Focus on stamps
The Collector’s Magazine

Sustainability
+
150 years Rigi Railways
+ Endangered national wildlife
+ Summer Olympic Games
+ much more
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for all “Focus on stamps” readers

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SPECIAL OFFER
for all “Focus on stamps” readers
Dear Reader

Being able to tell a story is a vital part of communication. Good stories move the audience, inspire them and take them on a journey. For around five years, part of my daily work has involved planning, conceptualizing and implementing communication measures for stamps and philately – in other words, telling stories. I am extremely fortunate that so much fascinating information and so many exciting topics are behind the stamps and their designs. Once again, the latest stamp issue contains many inspiring stories for you.

A good story often has a special setting. The Rigi – one of Switzerland’s leading tourist destinations and the Queen of the Mountains – definitely meets that criterion. The magnificent views over the surrounding peaks and Lake Lucerne, featured on the special stamp marking the 150th anniversary of the Rigi Railways, are quite breathtaking.

A good story usually has heroes. The Summer Olympic Games 2020 had to be postponed by a year due to coronavirus. The special stamp now sets the mood for this forthcoming major event. Fingers crossed that the Swiss athletes go down in sporting history in Tokyo in summer 2021!

A good story is evocative. Whenever I think of summer, I recall wonderful days from my childhood. But I also long for new adventures and a sense of freedom, especially during the coronavirus pandemic. What emotions do our Summer stamps evoke in you?

Last but not least, a good story can be told in just a few words, even if the topic is extremely wide-ranging and multifaceted. This also applies to the Sustainability special stamp. The winning design, which emerged from a student competition, invites us to search for words in three languages and discover the stories and issues behind them.

Allow yourself to be moved, inspired and taken on a journey by the stories on the following pages. I really hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Karin Weber
Communication Project Manager & Conceptualist
## Focus on stamps publication details 2/2021

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They can be ordered by telephone (+41 848 66 55 44) or by e-mail (stamps@swisspost.ch). They are also available at swisspost.ch/gtc-phila.

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### Event calendar

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<td>Paris, FR</td>
<td>75th Salon Philatélique d’Automne</td>
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The right to make updates and changes is reserved.

The latest version can always be found at swisspost.ch/stamps.

Key: I: Issue date for stamps/postal stationery
F: Focus on stamps (stamp magazine) TF/E: Trade fair/exhibition
S5+: Sales stand with cancellation service

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### Issuing programme

**Issue date:** 9 September 2021 / **Featured in:** Focus on stamps 3/2021

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<td>Special sheet with surcharge&lt;br&gt;Helvetia 2022 World Stamp Exhibition</td>
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Subject to change. As at March 2021.
Special products

From white stork to domestic cat: animal stamps in postcard size

50 picture postcards in the format of 11.5 x 17 x 4.2 cm, supplied in a beautifully designed pack. An absolute must for all animal and stamp lovers.

<table>
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<th>Mint</th>
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<th>Price in CHF</th>
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<td>A345 911</td>
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<td>39.00</td>
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Basel Dove book

To mark the 175th anniversary of the "Basel Dove", an illustrated book of the same name by Jean-Paul Bach is being published. Not only does it contain the biography of the architect Melchior Berri, it’s also packed with images and fascinating information on 400 letters franked with the Basel Dove, transcriptions, stamp impressions and much more besides. The book was awarded a gold medal.

<table>
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<td>The books and special sheets are not supplied with the subscription.</td>
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Sustainability

A major issue on a small format. Encompassing the environment, economy, social affairs and art, sustainability is an extremely diverse and multifaceted topic. All of this can be discovered in a playful way on the new special stamp “Sustainability”.

The special stamp is the result of a design competition organized by Swiss Post in conjunction with the Bern University of the Arts.

22 highly dedicated students in their second year of the Visual Communication course were given the task of presenting various dimensions of sustainability in a positive and appealing way in form of a stamp design. After learning and testing various creative techniques, they worked in groups to create extensive visual worlds. All the students then continued the work individually, with close support from their lecturers. The result were 22 varied, astonishing and highly original designs, from which the best eight were selected and presented to the Stamp commission in the final round.

