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Swissmint

HEADS OR TAILS

Swissmint's coin magazine



EDITORIAL



Dear reader,

At an altitude of 2,429 metres above sea level, the Furka Pass is one of the highest and most impressive Alpine passes in Switzerland. Together with the Oberalp Pass, it forms an east-west link within the Alps and connects the hamlet of Gletsch in the canton of Valais with Andermatt in the canton of Uri. The area around the Furka Pass is not only one of the snowiest in Switzerland, it is also home to the European watershed (border between two neighbouring river systems). Whether by bicycle, motorbike, car, postal bus or historic steam train on the cogwheel mountain route - every year more than 250,000 people cross the Furka Pass and enjoy the spectacular view. For example from the famous Hotel Belvédère on the Rhone glacier or the surrounding alpine granite world. Swissmint is dedicating a 20-franc silver coin to the Furka Pass. Following on from the "Klausen Pass", this is the second silver coin in the three-part "Swiss Alpine passes" series. It will be issued on 12 September 2019. You can find out more on page 3 of this magazine.

Also on 12 September 2019, this year's trial minting of the "100 years of Circus Knie" silver commemorative coin will be released in a limited edition of just 1,000. In contrast to the series issue, the trial minting does not contain any colour. Due to the anticipated high demand, the quantity available to purchase will be limited. It is important to us to make the allocation of these limited products transparent. Information on the allocation of trial mintings can be found under "How are very limited edition products allocated?" on page 15 of this issue of **Heads or Tails**. Please also take a look at the new 2019 issue of our Christmas coin set. Guaranteed to be a great and valuable gift for young and old! In this issue you will also find our current stock list of commemorative and special coins. This is the ideal moment to complete your collection and delight others with a great gift.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and have fun collecting!

Marius G. Haldimann
Director

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FURKA PASS

Breathtaking views and European watershed

At an altitude of 2,429 metres* above sea level, the Furka Pass is one of the highest and most impressive Alpine passes in Switzerland. It connects the hamlet of Gletsch in the canton of Valais with Andermatt in the canton of Uri and, together with the Oberalp Pass, forms a east-west link within the Alps. The area is one of the snowiest in Switzerland. The European watershed runs along the pass: the Rhone flows southwest towards the Mediterranean, while the (Furka-)Reuss sweeps northeast into the Rhine and the North Sea. Swissmint is honouring the Furka Pass with the second silver coin in the "Swiss Alpine passes" series.

Bronze Age finds in Upper Valais and the Vorder-reintal indicate connections and cultural exchanges between Goms and Raetia. The first landmark event in Furka Pass traffic to be documented was around the 12th century, when hundreds of German-speaking Walser people settled with their families in the Urseren Valley or even further east in Raetia. In the 14th century, the route over the pass summit at 2429 metres a.s.l. gained in importance for the Walser people because it granted them direct access to the transalpine axis via the Gotthard. The road tolls, which were levied both in the cantons of Uri and Valais until the 19th century, were used to maintain the mule tracks and roads, among other things.

Between 1864 and 1866, the almost 40-kilometre-long and at least 4.20 metres wide road from Hospental to Oberwald was built by the cantons of Uri and Valais. The Confederation paid for two thirds of the costs for military reasons. From 1867 to 1920, stagecoaches operated on the new road, transporting more than 19,000 people over the pass in 1914. In 1921, yellow Postbuses replaced the coaches. In 1907/08, the Federal Council granted licences for a Brig-Furka-Disentis railway link (BFD company); the opening of the line to Gletsch was celebrated in 1914, but the official commissioning only took place in 1915. However, in 1916, further construction work had to be suspended for financial reasons during the First World War; the BFD company went bankrupt in 1923. The Furka-Oberalp-Bahn (FO) company, newly founded in 1925, completed the work and started operations in 1926 as far as Disentis. The high Alpine route was electrified in 1942. The Furka Base Tunnel, opened in 1982, enabled year-

round operation including car transport. After the opening of the Furka base tunnel, the Furka mountain line was discontinued and the contact line was removed after closure. Thanks to the private initiative of railway enthusiasts and the founding of an association, the mountain route was reopened in stages and operated with steam locomotives.

*Pass altitude according to swisstopo.ch

Development of tourism

The first inn in Gletsch opened in 1830 and was one of the pioneering businesses in the whole Alpine region. From 1856, the Seiler family of hoteliers and other entrepreneurs expanded the choice available to tourists. In 1882, on the initiative of then 24-year-old Josef Seiler, the small



Photo: Obergrün Tourismus and Christian Plummer



Hotel Belvédère was built on a prominent bend in the new Furka road. The new guesthouse in its most beautiful panoramic setting was the ideal place to meet guests' desire for accommodation which offered a special panoramic view and also close to the Rhone glacier. Unfortunately, the Hotel-Restaurant Belvédère is currently closed for an undetermined period of time.

