

## The Parish Clerk

In his book «Schweizer Maler» (Swiss painters) Albert Baur accurately characterises the official depicted in the painting: «The elderly parish clerk in Anker's sunny picture... is neither a gentleman farmer nor a member of the nobility. He is still wearing the old-fashioned cotton-linen frock coat with button-up sleeves and a black pointed hat that has become somewhat green; one can see that he has his own meadows and fields and still tends them himself... In his demeanour as he earnestly and thoughtfully studies the document he has made out, quill to hand between his lips in case correction should be needed, he certainly does not appear any more stupid than a notary or barrister in the city.»

Picture: The Parish Clerk II, 1875, Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne

**Albert Anker exhibition** in the Bern Museum of Fine Arts from 7<sup>th</sup> May until 5<sup>th</sup> September 2010, [www.kunstmuseumbern.ch](http://www.kunstmuseumbern.ch)



## Characteristics

### Effigy

«The Parish Clerk» by Albert Anker

### Technical data

Alloy: Gold 0.900

Weight: 11.29 g

Diameter: 25 mm

### Legal face value

50 Swiss francs

### Date of issue

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2010

### Mintage

Proof coin in presentation case only:

max. 6000 coins



### Coined and issued by

Federal Mint Swissmint

CH-3003 Bern

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Fax +41 (0)31 322 60 07

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

## Official commemorative coin 2010

## Centenary of Albert Anker's death



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Swissmint



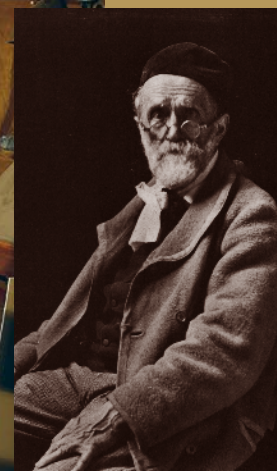


## Albert Anker – a gifted painter

Albert Anker ranks among the most important and most popular Swiss painters. He was born on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1831 at Ins in the Bernese Seeland region. After gaining his school-leaving certificate in 1851, he began a course of studies in theology in Bern, continuing at the University of Halle from autumn 1852 until spring 1854. In a letter to his father during this time, Anker expressed the desire to abandon his studies and become an artist. On receiving permission to terminate his theology training in 1854, he moved to Paris. There he studied under the Vaud classicist painter Charles Gleyre. Between 1855 and 1860, he attended the École Impériale et Spéciale des Beaux-Arts in the Seine metropolis.

Following the death of his father in 1860, Anker took over the house in Ins. At first, he only spent his summers there,

returning to Paris in the winter. His extensive body of paintings includes portraits of children, scenes with religious and historical figures, still lifes and landscapes. Albert Anker received many awards for his work and served as a member of the Swiss Federal Art Commission for a number of years. In 1890, he gave up his domicile in Paris and moved permanently to Ins. In 1900, Albert Anker was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Bern. He was forced to give up painting to a large degree as the result of a stroke affecting his right hand.



He died in Ins on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1910.

## Official commemorative coins

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