

Design: Stefan Haenni

Stefan Haenni was born on 4th August 1958 in Thun where he still lives today. Following his obligatory schooling, he trained first to become a primary school teacher and later at the Bern School of Design to become a grammar school teacher for art and design (1979 – 1986). For around 20 years he has taught this subject at a Thun grammar school. He completed a second degree in educational science, psychology and art history in 1995 at the University of Fribourg with a doctoral dissertation on emotional psychology. His artistic work peaked for the first time at the end of the 1980s when he primarily painted portraits.

Stefan Haenni discovered his central theme – modern Orientalism – in 1990 after a trip to Egypt that was followed by many more stays in Arab countries. In his painting, he avoids clichés. As an observant traveller, he absorbs impressions, processes them in various media and reassembles them to create his own new works. His paintings have been shown at numerous individual and group exhibitions, primarily in Switzerland. In recent years, Stefan Haenni has also made a name for himself as a crime fiction author.



Characteristics

Effigy

«Bern Onion Market»

Artist

Stefan Haenni, Thun

Technical data

Alloy: outer ring in aluminium-bronze,
core made of copper-nickel

Weight: 15 g

Diameter: 33 mm

Legal face value

10 Swiss francs

Date of issue

20th January 2011

Mintage

Standard coinage, uncirculated:

max. 94000 coins

Proof coin in presentation case:

max. 12000 coins



Coined and issued by

Federal Mint Swissmint

CH-3003 Bern

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Official commemorative coin 2011

«Bern Onion Market»

Swiss customs



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 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.

Commemorative coin series: Swiss customs

The «Bern Onion Market» commemorative coin marks the return of the Federal Mint Swissmint to the «Swiss customs» series suspended in 2004. The previous issues, which appeared as 5-franc bimetall coins, were dedicated to the following customs: 1999 «Fête des Vignerons, Vevey», 2000 «Basler Fasnacht», 2001 «Zürcher Sechseläuten», 2002 «Escalade, Geneva» and 2003 «Chalandamarz».

Bern Onion Market

The Onion Market is a traditional public festival held on the fourth Monday of November each year. Farmers from the countryside surrounding Bern bring more than 50 tonnes of onions – in artistically woven plaits – and garlic to the Federal capital. Colourful market stalls offer visitors ceramic pottery, spiced bread, vegetables and mementos. To help resist the winter cold, hot mulled wine is served at many stands.

The bustle starts at 5.00 a.m. when thousands of visitors from Switzerland and abroad begin to stream through the town. This is the day when cheese pie, onion pie and onion soup are on offer in



the restaurants, spreading a spicy aroma. Younger visitors liberally scatter confetti in the streets, and have fun at the fairground.

The Onion Market is what remains of a one-time fourteen-day autumn fair (St Martin's market) of which there are records dating back to the 15th century. The onions themselves first appear in mid-19th century documents, at the time when the railway lines were built from the growing areas in the Seeland region to Bern.

Text: Bern Tourist Office