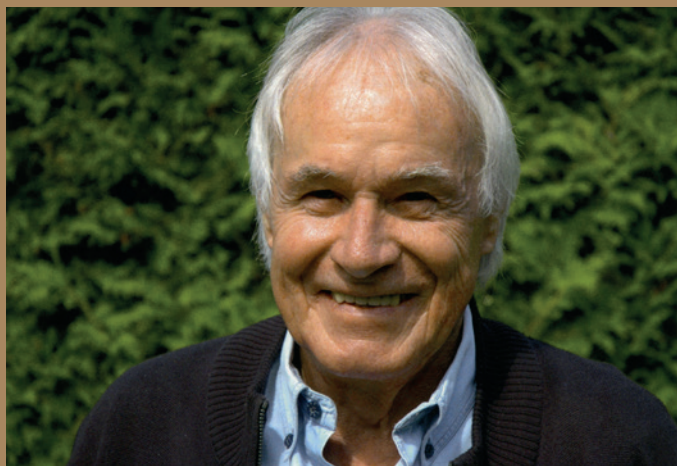


Design: Ueli Colombi

Marine artist Ueli Colombi was born in Thun in 1940. Even as a schoolboy he was fascinated by ships and spent every minute of his free time on or near the water. After training to be a sailor with Schweiz. Reederei AG in Basel, the son of well-known Thun architect Livio Colombi completed an apprenticeship as a draughtsman and then took a degree course at the technical university to become an architect. In the intervening time he kept returning to water. After his degree, Colombi worked in Vancouver (Canada) for several years as an architect, then returned to Switzerland to continue in the same profession. It is no surprise that his projects included the restoration of steamboats, for example the "Blümlisalp". At some point, he began to create stone lithographs of Swiss steamboats, before moving on to acrylic paintings. His subjects are people and ships, and he has been a full-time artist since 2005.



Characteristics

Effigy

"La Suisse" steamboat

Artist

Ueli Colombi, Sigriswil

Technical data

Alloy: Silver 0.835

Weight: 20 g

Diameter: 33 mm

Legal face value

20 Swiss francs

Date of issue

26 April 2018

Selling period

Up to 25 April 2021

or while stocks last

Mintage

Uncirculated coin: 30,000 pieces

Proof coin in presentation case:

5,000 pieces



Official commemorative coin 2018

"La Suisse" steamboat Swiss steamships



Coined and issued by

Federal Mint Swissmint

CH-3003 Bern

Tel. +41 58 4 800 800

Fax +41 58 462 60 07

www.swissmint.ch



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Swissmint



Official commemorative coins

Each year, the Federal Mint Swissmint issues a small number of commemorative coins featuring carefully selected subjects. The coins in bimetal, 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.

"La Suisse" steamboat

When the ship was commissioned by the Sulzer brothers in 1908, the Belle Époque euphoria in Switzerland had just peaked. The "La Suisse" paddle-wheel steamship was to become the largest and most elegant of all Swiss steamships. It has capacity for 850 passengers, is 78.5 metres long and 15.9 metres wide and is powered by a sloping 1400 hp (1030 kW) two-cylinder hot steam composite engine from Sulzer. The steamboat, which had already received an award as a cultural monument of national importance, was also declared to be an historical monument by the canton of Vaud in 2011.

Over the years, the steamboat has undergone a number of tech-

nical and structural changes: in 1960, a switch occurred from heating with coal to heavy fuel oil and changes were made to the curved decks on the main and upper decks. In 1971, a new, cost-saving large boiler was installed, as well as a new wheelhouse and a new side entrance to the saloon; unfortunately, both are not as successful from an aesthetic point of view. In 1999, heating operation was changed from heavy fuel oil to light oil. In 2003, the electrical infrastructure was partially refurbished. "La Suisse" was extensively renovated between 2007 and 2009. Since then, it has been navigating the "Haut-lac" part of Lake Geneva from Vevey to Thonon.

Source: CGN SA, Lausanne