Today, more than 250,000 people cross the Furka Pass every year. Whether by bicycle or motorbike, car or Alpine postal bus, or on board the historic steam train on the cogwheel mountain route. The Rhone Glacier itself has lost some of its spectacular size due to global warming: As late as 1850, the ice stream reached far down into the valley floor. Today, the glacier tongue lies at the height of the Belvédère hotel. Nonetheless, the glacier and its species-rich foreland, as well as the unique alpine granite world with the 3586-metre-high Galenstock, are more than ever a magnet for hik-

ers and climbers, and in winter for ski tourers and snowshoers. It is also worth making a detour to the glacier grotto, an ice chamber that is rehammered into the glacier every year. A nature trail starting in Gletsch brings you closer to the diversity of the glacier foreland with its pioneer plants and the dynamics of a glacier river, the Rhone.

The Furka Pass and its winding roads gained additional worldwide fame in 1964, when some scenes from the James Bond film Goldfinger with Sean Connery and Gert Fröbe were shot there. The Swiss scenes are today considered classics in Bond history.

Sources

«Die Furka», Louis Carlen
www.alpen-paesse.ch
www.myswitzerland.com
www.schweizmobil.ch
www.postauto.ch

Berna/Seitz postal buses

The postal bus depicted on the coin was based on a 1950 Berna/Seitz 1UP142 R1 Alpenwagen I. The Berna brand is still based in Olten, continuing on from the days of Motorwagenfabrik Berna AG. Although it was taken over by Saurer in 1929, the Berna brand was retained. The 5322cm³ bus with 55 seats is now owned by the Giardino Hotel Group in Ascona and continues to be used for events.

DESIGN: VITO NOTO



Vito Noto, the product designer born in Ragusa in 1955, came from a family of wainwrights and completed his studies at the "Scuola Politecnica di Design" in Milan in 1976. His teachers and lecturers included famous Italian and international design names. After his studies, he gained extensive experience with designers in Zurich, Hamburg and Paris. Swiss resident Vito Noto's wide-ranging project work means he is always in search of diversity and the meaning of the values of the things which surround us. He designs home and office objects for internationally renowned brands. He also designs machinery and equipment for a wide range of industrial purposes. Vito Noto has received many international awards, including the Compasso d'Oro and the 1995 Design Prize Switzerland. He is always open to innovation and is constantly in search of the "definitive" project. www.vitonotodesign.com.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

COMMEMORATIVE COIN «FURKA PASS»



Face value: 20 Swiss francs
Alloy: silver 0,835
Weight: 20g
Diameter: 33mm



Uncirculated

Mintage
Uncirculated: 20,000 units, of which
– in a folder: 1,000 units
Proof: 5,000 units, of which
– signed: 250 units (certificate from the artist)

Design: Vito Noto, Cadro

Issue date: 12 September 2019
Sales period: until 11 September 2022
or while stocks last



Folder



Proof with certificate
of authenticity



Variation "signed" with
additional a certificate from
the artist



Enjoy fabulous views on a ride through the central Alps with PostBus.

More great ideas for leisure activities: postbus.ch/excursions



PostBus 

The yellow class.

EXPERIENCE THREE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ALPINE PASSES IN SWITZERLAND

On the occasion of the launch of the "Furka Pass" commemorative coin, Swissmint is giving away 20 x 2 tickets for a special trip by postal bus.

Experience breathtaking views on the **Susten-Furka-Grimsel three-pass trip** (Date: Saturday, 27 June 2020, Start and end point: Meiringen) and enjoy a snack together with us at a stopover.

Simply answer the following question correctly and send in the completed slip by **31 December 2019** (postmark).

The Furka Pass connects the cantons

☐ Ticino and Valais ☐ Uri and Valais ☐ Bern and Valais

Customer number (if available)

Surname

First name

Address

Postcode/ city/town

Telephone no.

Email address

Conditions of participation in the competition

The winners will be notified in person. Prizes will not be paid out in cash and postponements are not possible. No legal recourse is possible. No correspondence will be entered into. The competition is not open to Swissmint and PostBus employees. Each person is only allowed to enter one competition slip.

Send the competition slip (or a copy) to: The Federal Mint Swissmint, Bernastrasse 28, 3003 Bern

TRIAL MINTING 100 YEARS OF CIRCUS KNIE

Always in step with the times and the pulse of the public

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Circus Knie, Swissmint launched the first silver 20-franc commemorative coin which uses colour printing on 24 January 2019.

