

HELVETICA 1999

The commemorative coin «500th anniversary of the battle at Dornach»

The obverse shows a German Imperial Eagle pierced by a sword, and surrounded by ten squares showing small Swiss crosses. Above is the name «DORNACH» and below, the years «1499 • 1999». The reverse shows the field symbol of the Swiss troops: a white cross, applied to a red background. The top left shows the legal tender value of the coin in two lines reading «20 FR», and below,

the year 1999. The words
«CONFOEDERATIO ~ HELVETICA»
surround the coin.



Characteristics

Model

«500th anniversary of the battle
at Dornach»

Artist

Franz Eggenschwiler, Eriswil

Technical Data

Alloy: Silver 0,835

Weight: 20 g

Diameter: 33 mm

Legal tender value

CHF 20.—

Date of issue

25th June 1999

Mintage

Standard coinage, uncirculated:

85 000 pieces

Proof coin in presentation case:

11 000 pieces

Coinage

'swissmint'

Official Mint of the Swiss

Confederation

Responsible for the issue:

'swissmint'

Tel. +41 (0)31 - 322 60 68 (marketing)

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**500th
anniversary of
the battle at
Dornach**



Official Swiss
commemorative
coins



HELVETICA – Official Swiss commemorative coins

The Swiss Confederation has been issuing commemorative coins on topical subjects since 1936. The official name of this series of coins is HELVETICA. These coins feature the work of distinguished artists. In co-operation with 'swissmint', the Federal Office of Culture organises design competitions for these coins, or commissions individual orders.

The net profit from the sale of the commemorative coins is allocated to support for Swiss cultural projects.

500th anniversary of the battle at Dornach



22nd July 1499

The Swabian war of 1499, in which the Confederation of Ten Cantons and the people of Graubünden were repeatedly victorious over the troops of King Maximilian and the Swabian League at the battles of Hard, Schwaderloh, Frastanz and Calven, had reached its sixth month. The aim of the King's new offensive, however, was to subdue the «coarse peasants». Solothurn - threatened by this - called upon the Confederates to save the outposts near Dornach. Without waiting for reinforcements from Central Switzerland, the troops of Solothurn, Bern and Zurich attacked the King's army, leading to a bitter fight. And only when the armies from Lucerne and Zug, having hurried to assistance after a strenuous march, burst from the forest with «shouting and horns», did the tide of war turn. This new and severe defeat demoralised the Swabian League, and the King declared peace in Basel on 22nd September 1499. However, it was only 150 years later, as part of the Westphalian declaration of peace, that the Confederation received signed and sealed confirmation of what they had fought for in the Swabian War: «plena libertas» or «full freedom».

The artist

The artist Franz Eggenschwiler was born in Solothurn on 9th December 1930. After his primary and secondary education in Biberist, he trained as a painter on glass. He attended the School of Applied Arts in Bern, and finally the Max von Mühlenen School of Art. Since 1981, he has been Professor of Drawing and Graphic Arts at the State Academy of Art in Düsseldorf (Germany). He has received numerous awards and has been widely exhibited in Switzerland and abroad: 1963/64 Swiss Federal Bursary for applied art; 1971: Encouragement prize by the Canton of Solothurn; 1980: Art prize by the Canton of Solothurn; 1980/81: Stipend from the German Academic Exchange Department in Berlin. Franz Eggenschwiler is active in various areas (iron sculptures, sculpture of objects, jewellery, drawing, painting, print graphics and painting on glass).