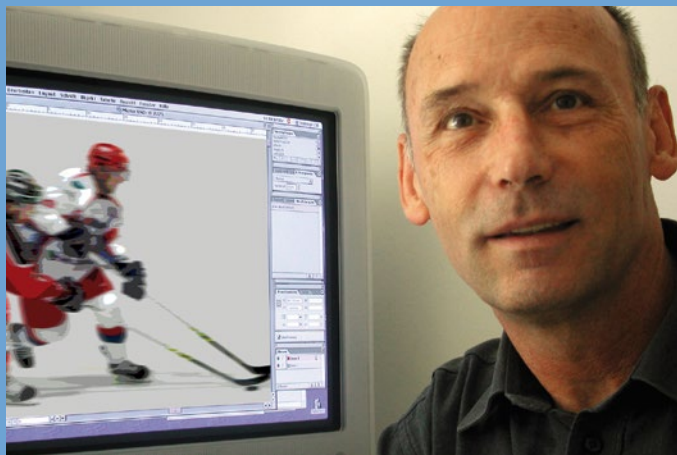


## Design: Roland Hirter

Roland Hirter was born in Zollikofen near Bern in 1943. After a one-year preparatory course at the School of Applied Arts in Bern in 1960, he attended the School of Design in Biel from which he graduated as a graphic artist four years later. Following a six-month study visit to Finland, he spent four years working for a design studio in Bern. In 1970, he turned free-lance. Roland Hirter lives and works in Bern. His area of work encompasses logos, pamphlets, brochures, posters and packaging. In 1972, he won the design competition for the «50 years of radio» commemorative stamp. Since then, he has been able to design more than 25 other stamps for the Swiss Post Office and the United Nations, among them a number of sports stamps. Since the mid 1990s, he has designed most of Swissmint's printed matter and is also responsible for the reverse side used on the commemorative coins issued since 2004. His most well-known work is probably the motorway tax sticker.



## Characteristics

### Effigy

«Ice hockey centenary»

### Artist

Roland Hirter, Bern

### Technical data

Alloy: Silver 0.835

Weight: 20 g

Diameter: 33 mm

### Legal face value

20 Swiss francs

### Date of issue

18<sup>th</sup> January 2008

### 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

Tel. +41 (0)31 322 60 68 (Marketing)

Fax +41 (0)31 322 60 07

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

Official commemorative coin 2008

## Ice hockey centenary



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Swissmint





### 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.

### «Ice hockey centenary»

The history of ice hockey can be traced back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. A game on ice by the name of Bandy is said to have existed in the Netherlands at that time. Bandy, generally regarded as the forerunner of modern ice hockey, is played with a small ball according to rules closely resembling those of football. The first proper match took place in 1875 in London. Just five years later, Bandy reached Switzerland, the mountains of Grisons to be precise. Ice hockey initially grew in popularity in French-speaking Switzerland. From there, ice hockey fever gradually gripped the entire country. In 1908, the national federation was founded in Vevey. The same year also saw the foundation in Paris of the international federation of which Switzerland was one of the original members. The first Swiss ice hockey championships were held in 1908/09 with eight teams from French-speaking Switzerland. Later, the epicentre of this winter sport shifted to German-speaking Switzerland. Over the course of the last one hundred years, ice hockey has grown to become the most important team game in our country alongside football. At the international level, the Swiss team has also been able to notch up a number of major successes. Unfortunately, these already lie some time ago in the past. Perhaps its luck may be about to change with the 2009 World Championships in our own country.