Once a year Swissmint issues an "essay" (trial) coin. The reverse side of the coin bears the letter "E" as an identification mark which stands for "essay", as well as a small Swiss cross in a circle. This limited edition is supplied in a small, anthracite-coloured cardboard box (there is no numbered certificate of authenticity).

The quantity which can be ordered is limited to three units per customer or delivery address. Swissmint reserves the right to make further reductions. For more information concerning the order procedure, please see "Sales start" and "How are very limited edition products allocated?" on page 15.

In contrast to the January 2019 issue, the trial minting gives the individual surfaces of the clown a structure instead of applying paint.

DESIGN: REMO MASCHERINI



Remo Mascherini was born in Florence, Italy, in 1958 and grew up in Kehrsatz in the canton of Bern after his parents moved to Switzerland. After he finished school, he completed four years of vocational training in engraving under the renowned Bernese relief engraver Klaus Graber. He also attended the Bern School of Arts and Crafts (now called the School of Design), where he completed courses in the subjects of engraving, drawing and three-dimensional design. Having spent many years working for companies in the packaging and graphic arts industry, he has a wealth of professional experience, particularly in his specialisation of relief and steel-plate engraving. Since 2009, he has been designing his engraving templates and reliefs on the PC using a CAD/CAM system. In 2013, Remo Mascherini took up the post of engraver at Swissmint.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

TRIAL MINTING 100 YEARS OF CIRCUS KNIE



Uncirculated

Face value: 20 Swiss francs
Alloy: silver 0,835
Weight: 20g
Diameter: 33mm

Mintage
Uncirculated: 1,000 units

Design: Remo Mascherini, Flamatt

Issue date: 12 September 2019
Sales period: until 11 September 2022 or while stocks last



Trial minting

2019 CHRISTMAS COIN SET

Make someone happy this festive season!

Surprise your loved ones with the new 2019 Christmas coin set or add it to your own wish list. This brilliant gift idea combines the 2019 circulation coins with a shiny Christmas medal.

As early as in the Gospels, angels announced the joyful message of the birth of Christ at Christmas. For this reason, the graphic designer Jenny Leibundgut from Bern chose the trumpet-blowing angel and snow stars for the 2019 Christmas medal and its richly illustrated case. The struck design on the

reverse of the medal shows the star of Bethlehem, also known as the Christmas star. The medal is exclusively available in the Christmas coins set. By the way, you can also subscribe to receive this exclusive product.

DESIGN: JENNY LEIBUNDGUT



Jenny Leibundgut was born in Gümligen in 1959. At the start of her occupational training, she took the preliminary course at the Bern School of Design and then completed a diploma with a four-year apprenticeship under the well-known Swiss graphic artist Kurt Wirth in Bern. She won her spurs initially at Gottschalk+Ash in Zurich and later with Stuart Ash in Toronto, Canada. After two years working successfully with the internationally renowned design agency Landor Associates in San Francisco, she returned to Switzerland.

Here as a lecturer, she taught specialisation in graphic art for nine years at the Bern School of Design. She has been running her own graphic art workshop in Bern since 1990. Her main fields of work include corporate design, typography, photography, illustration, posters and book and brochure design. Further information is available at leibundgutdesign.ch.

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

2019 CHRISTMAS COIN SET
Brilliant uncirculated
with Christmas medal



Brilliant uncirculated

Face value: 8.85 Swiss francs
Alloy: copper-nickel and aluminium-bronze
Measurements: 171mm x 106mm x 8mm

Mintage: 1,500 units

Issue date: 12 September 2019
Sales period: until 11 September 2022 or while stocks last



PRODUCT INFORMATION

2019 CLASSIC COIN SET *Brilliant uncirculated with bimetal coin "Roe deer"*



Face value: 18.85 Swiss francs
Alloy: copper-nickel and aluminium-bronze
Measurements: 171mm x 106mm x 8mm



Brilliant uncirculated

Mintage: 8,000 units
Issue date: 24 January 2019
Sales period: until 23 January 2022
or while stocks last



2019 CLASSIC COIN SET *Proof with bimetal coin "Roe deer"*



Face value: 18.85 Swiss francs
Alloy: copper-nickel and aluminium-bronze
Measurements: 171mm x 106mm x 8mm



Proof

Mintage: 2,500 units
Issue date: 24 January 2019
Sales period: until 23 January 2022
or while stocks last



PRODUCTION INFORMATION

2019 BABY COIN SET *Brilliant uncirculated with bear medal*



Face value: 8.85 Swiss francs
Alloy: copper-nickel and aluminium-bronze
Measurements: 171mm x 106mm x 8mm



