



STATEMENT ON COIN ALTERATION

As the organization representing the world's leading coin manufacturers and their shared interests, the Mint Directors Conference ("MDC") wishes to make the public aware of the unauthorized altering of legal tender coins originally issued by state mints and their resale.

The colouring or plating of such coins by parties other than their original manufacturers and their marketing as collectibles may be an infringement of the intellectual property rights of issuing mints. Further, altering or defacing a coin can invalidate that coin's legal tender status.

Coin collectors should be aware that they may no longer be buying legal tender coins when purchasing such altered products and that the price paid for such products therefore can greatly exceed its true collectible value. As well, the purchase of unauthorized altered coins helps undermine the public mission of all MDC members who are directed by their national governments to preserve and celebrate the cultural identity of their home countries through coins, which honour themes of national importance through a high standard of design and manufacturing quality.

Prior to altering coins withdrawn as legal tender, the intellectual property rights vested in the designs must be clarified with the related Minting authority.

The public is encouraged to support this MDC position by purchasing only authorized, mint-issued coins and reporting any products that appear to have been altered without the permission of the original manufacturer.

The MDC stands united against the unauthorized alteration of coins issued by its members and those who seek to profit from their sale. MDC members will therefore take action according to the means available within their respective jurisdiction against those engaged in this inappropriate practice.

For questions on identifying such coins or to report suspicious products, please contact your National Mint representative at info@swissmint.ch.