x 106mm x 8mm



Brilliant uncirculated

Mintage: 7,000 units

Issue date: 1 January 2021

Sales period: until 31 December 2023
or while stocks last



2021 BIRTHDAY COIN SET

*Brilliant uncirculated
with birthday medal*



Face value: 8.85 Swiss francs
Alloy: copper-nickel and
aluminium-bronze
Measurements: 171mm x 106mm x 8mm



Brilliant uncirculated

Mintage: 2,000 units

Issue date: 1 January 2021

Sales period: until 31 December 2023
or while stocks last



SWISSMINT-NEWS

Sales start

Sales will start on the day of issue, 21 January 2021, at 8am. The new products will be available at www.swissmintshop.ch from this time. Alternatively, we can of course accept orders made using the enclosed order form. Please note that we **CANNOT** accept any orders by email or telephone.

How are very limited edition products allocated?

The following products are very limited editions and the following quantity restrictions apply per name and address:

- Friedrich Dürrenmatt, proof with certificate from the artist 1 unit
- Fox, proof with certificate from the artist 1 unit

Swissmint does not accept reservations for very limited products. Small quantities of these special products are destined for sale online via www.swissmintshop.ch. Remaining stock (**for orders placed using the order form**) is distributed by drawing lots. Please note that we **CANNOT** accept any orders by email, telephone or other means. Thank you for your understanding.

Shipping after receipt of payment

Your products will be sent as an insured consignment immediately after your payment reaches our account. Special dispatch requests cannot be accommodated. The delivery time for shipments within Switzerland is approximately 5 to 10 working days after payment is received, international shipments will take longer.

When can I receive a discount on my order?

You can receive a volume discount when you order certain products. For all coin sets and coins in proof quality, you will receive a discount of up to CHF 30 per unit depending on the alloy and amount ordered.

Product/ quality	Minimum purchase	Discount per unit
Proof bimetallic*	From 10 units	CHF 5
Proof silver*	From 10 units	CHF 5
Proof gold*	From 5 units	CHF 30
Coin sets	From 10 units	CHF 10

* no volume discount on proof coins with certificate from the artist



Renewing your webshop password

Your password for access to your user account in the Swissmint webshop is valid for 12 months. If you do not change your password by the time it expires, access to your personal account will be blocked for security reasons. You can request a new password by clicking on "Password forgotten". Within a few minutes you will receive new login details by email, which will allow you to reset your password. If you have any problems changing your password, please contact Swissmint by email info@swissmint.ch. You will receive a provisional password from our customer services, which you must change immediately upon receipt. The new password you choose will be valid again for one year.

It is also the user's responsibility to change his or her password if there is any suspicion of account misuse or if the password is used in locations that cannot be considered trustworthy, such as internet cafés.

Visit us on Social Media

We regularly provide news from Swissmint and announce upcoming events on our Facebook page. Follow us on <https://www.facebook.com/swissmint/>.

From this year you can also find us on Instagram. We are happy to welcome numerous new followers and subscribers. Take a look <https://www.instagram.com/swissmint/>

Diary – We look forward to meeting you!

Swissmint intends to be present with a stand at the following coin fair, provided it takes place:

29 May 2021	Münzenbörse BERNA, BERNEXPO convention centre, Bern
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Overview of future issues

29 April 2021	Silver coin	"Illusion – The Bridge of Life"
	Gold coin	"50 years of Swiss women's right to vote"
9 September 2021	Silver coin	"Hydropower", the first in the energy of the future series
	Coin set	2021 Christmas coin set
	Trial minting	"Illusion - The Bridge of Life"



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Subscribers should use this order form exclusively for additional orders.

ORDER FORM HEADS OR TAILS 1/2021

K1D

Item	Item number	Quantity	Price in CHF	Amount in CHF
Friedrich Dürrenmatt / 20-franc piece, silver				
Uncirculated	510000594		30.–	
Uncirculated, folder	510000595		40.–	
Proof in presentation case	510000596		60.–	
Proof in presentation case with a certificate from the artist*	510000597		70.–	
Fox (Series "Swiss forest animals") / 10-franc piece, bi-metal				
Uncirculated	510000590		20.–	
Uncirculated, folder	510000591		30.–	
Proof in presentation case	510000592		45.–	
Proof in presentation case with a certificate from the artist*	510000593		55.–	
2021 coin sets				
Classic, brilliant uncirculated	510000580		40.–	
Classic, proof	510000581		85.–	
Baby coin set, brilliant uncirculated	510000582		40.–	
Birthday coin set, brilliant uncirculated	510000583		40.–	
Total amount in CHF:				

* ☐ I would like a proof coin in presentation case if the one with a certificate from the artist is sold out.

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You can order these fine products online and pay for them using your credit card: www.swissmintshop.ch

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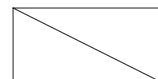
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