

## Design: Benno K. Zehnder

The painter Benno K. Zehnder was born in Wettingen AG in 1941 where he also grew up. After finishing grammar school in Immensee SZ, he attended Lucerne School of Art. He spent the years between 1964 and 1970 in London, initially attending courses on painting and art history at Goldsmiths College, after which he created exhibitions for the Swiss Centre, the Design Centre, the Royal Academy and the City of Worcester among others. From 1970 to 1973, he was a lecturer and head of the Master of Arts course in Film Animation at the City of Birmingham Polytechnic. After this time, he headed the Department for Visual Communication at the former Bath Academy of Art in Corsham/Wiltshire up to 1982. From 1982 to 1997, he was Director of Lucerne College of Design after which he became a Professor at Lucerne University of Art and Design. In addition to his painting and drawing work, Benno K. Zehnder is heavily involved with colour concepts and mural painting for schools, hospitals and churches among others.



## Characteristics

### Effigy

«Vitznau-Rigi Railway»

### Artist

Benno K. Zehnder, Gelfingen

### Technical data

Alloy: Silver 0.835

Weight: 20 g

Diameter: 33 mm

### Legal face value

20 Swiss francs

### Date of issue

21<sup>st</sup> May 2008

### Mintage

Standard coinage, uncirculated:

max. 50 000 coins

Proof coin in presentation case:

max. 7 000 coins



### Coined and issued by

Federal Mint Swissmint

CH-3003 Bern

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[www.swissmint.ch](http://www.swissmint.ch)

Official commemorative coin 2008

## Vitznau-Rigi Railway Mountain Railway series



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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Swiss Confederation

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## Commemorative coin series: Mountain Railways

With the «Vitznau-Rigi Railway», Europe's first mountain railway, in 2008 the Federal Mint Swissmint is launching the new series «Mountain Railways». The series focuses on railway lines whose importance is attributable both to the pioneering spirit of their builders and to their tourist interest.



## The Vitznau-Rigi Railway

From practical experience gathered in railway operation on the old Hauenstein line, on which the poor adhesion of the locomotives posed a major problem, railway pioneer Niklaus Riggenschach recognised that the easiest way to overcome steep inclines would be to incorporate a toothed track between the rails with a corresponding cogwheel on the traction unit. He applied to patent his invention in Paris in 1863.

Even at that time, the Rigi was one of the most popular tourist destinations in Switzerland. It was hardly surprising that this particular mountain should be singled out for Europe's first mountain railway. On 9<sup>th</sup> June 1869, the Canton of Lucerne parliament granted a concession for the construction and operation of a cog railway between Vitznau and the Rigi to a consortium of engineers led by Niklaus Riggenschach. The necessary share capital of 1.25 million francs was subscribed within just two days. Work was started

without delay and the line was able to commence operation just two years later. The Vitznau-Rigi Railway was an instant success. In 1992, it merged with its long-time rival, the Arth-Rigi Railway founded in 1875, to form the present-day RIGI BAHNEN AG. It also owns the Weggis-Rigi Kaltbad panoramic aerial cableway opened in 1968.



## Official commemorative coins

Each year, the Federal Mint Swissmint issues a small number of commemorative coins featuring carefully selected subjects. The coins in bimetall, silver and gold bear an official nominal value and are available in various minting qualities. The net proceeds from the sale of the coins are used to promote cultural projects throughout Switzerland.