Brilliant uncirculated

Mintage: 8,000 units
Issue date: 1 January 2019
Sales period: until 31 December 2021
or while stocks last



2019 BIRTHDAY COIN SET *Brilliant uncirculated with birthday medal*



Face value: 8.85 Swiss francs
Alloy: copper-nickel and aluminium-bronze
Measurements: 171mm x 106mm x 8mm



Brilliant uncirculated

Mintage: 2,000 units
Issue date: 1 January 2019
Sales period: until 31 December 2021
or while stocks last



STOCK LIST

SILVER COINS

Issue date: 09.05.19

Moon landing



510000480 * CHF 30.00
510000482 + CHF 60.00

Issue date: 24.01.19

Blümlisalp steamboat



510000438 * CHF 30.00
510000440 + CHF 60.00

Issue date: 10.09.18

Victorinox



510000380 * CHF 30.00
510000382 + CHF 60.00

Issue date: 26.04.18

La Suisse steamboat



510000372 * CHF 30.00
510000374 + CHF 60.00

Issue date: 25.01.18

Klausen Pass



510000354 * CHF 30.00
510000356 + CHF 60.00

Issue date: 04.05.17

Uri steamboat



510000294 * CHF 30.00
510000295 + CHF 60.00

Issue date: 04.05.17

Yodelling



510000292 * CHF 30.00
510000293 + CHF 60.00

Issue date: 26.01.17

500 Years of Reformation



510000290 * CHF 30.00
510000291 + CHF 60.00

* Uncirculated in a blister pack

+ Proof in presentation case

STOCK LIST

FOLDER WITH SILVER COIN

Issue date: 24.01.19
Blümlisalp steamboat



510000439 - CHF 40.00

Issue date: 26.04.18
La Suisse steamboat



510000373 - CHF 40.00

Issue date: 25.01.18
Klausen Pass



510000355 - CHF 40.00

Issue date: 04.05.17
Uri steamboat



510000288 - CHF 40.00

Issue date: 04.05.17
Yodelling



510000289 - CHF 40.00

Issue date: 26.01.17
500 Years of Reformation



510000287 - CHF 40.00

- Uncirculated in folder

BIMETAL COINS

Issue date: 24.01.19
Roe deer



510000430 * CHF 20.00
510000432 + CHF 45.00

Issue date: 25.01.18
Carline thistle



510000350 * CHF 20.00
510000352 + CHF 45.00

Issue date: 26.01.17
Gentian



510000280 * CHF 20.00

* Uncirculated in a blister pack

+ Proof in presentation case

STOCK LIST

FOLDER WITH BIMETAL COIN

Issue date: 24.01.19

Roe deer



510000431 - CHF 30.00

Issue date: 26.01.17

Gentian



510000286 - CHF 30.00

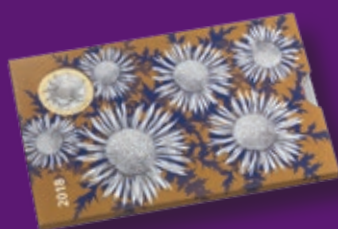
- Uncirculated in folder

CLASSIC COIN SETS

2018

Issue date: 25.01.18

Classic coin set with bi-metal coin "Carline thistle"



510000360 CHF 40.00
Brilliant uncirculated



510000361 CHF 85.00
Proof

2017

Issue date: 26.01.17

Classic coin set with bi-metal coin "Gentian"



510000297 CHF 40.00
Brilliant uncirculated

STOCK LIST

BABY COIN SET

2018

Issue date: 01.01.18

Baby coin set 2018 with bear medal



510000362 CHF 40.00
Brilliant uncirculated

2017

Issue date: 01.01.17

Baby coin set 2017 with bear medal



510000298 CHF 40.00
Brilliant uncirculated

BIRTHDAY COIN SET

2018

Issue date: 01.01.18

Birthday coin set 2018 with birthday medal



510000363 CHF 40.00
Brilliant uncirculated

2017

Issue date: 01.01.17

Birthday coin set 2017 with birthday medal



510000310 CHF 40.00
Brilliant uncirculated

CHRISTMAS COIN SET

2018

Issue date: 10.09.18

Christmas coin set 2018 with medal



510000364 CHF 40.00
Brilliant uncirculated

2017

Issue date: 14.09.17

Christmas coin set 2017 with medal



510000301 CHF 40.00
Brilliant uncirculated

SWISSMINT NEWS

Autograph session with artist Vito Noto at the Zurich International Coin Fair

On **Saturday, 26 October 2019 from 11am to 12pm** at the **Swissmint stand** an autograph session will be held with the designer of the "Furka Pass" silver coin. We look forward to your visit.