Carole Kiechl’s design was declared the winning design. The stamp is designed to encourage people to complete the word search puzzle – both before sending and after receiving letters. As well as the already circled word “HELVETIA” and the face value “100”, there are 24 other German, French and Italian words related to sustainability to be found. How many can you find?

Find out more about how designer Carole Kiechl created the stamp.

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<td>Block of four</td>
<td>A 355 160</td>
<td>A 355 560</td>
<td>4.00</td>
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<td>Sheet of 16 stamps</td>
<td>A 355 111</td>
<td>A 355 511</td>
<td>16.00</td>
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<td>Covers</td>
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<td>Additional product</td>
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<td>A 355 911</td>
<td>6.00</td>
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The picture postcards are not supplied with the subscription.
The creative process
Photo: Andreas Netthoevel

Briefing the students at the Bern University of the Arts
Photo: Andreas Netthoevel

Carole Kiechl presents her design to the jury
Photo: Andreas Netthoevel

Technical information

| Sales                              | Philately: from 29.4.2021 to 30.6.2022 or while stocks last
|                                   | Branches: from 6.5.2021 to 30.6.2022 or while stocks last
| Validity                          | Unlimited from 6.5.2021
| Printing                          | Offset, 4-colour; Gutenberg AG, Schaan, Principality of Liechtenstein
| Sizes                             | Stamp: 32.5 x 40 mm
|                                   | Sheet: 181 x 190 mm (4 rows of 4 stamps)
| Paper                             | Special paper, grs Crash Carn Max, PVA-gummed, 120 gm²
| Perforation                       | 13½
| Design                            | Carole Kiechl, Zurich

Single stamp on first-day cover C6
Sustainability

The following seven designs by students at the Bern University of the Arts also made it through to the final round of selection – four of them are available as a set of picture postcards:

Adriana Fabbricatore
The design plays with the concept of a graph to symbolize global warming.
Available as a picture postcard in the set of four.

Anais Boogman
The ice cube symbolizes Earth and the fact that it is slowly melting due to global warming.
Available as a picture postcard in the set of four.

Hannah Boldt
The circular area of the scratch-off ink represents our planet. The act of scratching off the ink illustrates how our actions impact the planet.
Available as a picture postcard in the set of four.

Aaron Aebi
The sphere highlights the global urgency of the topic of sustainability. The boat, made of the sustainable material wood, alludes to the expression “we’re all in the same boat”.
Available as a picture postcard in the set of four.

Matthieu Dillier
The design symbolically depicts the various dimensions of sustainability.

Mylene Martz
The image conveys the paradox between the beauty of water and the irresponsible way in which the oceans are being filled with plastic.

Charlotte Burkhardt
Sustainability is reduced to the colour green. The neon effect is emblematic of a green Switzerland. HELVETIA and the face value of 100 appear in embossed printing.
Sustainability

For the benefit of the environment and society – sustainability at Swiss Post: swisspost.ch/sustainability
EUROPA – Endangered national wildlife

The woodland brown and the scarce large blue – two butterflies that could hardly be more different. But they do have one thing in common: both are classified as endangered species in Switzerland.

Choose the most beautiful stamp
PostEurop is again holding an online vote this year – make sure to take part! The vote will be open from 9 May to 9 September 2021. Full details can be found at posteurop.org/europa.

The topic selected by PostEurop for this year’s EUROPA stamps is “Endangered national wildlife.” Switzerland’s contribution was produced by the highly dedicated scientific illustrator Nina Schwarz from Bern. The designs are of the woodland brown (Lopinga achine) and the scarce large blue (Phengaris teleius) – because insects are also classified as wild animals. The illustrations seek to highlight the delicate nature of these animals through a highly detailed and lifelike style.

