

Design: Nadja Baltensweiler

The scientific illustrator and graphic designer Nadja Baltensweiler was born in Zurich in 1986. As the daughter of two illustrators, she was involved with design from an early age. After more than six years studying design at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts and the University of Maastricht graduating with a BA in Illustration and an MA in Graphic Design and a specialisation in medical illustration, she was employed as an illustrator and graphic designer. Today, she is a freelance illustrator and graphic designer for advertising, exhibition design and science studio and has her own studio in Lucerne. She is currently working on the complex illustrations for an anatomy atlas amongst other things and her first publication entitled "So sieht's aus" ("This is what it looks like") was recently published. Further information: www.nadjabaltensweiler.ch



Characteristics

Effigy

Swiss Army Knife

Artist

Nadja Baltensweiler, Lucerne

Technical data

Alloy: Silver 0,835

Weight: 20 g

Diameter: 33 mm

Legal face value

20 Swiss francs

Date of issue

10 September 2018

Selling period

Up to 9 September 2021

or while stocks last

Mintage

Uncirculated coin: 30,000 pieces

Proof coin in presentation case:

5,000 pieces



Coined and issued by

Federal Mint Swissmint

CH-3003 Bern

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www.swissmint.ch

Official commemorative coin 2018

Swiss Army Knife



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Swissmint



Photo: Victorinox

Official commemorative coins

Each year, the Federal Mint Swissmint issues a small number of commemorative coins featuring carefully selected subjects. The coins in bimetals, silver and gold bear an official nominal value and are available in various minting qualities – as collectors' pieces in their own right or as an exquisite gift.

Swiss Army Knife

In the 19th century, our country was one of the poorest states in Europe and high unemployment forced many Swiss to emigrate. The creation of jobs was therefore greeted with open arms. With this in mind, Schwyz-born Karl Elsener (1860 – 1918) founded a cutlery workshop in Ibach in 1884. He came up with the idea of manufacturing soldiers' knives which had previously been made in Germany in Switzerland. However, his business was too small to obtain orders from the army. For this reason, in 1891 he founded the Swiss cutlery association with the aim of manufacturing the soldiers' knives for the army together with other cutlery in Switzerland. The first delivery was made the same year. At the time, the knife pioneer would probably never have dreamed that it would one day become a world-famous company.

The soldier's knife was very robust but also relatively heavy. So Karl Elsener developed a lighter and above all more elegant knife with even more functions. He called this pocket knife model the "Officer's and Sports Knife" and had it legally protected in 1897. However, unlike the soldier's knife, the Officer's Knife did not become official army equipment. This did not affect its success. The "Swiss Army Knife", as the Officer's Knife was called for export, began to conquer the world after the Second World War. Victorinox AG is now run by the fourth generation of the Elsener family.

Source: Victorinox