



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swissmint

Swiss Confederation

HEADS OR TAILS

Swissmint's coin magazine



EDITORIAL



Dear reader,

The Swiss national circus Knie has been captivating Swiss audiences for a hundred years. In 1919, the Knie circus dynasty made its dream of having its own tent come true and became known as the Swiss national circus. However, the company's roots go back much further. In 1803, the medical student Friedrich Knie is said to have had a romantic relationship with a trick horse rider. Although the romance quickly came to an end, the young man had found his passion for the circus and the foundations for a thriving business were laid. On the anniversary of the national circus, Swissmint is issuing a special edition coin: Switzerland's first coloured coin.

Its charm, graceful appearance and elegant stotting ensures the shy deer a top place in the popularity ratings of native wild animals. The deer is the motif of the 2019 bimetallic coin, the first in the three-part "Swiss forest animals" series. The Blümlisalp paddle steamer was due to be scrapped in 1971 but, thanks to a private initiative, the former flagship was renovated and has been back in regular service on Lake Thun since 1992. The "Blümlisalp" steamboat silver coin is the last issue in Swissmint's three-part "Swiss steamships" series.

The three new commemorative coins will be issued on 24 January 2019. The different versions of this year's Swiss annual circulation coin sets will be released on the same day. Alongside the popular classic "brilliant uncirculated" and "proof" versions, the birthday coin set and the much sought-after baby coin set are also available. However, as usual, the Christmas coin set will not be issued until the autumn. More information, for example on Swissmint's new sales and marketing manager, ordering, allocation and more can be found on the last page of the magazine.

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

Marius G. Haldimann
Director

CONTENTS

Editorial	2
100 years of Circus Knie	3
The national circus - part of Switzerland's cultural heritage	
"Blümlisalp" steamboat	6
Saved from the scrapyard	
Roe deer	8
Common yet shy	
2019 coin sets	10
New sales and marketing manager	12
Sales start	12
How are very limited edition products allocated?	12
When can I receive a discount on my order?	12
Outlook on other issues	12
Imprint	12

Diary – We look forward to meeting you

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

1 to 3 February 2019	World Money Fair, Estrel Convention Center, Berlin
9 February 2019	Basler Münzenmesse, Congress Center, Basel
2 and 3 March 2019	Numismata Munich, MOC Veranstaltungszentrum, Munich
18 May 2019	Münzenbörse BERNA, BERNEXPO Convention Centre, Bern

100 YEARS OF CIRCUS KNIE

The national circus – part of Switzerland's cultural heritage

The Swiss national circus is now 100 years old but shows no sign of ageing. It may have acquired a beautiful patina over the decades but it is anything but dusty and old. Always in step with the times and with its finger on the pulse of the public, Circus Knie has been a guarantee for the highest standards in circus arts since 1919. To celebrate its 100th anniversary, Swissmint is issuing a silver 20-franc commemorative coin which uses colour printing for the first time.

The historical roots of the Swiss national circus Knie actually go back much further: in 1803, the medical student Friedrich Knie fell in love with a trick horse rider in Innsbruck, quit his studies, joined the group of artists and thus founded the Knie circus dynasty. As one of Europe's best-known tightrope walking families, Friedrich Knie and his descendants travelled mostly around the German-speaking countries.

From the Knie arena to circus tent

In around 1900, tent circuses became popular and replaced the smaller groups of artists which were mainly made up of combined extended family members. The fourth generation with Friedrich, Karl, Rudolf and Eugen also recognised that changing times would make the economic survival of its open air area difficult and meant the public expected a new form of entertainment. Plans were made for a tent circus but the brothers had not anticipated their mother's opposition; she had a watchful eye on the family's fortunes following hard financial times. She was not willing to pay a penny for such newfangled purchases. After the First World War, the four brothers were able to get their way and bought a tent on credit. On 14 June 1919, they celebrated their first show in the 3000 seater big top (circus tent) on the Schützenmatte in Bern. The opening show was an immense success and drew huge crowds. The fascination created by this new tent circus spread like wildfire. They were already able to pay off the big top in full just a few months after the new business had started. The brothers' daring yet ground-breaking idea had paid off and laid the foundation of one of the world's best known and most significant circus companies.

