

Design: Gian Vonzun

The artist Gian Vonzun was born in Ardez in the Lower Engadine on 23rd February 1942 and where he attended the local primary and secondary school. As a 16-year-old, he entered the Cantonal school for teacher training in Chur, where he obtained his diploma in 1963. After working as a primary school teacher for two years at the comprehensive school in Davos-Laret, he moved to Basel in 1965 to be trained as an art teacher at the School of Design. From 1969 to 2000, Gian Vonzun taught as an art teacher in various high schools in the Basel region and in Grisons. In between, he always found time to devote himself to his own work and to its exhibition. In 2002, Gian Vonzun opened his own art school, the «Academia d'art» in Sur En/Ardez. Here, he focuses on his own work and also passes on his wide knowledge in courses.



Characteristics

Effigy

«Ibex»

Artist

Gian Vonzun, Pratval

Technical data

Alloy: outer ring in aluminium-bronze,
core made of copper-nickel

Weight: 15 g

Diameter: 33 mm

Legal face value

10 Swiss francs

Date of issue

19th January 2007

Mintage

Standard coinage, uncirculated:

max. 96000 coins

Proof coin in presentation case:

max. 12000 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

Official commemorative coin 2007

Ibex

Swiss National Park



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Swissmint

New special coin series: National Park

It is with the «King of the Alps», the ibex, that the Federal Mint Swissmint is launching in 2007 the four-part series «Swiss National Park», dedicated to the most important animals in the park. The subjects of the coins from 2008 – 2010 are the golden eagle, the red deer and the marmot. Since its foundation in 1914, animals have enjoyed a protected environment in the National Park. It is the oldest nature reserve in the Alps, enjoying an excellent international reputation thanks to its strict protection provisions. www.nationalpark.ch



Official commemorative coins

Each year, the Federal Mint Swissmint issues a small number of special 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 commemorative coins are designed by important Swiss artists.

The ibex

The ibex originates from the arid regions between the Himalayas and Asia Minor. The alternation of ice ages and interglacial periods forced the animals to wander far from their native region, ending up in Africa and the Alps, among other places.

The most striking feature of the ibex are its horns, which are present on both males and females and grow throughout its life. Ibex live mainly on mountainsides above the tree line and only very rarely descend into the forests. During migration from the high altitude summer ranges to the winter ranges, ibex, in particular the males cover long distances.

The ibex started disappearing from Grisons as long ago as 1650 and was considered extinct in Switzerland in 1809. Its lack of fear of human beings, and the medicinal properties attributed to its flesh and horns, were its undoing. At the beginning of the 20th century, some of the last remaining ibex were poached from a herd belonging to the Italian king Vittorio Emanuele and smuggled into Switzerland. In 1920 the first ibex bred from these animals were released in the National Park. In recent years the ibex population has grown to between 250 and 450.



Foto © K. Robin