



### "The Giant Gargantua"

Once upon a time there was a married dwarfish couple whose wish for a baby became true. The boy grew up to the size of a giant. His head had the shape of a mountain and his hair the looking of a forest. Whenever he stood up he left dales behind him and his tears caused floods. Then one day this bulk of a man, feeling tremendously thirsty, bent himself down and sucked up eagerly all the water of the river Doubs. It needed three whole days to fill up the river-bed. But having a noble character, he always helped the people out of their distress. For that the people worshipped him as their mighty and living God.

### Characteristics



### Model

"The Giant Gargantua"

### Artist

Peter Emch, Zurich

### Technical Data

Alloy: Silver 0,835

Weight: 20 g

Diameter: 33 mm

### Legal tender value

20 francs

### Date of issue

January 17, 1996

### Mintage

Standard coinage, uncirculated:

206 000 pieces

Proof: 30 000 pieces

(including coins for sets)

### 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 76

Fax 031 322 60 07

1996



Official Swiss  
commemorative coin



The first Swiss commemorative coin was minted in 1936. Since 1974 the Confederation issues yearly one commemorative coin with a contemporary topic in two versions: uncirculated (standard coinage) and proof-quality (especially for coin collectors).

These coins are the creations of Swiss artists. The Federal Administration of Finances in co-operation with the Federal Office of Culture performs competitions of fine arts or places corresponding individual orders.

The net profits resulting from the sales of the series are appointed to support Swiss cultural projects by means of lump sum payments.

### **The artist**

Peter Emch was born 1945 in Bienne. After completing his studies at the arts-and-crafts school he left Bienne and worked as a graphic artist in Paris and Zurich. Due to a scholarship awarded by the municipality of Zurich he was able to spend a formative period in New York.

Since 1980 Peter Emch teaches at the arts-and-crafts school in Zurich.

In various notable exhibitions throughout Europe and America his creations specifically drawings, wood-engravings and oil-paintings roused a great interest.

### **The series**



The commemorative coins HELVETICA from 1994 to 1996 are dedicated to the set topic "Landscapes and Legends". The third coin of this four-piece set for coin collectors and art-lovers is dedicated to "The Giant Gargantua".

The artist Peter Emch not only evokes memories of the past with his four fabulous creatures dominating typical Swiss landscapes but also gives an original contribution to the renaissance of Swiss mythology.

The four-piece set in proof-quality will be issued 1996 in short supply (5000 sets). Availability from summer 1995.