Emerging strengthened from the crisis

The rise of the Knie family and its business seemed to have no end. Why would they have needed to worry? As ex-tightrope walkers, they were used to taking risks at lofty heights every now and then, and then, with their feet back on safe ground, they would exemplify modesty and down-to-earthness. The risk they had taken in abandoning their small open air arena in favour of a large, weatherproof big top had paid off. The public came to the tent in their droves and were fascinated by the opulently staged programmes in the circus ring. In 1935, the "India" mime performance was intended to charm the visitors and set new standards – with over 50 yogis, snake charmers, acrobats and craftsmen from India and Ceylon. The public stayed away and the lack of takings made a deep hole in the coffers. But mutual family support, strong will and visionary foresight meant the Knie family was able to come out of the difficult economic situation stronger than before. The company was then able to prosper despite the turmoil of the Second World War. Circus Knie reinforced its





Photo: Circus Knie

international reputation with various guest shows abroad. In the 1970s, the Knie family chanced a new genre and brought different stage performers to the circus ring: the initial experiment with clowns, mime acts and cabaret artists, such as Dimitri and Emil, generated storms of enthusiasm, sold-out tents and received attention and admiration far beyond the circus world. The Knie family also showed intuition for circus innovations in the 1980s and 1990s, for example with the commitment of the Chinese national circus (1984), Moscow State Circus (1985), Mummenschanz (1988) and Cirque du Soleil (1992).

Awareness of its historical legacy, feeling for the zeitgeist

Now run by the seventh generation, the Swiss national circus is an SME with over 200 employees. From the outset, the Knie family has known to take the public and its needs and demands seriously, to recognise trends early and integrate them in their programme which changes each year. At the same time, they know not to betray the traditions of the family business, with its worldwide influence, and the circus arts. They are fully aware of their own heritage and yet are not afraid to embrace innovative developments. In all its experiments and innovations, Circus Knie has always stood for the best in circus arts and maintaining close ties and proximity to its faithful Swiss audiences – with the Knie family's performances as the stable heart of each year's programme. In the era of social networking and pronounced individuality, the circus offers a communal experience and a space in which to project a trip into carefree childhood times, characterised by the lightness of being. Even though global sensations are only a click away, Circus Knie's live experience is real and authentic. Just like in the early days – 100 years ago.

Text: Circus Knie

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

COMMEMORATIVE COIN "CIRCUS KNIE"



Proof

Face value: 20 Swiss francs
Alloy: silver 0.835
Weight: 20g
Diameter: 33mm

Mintage: 5,000 units

Design: Remo Mascherini, Flamatt

Issue date: 24 January 2019
Sales period: until 23 January 2022 or while stocks last

*This issue **is not included in the subscription**. It has to be ordered separately. The quantity which can be ordered is limited to five units per customer or delivery address.*



Proof with certificate of authenticity

"BLÜMLISALP" STEAMBOAT

Saved from the scrapyard

When the United Steam Navigation Company for Lakes Thun and Brienz ordered a new double-deck saloon steamer in 1905, it envisioned a steamboat that would surpass all other ships on both lakes in terms of size, performance and elegance. Even today, the venerable lady from the Belle Époque combines state-of-the-art technology, stylish ambience and ultimate comfort. The "Blümlisalp" steamboat is the last issue in Swissmint's three-part historical steamships series.

In March 1905, the then "United Steam Navigation Company for Lakes Thun and Brienz" ordered a new paddlewheel steamer from Escher Wyss & Cie. in Zurich which was to operate on Lake Thun. Barely a year later, the boat launched on 13 February 1906. On 31 July 1906, "full steam ahead" was called as she embarked on her maiden voyage. The steamer, was built according to the latest advances in shipbuilding at the time. She is 63.4m long, 13.3m wide and has space for 750 passengers. The "Blümlisalp" has an inclined 650 HP two-cylinder hot-steam condensing compound engine.

