



The coin

The obverse shows the most famous view of Chillon Castle, with the Alps in the background.



Raised lines emphasise the design. The many details give the image a picturesque appearance. The caption «CHATEAU DE CHILLON» surrounds the picture, «CHILLON» being interrupted by vertical lines which are intended to recall battlements.

The reverse, a typographical design, shows in the lower half a large figure «20» for the value, and beneath it in smaller writing the letters «FR» for francs. The designation of the country and the year of issue «CONFOEDERATIO HELVETICA 2004» are shown parallel to the edge, in two staggered lines. Above the centre there is a small Swiss cross.

Characteristics

Image on the coin

«Château de Chillon»

Artist

Jean-Benoît Lévy, Basel

Technical data

Alloy: Silver 0.835

Weight: 20 g

Diameter: 33 mm

Legal value

20 Swiss francs

Date of issue

30th January 2004

Minting

Standard coinage, uncirculated:

max. 70 000 coins

Proof coin in presentation case:

max. 8 000 coins

Coined and issued by

swissmint

Official Mint of the

Swiss Confederation

CH-3003 Bern

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www.swissmint.ch

2004



Chillon Castle
FAMOUS
MONUMENTS

A splendid piece of Switzerland

The commemorative coins of Switzerland are designed by important native artists. Elegant, valuable and timeless, they epitomise the country's solid cultural heritage. As tasteful collectors' pieces available at attractive prices, they are also extremely popular. The commemorative coins have a legal face value and are minted in limited series. The net profit from their sales is used by the Confederation to promote cultural projects in Switzerland.

Chillon Castle

If there is one building in Switzerland whose silhouette is known throughout the world, then it is Chillon Castle. Situated picturesquely on the shores of Lake Geneva, the fortress castle is impressive for its beauty, for the harmony of its shapes and for its massive stonework. Built literally on the water, the castle is a formidable fortress towards the mountains, and towards the lake a charming princely residence.

In the course of history Chillon Castle has known various different owners. Its golden age was certainly in the 13th and 14th centuries, when the Counts of Savoy completely rebuilt the complex, enlarging it considerably, and chose it for their summer residence. From 1536 to 1798 the castle was under the control of Bern, as incidentally was the whole of what is now Vaud. In 1798 it became the state property of Vaud. Today the castle with its museum is a favourite destination for excursions and is visited every year by thousands of tourists from all over the world. Famous writers such as Rousseau, Hugo, Dumas and Byron have immortalised Chillon Castle in their stories.



The artist

Jean-Benoît Lévy was born in Pully in the Canton of Vaud on 17th June 1959. After his training as a graphic designer at the School of Design in Basel, he worked from 1983 to 1986 as Art Director with the Basel Trade Fair. After that he worked as a freelancer for various graphic design studios, and made trips to New York and San Francisco. In 1989 he opened his own studio in Basel,

under the name «AND». Since being granted a Green Card in 2001, he has lived and worked alternately in Basel and in the United States. He also holds teaching posts in both countries. He has shown his work in numerous individual and group exhibitions all over the world. Jean-Benoît Lévy has already received several awards for his works, both in Switzerland and abroad, and his work has been presented in various books and magazines. The artist has also become well known in Switzerland by his creation of the «A-mail» stamp for the Swiss Post.