The meticulous presentation and vibrant background colours aim to catch the eye and emphasize the fact that the animals are under threat. Pro Natura provided invaluable expert advice during the creative process.
Tips for a butterfly-friendly garden

Butterflies need diversity. Make sure you plant mainly indigenous shrubs, wild flowers and meadow herbs and follow organic principles to cultivate your garden. Lawns full of flowers, areas with tall grass and a corner for nettles and thistles provide sources of food and a place of refuge for many caterpillars and butterflies.

Finally, being a bit lazy about working in the garden is actually very helpful: piles of branches, dry shrubs and infrequently mowed lawns provide vital habitats.

Further details and tips on creating a butterfly-friendly balcony can be found at: pronatura.ch/de/schmetterlingsfreundliche-gaerten
The idea was doggedly pursued by its creator Niklaus Riggenbach, the engineer who designed the railway. After patenting his invention of running trains up inclines using a cogwheel system in France in 1863, more and more people put faith in his plan. On 21 May 1871, the Vitznau–Rigi Railway was officially opened as Europe’s first mountain railway.

Traction unit no.1, depicted in red, is typical of Rigi Railways’ rolling stock and is travelling on the anniversary route. The designers from “Büro Nord” in Küssnacht am Rigi were able to gain inspiration for their design literally by looking out of the window.

The special stamp created to mark the 150th anniversary shows the famous view from the Rigi over Lake Lucerne and the magnificent peaks of Stanserhorn, Bürgenstock and Pilatus.

The Rigi is one of Switzerland’s leading tourist attractions. Located in the center of the country, the Queen of the Mountains can be reached by several railways nowadays. Europe’s first mountain railway opened 150 years ago.
Special offer for Focus on stamps readers:

30 percent discount on Rigi 1-day travelpass (without reduced-fare pass) for one adult and one accompanying person.

Valid from 25 March to 31 October 2021; offer cannot be used cumulatively.

Present the coupon at any RIGI BAHNEN AG valley station, or redeem it online at rigi.ch/tickets using the following promo code: Post2021
Evoking a summer atmosphere through simple items – that was the design brief given to three artists for these special stamps. “Sunglasses”, “Drink”, “Ice cream” and “Watermelon”, some classic elements of summer, were picked as the themes. Swiss Post employees then voted on the three proposed sets of designs.

The designer Patrick Oberholzer from Winterthur emerged as the winner. To make the designs as eye-catching as possible, he used a warm, powerful and fresh range of colours with a clear use of form. Despite the small format, there’s plenty to discover in his designs: the designs are enriched by the use of playful features, such as a fruity silhouette for the drink, a touch of Swissness reflected in the sunglasses and sweet decorations on the cone. For the typographical elements, Oberholzer opted for a geometrically structured font, which is incorporated into the illustrations in a readable and harmonious way with its rounded zeros and reduced forms.

A fresh take on stamps: everyone will warm to these amusing designs. After all, who doesn’t want to be able to send some summer vibes by mail?
Three questions for Patrick Oberholzer, the designer of the Summer stamps

Which of the four designs do you identify with most?
On hot days, I most enjoy a chilled, home-made ice tea. So, for that reason, I’d say the drink.

What do you love most about summer?
The long days! All the sunshine means you’ve got more energy in the evenings, which allows you to enjoy the season all the more. Summer months seem to last longer than winter months.

What’s your favourite time of year?
The time between spring and summer – when nature is at its greenest, it’s warmer but not scorching, and being outdoors is pleasant.
Looking ahead to the Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, Swiss Post has created a special stamp in conjunction with Swiss Olympic. The stamp aims to put the Swiss public in the mood for the major sporting event in Japan.

On 23 July 2021, the long wait for the Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo will finally be over: over 100 elite Swiss athletes are set to parade around the Olympic Stadium during the opening ceremony in Japan’s capital and then compete for places on the podium until 8 August.

The major event is being held a year later than scheduled, after the global spread of coronavirus forced the organizers to postpone the Games. But that only makes the anticipation of “Tokyo 2020ne” even more exciting!

To get Switzerland in the right spirit for the 32nd Olympic Games, Swiss Post is issuing a special stamp in conjunction with Swiss Olympic, the National Olympic Committee.

