

Design: Maya Delaquis, Gwatt

Born in 1949 in Bern and grew up in Köniz, Maya Delaquis trained at the Bern School of Arts and Crafts to become a graphic artist with a federal diploma. She also studied under Heinz Jost, the well-known poster designer. Well known for her versatility and diligence, in 1970 she received the federal award for applied art for her scientific drawings. She taught as a lecturer in book illustration and animal drawing for nine years at the Bern School of Design. Animals, in particular dogs, have always been dear to the heart of the international show judge for 37 breeds of dog. Posters, illustrations and texts were created in magazines and books. Her bestseller "Finn and the Bernese Bear" was published in 2012, in 2013 "Finn und Agathe im Zytglogge" (not available in English), in 2014 "Barrys Erben" (not available in English) and in 2016 an illustrated book of short stories. www.mayadelaquis.ch.



Characteristics

Effigy

Barry

Artist

Maya Delaquis, Gwatt

Technical data

Alloy: Gold 0,900

Weight: 11,29 g

Diameter: 25 mm

Legal face value

50 Swiss francs

Date of issue

14 September 2017

Selling period

Up to 13 September 2020

or while stocks last

Mintage

Proof coin in presentation case:

4,500 pieces



Coined and issued by

Federal Mint Swissmint

CH-3003 Bern

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www.swissmint.ch

Official commemorative coin 2017

Barry



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Swissmint



Photo: Barry Foundation

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.

Saint Bernard Barry

In the 11th century, canons regular of Saint Augustine founded a hospice as a refuge for travellers and pilgrims on the 2,469 metre-high Great Saint Bernard Pass. Large mountain dogs have been kept at the hospice since the mid-17th century to guard and protect those staying there. The first visual evidence of the presence of mountain dogs dates back to 1695, and the first written document is a hospice memo from the year 1707. The dogs were rapidly adopted as companion dogs and above all as rescue dogs for travellers who lost their way in the snow and mist. The dogs from the Great Saint Bernard Pass saved the lives of a great number of people. The reputation of the Saint Bernards grew throughout Europe in the 19th century thanks to chronicles published in many languages and to reports

passed on by word of mouth by the soldiers who had crossed the pass with Napoleon Bonaparte in 1800. The legendary Saint Bernard dog Barry lived at the hospice from 1800 to 1812. The famous dog apparently saved the lives of more than 40 people. Numerous legends linked to his story have contributed greatly to the good reputation of the Saint Bernard dogs. The Natural History Museum in Bern is devoting a special exhibition to the stuffed, original Barry and his story: www.barry.museum. The Barry Foundation in Martigny (www.fondation-barry.ch) attends to the continued existence of the original Saint Bernard dogs.