



The coin

The obverse is dominated by the mighty water tower. The zigzag shape of the Chapel bridge can be seen to its left, with the modern Seebücke bridge behind. A section of the town and the mountain chain running behind it form the backdrop. At the top, parallel to the edge, it bears the inscription «KAPELLBRÜCKE LUZERN».

Characteristics

Image on the coin

«Chapel bridge Lucerne»

Artist

Hans-Peter von Ah, Ebikon

Technical data

Alloy: Silver 0.835

Weight: 20 g

Diameter: 33 mm

Legal value

20 Swiss francs

Date of issue

8th June 2005

Minting

Standard coinage, uncirculated:

max. 65 000 coins

Proof coin in presentation case:

max. 8 000 coins

Coined and issued by *swissmint*

Official Mint of the

Swiss Confederation

CH-3003 Bern

Tel. +41 (0)31 322 60 68 (Marketing)

Fax +41 (0)31 322 60 07

www.swissmint.ch

2005

OFFICIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN OF SWITZERLAND



**Chapel bridge
Lucerne**
FAMOUS
MONUMENTS

A splendid piece of Switzerland

The commemorative coins of Switzerland are designed by important native artists. Elegant, valuable and timeless, they epitomise the country's solid cultural heritage. As tasteful collectors' pieces available at attractive prices, they are also extremely popular. The commemorative coins have a legal face value and are minted in limited series. The net profit from their sales is used by the Confederation to promote cultural projects in Switzerland.

Chapel bridge Lucerne

The Chapel bridge forms the dominant feature of Lucerne's cityscape. The pedestrian bridge linking both banks of the River Reuss at the point where it flows out of the lake was originally planned as part of the city defences. Today the bridge with its decorative paintings is the most famous landmark of Central Switzerland's metropolis. It hardly seems possible now that back in 1870 the idea of demolishing the bridge was proposed. At that time, the spirit of the age was not well

disposed towards historic architectural monuments. Moreover, fears were expressed that with the construction of the modern Seebücke bridge, the lake outflow would be impeded by the consecutive bridges, which would lead to an increase in the risk of flooding. At more than 650 years of age, the Chapel bridge ranks as the oldest wooden bridge in Europe. Had it not been for refurbishments at regular intervals, however, it would scarcely have withstood the centuries. Catastrophes involving severe

damage to the Chapel bridge have been a regular feature of its eventful history. The most recent episode is still fresh in people's minds. In August 1993, a large part of the bridge was destroyed in a major fire. Thanks to an unparalleled effort, the missing section of the bridge was reconstructed within 8 months.

The artist

Hans-Peter von Ah was born in Sachseln (OW) on 24th June 1941. From 1956 to 1959, he completed an apprenticeship

as a wood sculptor while at the same time attending the Lucerne School of Art as a guest student. From 1960 to 1965, he attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna under Prof. Fritz Wotruba, graduating with a degree in academic sculpture. Since 1966, he has held the post of lecturer in three-dimensional design at the School of Design, a part of the Lucerne School of Art – today the Lucerne School for Art and Design. His work has been recognised with prizes from the Academy of Fine Arts

in Vienna in 1963 and the Pro Arte Bern Foundation in 1974. In addition to sculpture, his artistic spectrum covers sketches and water colours, sculptures in public open spaces and choir room designs in old and new churches. Numerous contributions to exhibitions in Switzerland and abroad. Member of various commissions and committees, including the Federal Art Commission 1985 – 1996, Vice-president of the Lucerne Art Society since 1991.