It was created by Kasper Kobel, a graphic designer from Burgdorf, and shows a classic photo finish. The sheetlet embraces the Olympic values of “Excellence, Friendship and Respect” and features the landscape and writing of the host nation Japan.
Technical information

Sales
Philately: from 29.4.2021 to 30.6.2022, or while stocks last
Branches: from 6.5.2021 to 30.6.2022, or while stocks last

Validity
Unlimited from 6.5.2021

Printing
Offset, 4-colour; Cartor Security Printing, La Loupe, France

Sizes
Stamps: 33 x 28 mm
Sheet: 192 x 95 mm
2 rows of 4 stamps

Paper
White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation
13⅓:13½

Design
Kasper Kobel, Burgdorf

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<td>A5</td>
<td>A357 640</td>
<td>A357 650</td>
<td>1.80</td>
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125 years Touring Club Switzerland (TCS)

The Touring Club Switzerland is celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2021. The special stamp created to mark the occasion is adorned with various extraordinary features related to road safety.

Founded in Geneva in 1896 by 205 cycling enthusiasts, the TCS is now Switzerland’s biggest mobility club, with 1.5 million members, 23 sections and 1,700 employees. As well as providing services, advice, insurance and product recommendations for its members, the club also supports Switzerland’s best interests by promoting safe and sustainable mobility – whether by foot, bicycle, motorbike, car, public transport or future forms of mobility.

The stamp’s special shape depicts a road with a luminous yellow pedestrian crossing in the middle, all in perspective. The postage amount, shown in an upright position, represents protective railings. Even the stamp’s colour scheme symbolizes the theme of safety – it is based on the vests children wear on the way to school, with the background printed in silver to match. All of these features make the TCS’s special stamp a true homage to the topic of safety.

The Touring Club Switzerland is celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2021. The special stamp created to mark the occasion is adorned with various extraordinary features related to road safety.

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<td>A358 640</td>
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Branches: from 6.5.2021 to 30.6.2022 or while stocks last

Validity: Unlimited from 6.5.2021

Printing: Offset, 5-colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

Sizes: Stamp: Diamond-shaped with side length of 34 mm
Sheet: 157 x 157 mm
4 rows of 4 stamps

Paper: White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation: 13⅓

Design: Vito Noto, Lugano
The International Handball Federation (IHF), the global governing body for indoor, beach and wheelchair handball, was founded on 12 July 1946 and is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2021.

The special stamp illustrates the work done by the IHF from its headquarters in Basel to promote the dynamic, popular and exciting team sport.

The blue and gold of the court and the hand holding the ball pay tribute to the IHF’s colours, while a red and white handball goal can be seen in the background. A player jumping is shown in the spotlight, highlighting the sport’s dynamic nature. Originally played outdoors with teams of 11 versus 11, each side is now made up of seven players for the indoor game and four for the beach game.

In terms of the number of admission tickets sold, handball was the second biggest sport at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio. In 2018, beach handball made its Olympic debut at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires.

With six continental confederations and 209 national associations, the IHF is one of the biggest sporting federations recognized by the International Olympic Committee.

### Technical Information

**Sales**
- Philately: from 29.4.2021 to 30.6.2022 or while stocks last
- Branches: from 6.5.2021 to 30.6.2022 or while stocks last

**Validity**
- Unlimited from 6.5.2021

**Printing**
- Offset, 4-colour; Cartor Security Printing, La Loupe, France

**Sizes**
- Stamps: 33×28 mm
- Sheet: 194×140 mm (4 rows of 5 stamps)

**Paper**
- White stamp paper with optical brightener; matt gummed, 110 gm²

**Perforation**
- 13¼:13½

**Design**
- Martin Alexander Moser, Interlaken
**Pro Patria – Craftsmanship and cultural heritage**

This year’s Pro Patria stamps take us back to the Middle Ages and beyond. They feature a sculpture and a fresco in the process of being restored – a tribute to an increasingly important discipline when it comes to conserving artefacts of cultural history.