For decades, the "Blümlisalp" was the largest and most luxurious saloon steamer on Lake Thun. It faced increased competition in the mid-50s when the first large motorboats came into operation. On 1 August 1971, the "Blümlisalp" was the last paddle steamer on Lake Thun to be decommissioned and only narrowly escaped the scrapyard. She then spent the next 20 years out of service in the Kander Delta. Thanks to a private initiative, it was possible to save the "Blümlisalp" and return

her to working order. After more than two years of renovation, her second maiden voyage came on 22 May 1992. The "Blümlisalp" has been back in regular service as the BLS fleet's flagship since then. Vaporama cooperative steamboat enthusiasts collected CHF 6.5 million in donations to support this. On the saloon steamer's 100th birthday and 14 years after its successful rescue, renovation was needed. At the end of 2012, the Vaporama cooperative entrusted the operator BLS AG with the "Blümlisalp" which it had obtained in 1989 for the symbolic price of CHF 1.

Source: BLS AG, Wikipedia

Prize draw for tickets for Lakes Thun and Brienz day passes

We are giving away 5 x 2 first class day tickets worth CHF 102. To take part in the prize draw, please send an email entitled "Lake Thun" by 28 February 2019 to info@swissmint.ch. Remember to include your address, telephone number and email address. Good luck!

DESIGN: UELI COLOMBI



Marine artist Ueli Colombi was born in Thun in 1940. Even as a schoolboy he was fascinated by ships. After training to be a sailor with Schweiz. Reederei AG in Basel, he completed an apprenticeship as a draughtsman and then took a degree course at the technical university to become an architect. After his degree, Colombi worked in Vancouver (Canada) for several years as an architect, then returned to Switzerland to continue in the same profession. It is no surprise that his projects included the restoration of steamboats. At some point, he began to create stone lithographs of Swiss steamboats. He has been a full-time artist since 2005.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

COMMEMORATIVE COIN "BLÜMLISALP" STEAMBOAT



Uncirculated

Face value: 20 Swiss francs
Alloy: silver 0.835
Weight: 20g
Diameter: 33mm

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: Ueli Colombi, Merligen

Issue date: 24 January 2019
Sales period: until 23 January 2022 or
while stocks last



Folder



Proof with certificate
of authenticity



Variation "signed" with
additional a certificate from
the artist



ROE DEER

Common yet shy

The German comedian Heinz Erhardt once joked: "A deer jumps high, a deer jumps far, why not, it has plenty of time." But when a deer jumps high and far, it is usually fleeing and has no time to lose. This is how most of us know the deer. A very shy animal which, at the slightest smell of danger, flees bolting high and far. Which is why watching deer grazing calmly is always a remarkable experience. The deer is the motif of the first bimetallic coin in the three-part "Swiss forest animals" series.

The European roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) is the most common and smallest species of deer in Europe. As a Capreolinae, or New World deer, it is closer related to the reindeer, moose and American white-tailed deer than the red deer which is also native to central Europe. Roe deer are widespread in Switzerland, especially in the Mittelland and the foothills of the Alps. The nocturnal animal usually inhabit the edges of woodland and clearings, but increasingly also open farmland. Startled roe deer usually seek cover in undergrowth with a few quick jumps. They are said to be of the so-called "Schlüpfertypus" (i.e. that can slip away easily) which means their body shape is adapted to life in bushes and undergrowth-rich living spaces. Adult roe deer measure between 93cm and 140cm and have a shoulder height of between 54cm and 84cm. They weigh between 11kg and 34kg depending on their nutritional state. Roe-

bucks have antlers, whereas female roe deer, or doe, do not. The mating season of the roe deer is in summer. On pleasant summer evenings, you can sometimes hear the "bellowing" of the roe-bucks from afar, with which they assert their claim on their territory. In spring, the doe usually give birth to two fawns which they hide in tall grass or bushes. A roe deer's coat is reddish brown in summer and grey-brown in winter. The fawns have speckled fur as camouflage. The roe deer's distinguishing feature is the white patch on their rumps, known in some countries as the mirror. During the summer period, roe deer tend to live alone or in small groups, made up of a doe and her fawns, and in winter they form small groups of three to four animals. As ruminants, roe deer are exclusively herbivores, preferring high-energy and nutrient-rich plants.