Sales start

The sales start is on the day of issue, 12 September 2019, at 8am, i.e. the products will be available at www.swissmintshop.ch and can also be ordered by telephone via our customer service (tel. +41 58 4 800 800) from this time. Alternatively, we can of course also accept orders made using the enclosed order form.

How are very limited edition products allocated?

Special products, such as trial mintings and commemorative coins with the certificate of the artist, are only available in small quantities. Demand often exceeds the quantities offered. Swissmint therefore limits sales per customer so that as many people as possible can be served.

Swissmint does not accept reservations for very limited products. Small quantities of these special products are destined for sale online via swissmintshop.ch. Remaining stock is distributed by drawing lots. All order forms, emails and faxes received by Swissmint by the date of issue on 12 September 2019 will be entered into the draw. This also applies to all those interested in buying by telephone who contact us by 9am on the day of issue. Swissmint will only consider one order per name and address in the draw. After the draw, Swissmint will inform all interested parties about product allocation by sending them an invoice.

In a draw, unfortunately, even interested parties are left empty-handed. In order for you to be able to enjoy our beautiful and exquisitely detailed coins in proof quality with certificate of authenticity in your collection, we recommend that you tick the appropriate "I would like a proof coin in presentation case if the one with a certificate from the artist is sold out" box on the order form.

When can I receive a discount on my order?

You can receive a volume discount when you order certain products. For all coin sets and coins in "Proof" quality, you will receive a discount of up to CHF 30 per unit depending on the alloy and amount ordered. The minimum order quantity refers to the individual product, not to combinations of the same quality.

Product/quality	Minimum purchase	Discount per unit
Proof bimetal	From 10 units	CHF 5
Proof silver	From 10 units	CHF 5
Proof gold	From 5 units	CHF 30
Coin sets*	From 10 units	CHF 10

Commitment to quality

Swissmint endeavours to supply its customers exclusively with the best possible minted products, within the framework of the defined quality standards. It is particularly important to distinguish between the proof and "uncirculated" category: with the proof category, the planchets are specially treated and polished in an elaborate process, as is the stamp with which the coins are minted. In addition, Swissmint uses the new stamp only for minting a few pieces. In contrast, the planchets are less pre-treated and polished for the "uncirculated" category. These coins are so-called "continuously minted", i.e. they pass through the normal production machine, like the circulation coins. The price difference compared to the "uncirculated" category can also be explained by the complex process of manufacturing the "proof" category.

Coin folder – a wonderful gift

The next time you receive an invitation, would you like to take a beautiful and valuable gift with you, which will still delight the recipient years later? Offer our folder complete with a commemorative coin. The colour illustrated card folder contains a silver or bimetallic coin in "uncirculated" quality. The folder also provides exciting information on the coin's motif and designer; in German, English, French and Italian. The card folder with a CD-sized slipcase is convenient for storage, so that the most important facts on the subject will always be at hand.

Crocodile locomotive customer event

On the afternoon of 7 July 2019, Swissmint, together with SBB Historic, welcomed the enthusiastic winners of the competition which was held to mark the launch of the "Crocodile locomotive" gold coin. The journey in the SR 611 saloon carriage with the Ce 6/8 Crocodile from Bern to Thun and back was made on the first electrified line to have been put into operation. During breaks in Münsingen there was enough time to admire and photograph the locomotive from all sides. The trip was an unforgettable historical railway experience for all participants.



Diary – We look forward to meeting you

In the near future, Swissmint will be present with a stand at the following coin fairs:

21 and 22 September 2019	Stuttgart coin fair, Hanns-Martin-Schleyer-Halle, Stuttgart
26 and 27 October 2019	Zurich International coin fair, Swissôtel, Zurich-Oerlikon
31 January - 2 February 2020	World Money Fair, Estrel Convention Center, Berlin
8 February 2020	Basler Münzenmesse, Congress Center, Basel

2020 Coin Programme

1 January 2020	Coin set	2020 Birthday coin set
	Coin set	2020 Baby coin set
23 January 2020	Bimetallic coin	"Hare" from the Swiss forest animals series
	Silver coin	TBC
	Coin set	2020 Classic coin set, brilliant uncirculated
	Coin set	2020 Classic coin set, proof
7 May 2020	Silver coin	"150 years of the Association of Swiss Firefighters"
	Gold coin	TBC
3 September 2020	Silver coin	"Susten Pass" from the Swiss Alpine Passes series
	Coin set	2020 Christmas coin set
	Trial minting	TBC

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