

Design: Hans Erni

The artist Hans Erni was born in Lucerne in 1909. After studying to become a survey technician and architectural draughtsman, he attended the Lucerne School of Applied Arts from 1927 – 1928 and then the Académie Julian in Paris. At the same time, he attended courses at the «Vereinigte Staatsschulen für freie und angewandte Kunst» in Berlin. From 1930 – 1933 he alternated between Lucerne and Paris where he worked under the pseudonym «françois grèques». His painting work was influenced by contacts with artists such as Arp, Brancusi, Calder, Kandinsky, Mondrian and Moore, but it was Picasso and Braque who were to have the most lasting effect on his artistic development.

Various spells abroad and study trips around the globe shape Erni's creative output. The artist's main work consists of countless paintings, frescoes, lithographs, etchings, mosaics and tapestries, as well as sculptures and ceramics. His posters have also made him well known among the general public. In addition, he has made a name for himself in the numismatic field with various high-relief medals. Over the decades, Hans Erni's art has been displayed at countless exhibitions in Switzerland and abroad and has received many prizes.



Characteristics

Effigy

«Pro Patria»

Artist

Hans Erni, Lucerne

Technical data

Alloy: Gold 0.900

Weight: 11.29 g

Diameter: 25 mm

Legal face value

50 Swiss francs

Date of issue

4th June 2009

Mintage

Proof coin in presentation case only:

max. 6000 coins



Coined and issued by

Federal Mint Swissmint

CH-3003 Bern

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www.swissmint.ch

Official commemorative coin 2009

100 years of Pro Patria



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Swissmint



Photo: Heinz Dieter Finck © ViaSfora

Cultural Routes of Switzerland
ViaSbrinz: Hältenplatte, Grimsel Pass

100 years of Pro Patria Swiss National Day Donation

In 1909, a small group of patriotic and charitably minded personalities led by the St. Gallen businessman Albert Schuster initiated the «Swiss National Day Donation». Its guiding idea was to mark the Swiss National Day with a collective act by the population. An annual collection was intended to increase solidarity in the country. The noble aim of the initiators was supported by the Federal Council from the very beginning. With the aid of the Post Office, a valuable fund-raising instrument was introduced in 1910, namely the National Day postcards and, from 1938, the National Day stamps (known as Pro Patria stamps since 1952). The charitable surcharge (carriage surcharge) on these specially created miniature works of art was earmarked for social and cultural works. In 1923, the 1st August emblem was created as a further fund-raising medium. In 1991, the association became a public foundation with the name «Pro Patria Schweizerische Bundesfeierspende» (Pro Patria Swiss National Day Donation). A network of volunteers carries out the collections. The money collected was used mainly to benefit needy groups within the population until well into the post-war years. With the steady growth of public and private social institutions, the focus shifted in the direction of culture. Today, Pro Patria mainly supports the rescue, preservation and upkeep of historic buildings and cultural landscapes. The main focus for the years from 2007 – 2009 is the national «Cultural Routes of Switzerland» project.

www.propatria.ch



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.