

# HELVETICA 1997

## HELVETICA – Official Swiss commemorative coins

Since 1936 the Confederation issues commemorative coins with a contemporary topic, HELVETICA is the official label of these coins.

The net profits resulting from the sales of the commemorative coins are appointed to support Swiss cultural projects by means of lump sum payments. According to the topic «150 Years of Swiss Trains» the net profit is specified for the restoration of the locomotive rotunda in Delsberg and for the historical rolling stock.



## characteristics

**Model**  
«150 Years of Swiss Trains»

**Artist**  
Georg Staehelin, Ottenbach

**Technical Data**  
Alloy: Silver 0.835  
Weight: 20 g  
Diameter: 33 mm

**Legal tender value**  
20 Swiss francs

**Date of issue**  
6th March, 1997

**Mintage**  
Standard coinage, uncirculated:  
215'000 pieces  
(the piece 20 Swiss francs)  
Proof in coin case:  
19'000 (the piece 50 Swiss francs excl. value added tax)

**Coinage**  
Swiss Federal Mint, Berne

**Distribution**  
Swiss National Bank  
CH-3003 Berne  
Phone 031 - 312 02 11  
Fax 031 - 312 19 53

**Responsible for the issue:**  
Federal Administration of  
Finances  
CH-3003 Berne  
Phone 031 - 322 60 68  
Fax 031 - 322 60 07

# 1997

Official Swiss commemorative coin

*150 Years  
of Swiss  
Trains  
1847–1997*





# Whoever looks back

## **The Train Moves: Start to a new Railway Era 1847.**

On August 7, 1847, the train engines and the carriages of the «Spanish Bun Railway» hissed and rattled for the first time over the rails between Zurich and Baden. This was the beginning of a new Railway era in Switzerland and a mark for the future.

A Baden speciality which was extremely popular in Zurich gave its name to the first inner Swiss railway line. The fact that the line from Baden to Zurich was nicknamed «Spanish Bun Railway» by the people, reveals much about Biedermeier tendency for the idyllic: the particular «bun» was a tasty, slightly puffed yeast-pastry.



# should also look ahead

The Train Moves – and still does. The Swiss people are the most loyal subjects of the railways even though various public transport systems complement this supply. In no other country of Europe are railways used as frequently and widely as in Switzerland. The railways set people and goods in motion, sometimes also emotions.

Whoever looks back, should also look ahead – The Train Moves.



# The Artist

## **The Wheel of Time**

The creator of the commemorative coin «150 Years of Swiss Trains» Georg Staehelin combines the circle of a coin with that of a wheel. On the obverse is a filigree wheel of the «Spanish Bun Railway» locomotive «Limmat» and on the reverse a stream-line wheel of the modern Re 460.

Georg Staehelin was born 1942 in Basel. After completing his studies at the arts-and-crafts school in Basel he spent his formative period in Paris, Amsterdam and London and since 1977 established as graphic artist in Ottenbach. 1977–1990 lectured at the University of Zurich. The creations in Corporate Identity and Graphic Design brought Georg Staehelin many awards at home and abroad.