

## HELVETICA 2000

### The coin

The interior of the face shows a honeycomb structure, with a large «+ FR +» at its centre. The outer ring shows various bees. Below are the two years «1850» and «2000». The obverse shows the value «5 FR» at the centre. The background depicts a leaf structure, and the inscription around the ring reads «CONFOEDERATIO HELVETICA •2000•».

The artist has portrayed the bees to indicate the legendary diligence of the Swiss; the honeycomb and leaf structure, however, stand for the durability of the Swiss franc.



### Characteristics

#### Effigy

«150 years of Swiss Francs»

#### Artist

Harold Studer, Bern

#### Technical data

Alloy: Outer ring in cupro-nickel,

core in Nordic-gold

Weight: 15 g

Diameter: 33 mm

#### Legal tender value

5 Swiss francs

#### Date of issue

7th June 2000

#### Mintage

Standard coinage, uncirculated:

150 000 coins

Proof coin in presentation case:

15 000 coins

#### Coinage

'swissmint'

Official Mint of the Swiss

Confederation

CH-3003 Bern

#### Issued by:

'swissmint'

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

Fax + 41 (0)31 - 322 60 07



Official Swiss  
commemorative  
coins



**150 years  
of Swiss Francs**



## HELVETICA commemorative coins

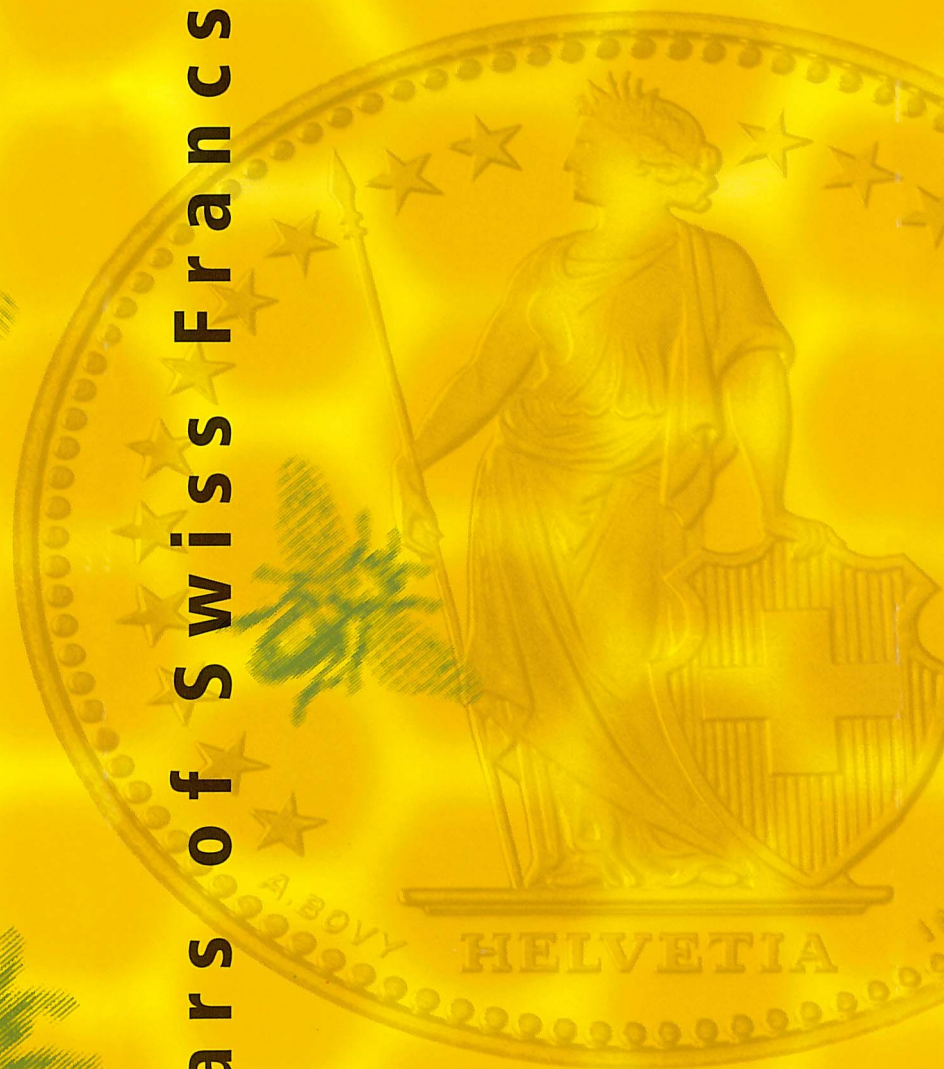
### A special side of Switzerland

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.

# 150 years of Swiss Francs



## 150 years of Swiss Francs

When we pay for our shopping at the supermarket checkout today, this brings with it no problem at all - as long as we have enough money. Legal currency (banknotes and coins) is taken as payment without question. But this was not always the case. Prior to the currency reform of 1850, the coinage system in Switzerland had been indescribably chaotic for centuries - something we are simply unable to imagine now.

Numerous mints (Cantons, towns, abbeys, etc.) produced a huge number of various types of coins in a wide range of currencies and denominations. The rates of exchange between the different types of coin were of an overwhelming complexity, and to a large extent hindered trade. The authorities sought to bring order to this chaos by issuing coin mandates, with limited success. The Federal Constitution of 1848 finally created the legal basis for currency reform, and this was rapidly implemented. The Swiss franc was introduced in 1850, based on the French currency system. In hind-

sight, the currency reform can be described as one of the major triumphs of the 19th century.

### The artist

The painter Harold Studer was born in Leysin on 10th September 1942. In 1959, he attended the preliminary course at the School of Applied Arts in Bern, and during the years 1960 to 1964 he completed an apprenticeship as a cartographer. He lived in Paris from 1964 to 1968. His work also took him to Egypt, England, Portugal and Italy. The artist now lives and works in Bern, and his artistic works include drawings, paintings, watercolours, printed graphics and objects. Harold Studer has received various Federal and regional grants, and has held numerous single and group exhibitions in Switzerland and abroad.