Source: Wikipedia

DESIGN: NAOMI GIEWALD



Naomi Andrea Giewald was born in 1966 in Thal. After prematurely ending her studies as a kindergarten teacher, she took the preliminary course at the School of Design in St. Gallen and then completed a three-year apprenticeship as a textile printing designer at Alfatrend AG in Horn obtaining a Federal VET Diploma and distinction. She then worked for many years at the textile design company Ultramarin AG, with industrial photographers and at an advertising agency. Naomi Giewald has been running her own studio as a graphic artist and designer since 2004. Her repertoire includes corporate design, textile printing, signage and illustrations. In 2013, she created illustrations for four Swiss Post AG stamps on the theme of Swiss wildlife. The emotional messages in her images and artwork play an important role in bringing significance to the products. Further information can be found at grafik-atelier.ch

PRODUCT INFORMATION

COMMEMORATIVE COIN "ROE DEER"



Uncirculated

Face value: 10 Swiss francs
Alloy: Bimetal (copper-nickel and aluminium-bronze)
Weight: 15g
Diameter: 33mm

Mintage
Uncirculated: 28,000 units, of which
– in a folder: 1,000 units
– in coin set: 8,000 units
Proof: 5,500 units, of which
– signed: 250 units
(certificate from the artist)
– in coin set: 2,500 units

Design: Naomi Giewald, St. Gallen

Issue date: 24 January 2019

Selling period: up to 23 January 2022 or while stocks last



Folder



Proof with certificate of authenticity



Variation "signed" with additional a certificate from the artist



PRODUCT INFORMATION

2019 CLASSIC COIN SET *Brilliant uncirculated with roe deer bimetall coin*



Brilliant uncirculated

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

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 roe deer bimetall coin*



Proof

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

Mintage: 2,500 units

Issue date: 24 January 2019
Sales period: until 23 January 2022
or while stocks last



PRODUCT 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
Selling period: up to 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
Selling period: up to 31 December 2021
or while stocks last



SWISSMINT-NEWS

New sales and marketing manager

Our previous commercial manager Urs Liechti left Swissmint to take on a new professional challenge. We are pleased to present our new sales and marketing manager, Mr Christoph Tanner. Mr Tanner completed his studies in business administration at the school of economics and business administration (HWV) in Bern and has worked in the consumer goods and commodities sector. His main focus areas were procurement, marketing, client relations and developing new distribution channels. We are convinced that Mr Tanner's appointment means we have found a manager who is able to support us actively in view of the re-orientation of numismatic products. He began his new role on 1 November 2018.

Sales start

The sales start is on the day of issue, 24 January 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.

How are very limited edition products allocated?

Certain products such as trial mintings and commemorative coins in proof quality with the certificate of the artist are only available in very limited quantities. This means demand greatly exceeds supply. Sales per customer are therefore limited so that as many people can be served as possible. No reservations can be accepted or taken into account. Small quantities are made available online via the Swissmint shop and by telephone via our customer service team. The remaining stock is distributed by drawing lots. All emails and order forms we receive between the time the customer receives the customer magazine and the issue date will be entered into the draw.

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.

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

* no volume discount on Proof coins with artist certificate

2019 Coin Programme

9 Mai 2019	"50th anniversary of Apollo 11 moon landing" silver coin "100 years of the crocodile locomotive" gold coin
12 September 2019	"Furka Pass" silver coin 2019 Christmas coin set Trial minting of the "100 years of Circus Knie" commemorative coin



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swissmint

Swiss Confederation



Published by

Federal Mint
Swissmint
Bernstrasse 28
CH-3003 Bern
Tel. +41 58 4 800 800
Fax +41 58 462 60 07
www.swissmint.ch
www.swissmintshop.ch
www.facebook.com/swissmint

Distribution:

FOBL, Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics, CH-3003 Bern
www.bundespublikationen.admin.ch
No 603.000.1/19Eng