The conservation and restoration of cultural and historic artefacts require specialist knowledge. Restoration specialists focus on various disciplines, such as buildings, paintings, sculptures, graphic art, written documents and materials. They work closely with heritage conservation authorities and traditional craftspeople. The work carried out by these specialists is extremely demanding and entails tremendous responsibility, as every item undergoing restoration is unique. To gain a real understanding of what’s involved, Daniel Peter, the designer of the new special stamps, asked these experts for some support.

The design depicts the meticulous work performed using delicate tools on medieval works of unknown origin: there’s a Gothic wooden sculpture, presumably showing St Peter, and also a fresco from a church or chapel in the Alps. Both artefacts can be found at the Bern University of the Arts.

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**Technical information**

**Sales**
- Philately: from 29.4.2021 to 31.12.2021 or while stocks last
- Branches: from 6.5.2021 to 31.12.2021 or while stocks last

**Validity**
- Unlimited from 6.5.2021

**Printing**
- Offset, 5-colour, Cartor Security Printing, La Loupe, France

**Sizes**
- Stamps: 33 × 28 mm
- Sheet: 194 × 140 mm (4 rows of 5 stamps)

**Paper**
- White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²

**Perforation**
- 13⅜:13⅞

**Design**
- Daniel Peter, Bern
Our Online Library gives you total access to the latest philatelic news with our specialized newspapers such as « Timbres Magazine » or « L’Echo de la Timbrologie » as well as all our internationally recognized stamp catalogs.

With your computer, tablet or smartphone, manage your stamp collections at any time via our latest application « Philaplus en Ligne », the management tool for every collector, either specialist or amateur.

When the Internet serves the passion of philately!
Richard Schaefer, I imagine you’re probably the only boxing promoter who collects stamps? I’d imagine so. It does me good, because I can really switch off when I’m focusing on my stamp collection, and it keeps my mind busy. Boxing can be a nasty business – I often have to play hardball outside of the ring.

Do you have time for collecting stamps alongside running your business? When I was pursuing a career as a banker and then later organizing record-breaking fights between Mayweather and Oscar de la Hoya, there wasn’t much time for collecting. But now, during the pandemic, I’ve got lots of time on my hands. I’m incredibly grateful for philately. It’s the best hobby in the world! It brings me a huge amount of joy every day.

How did you start collecting stamps? My grandfather was a stamp collector, and he got my father and me into it. My father is a philately expert – he’s won major prizes for his collections and written several books.

When did you begin collecting seriously? As a teenager. I entered my first collection in an exhibition when I was 26 and won first prize. The theme was Swiss international mail from the 15th century to the early 20th century – it’s a unique collection to this day.

And now? My main interest is Swiss postal history. I find it fascinating to find out who’s written a letter, what kind it was – business correspondence, a love letter or an invoice – whether it was transported by ship, horse-drawn carriage, train or courier, who paid for it and how and how long its journey took.

Do you keep your collections in a safe? No, as soon as I’ve put a lovely collection together, I put it back into circulation and focus on a new theme. I enjoy the research, discovery, collecting and labelling, but not holding on to things.

You’ve lived in Los Angeles since 1987. Do you collect US stamps, too? No, I’ve remained loyal to Switzerland. It’s a really good way of keeping in touch with people in Switzerland. I often chat with other collectors and dealers and speak to my father two or three times a week.

Richard Schaefer (59) grew up in Muri bei Bern. He moved to Los Angeles 30 years ago and pursued a career as a banker within Bankverein and UBS. In 2002, he founded “Golden Boy Promotions” with world boxing champion Oscar de la Hoya and quickly rose to the top of the boxing business in the US. In 2014, Schaefer left “Golden Boy” and now runs his own promotion company called “Ringstar Sports”. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife and three sons.

You’re a leading promoter in US boxing, you’ve worked with world champions like Oscar de la Hoya and David Haye, and Floyd Mayweather is a good friend of yours. Do you talk about your hobby with them? Absolutely not! They’d probably think I was mad to be so interested in a tiny piece of paper and spend so much money on it! We talk about things that interest them – fast cars and boxing bouts. I keep the two worlds separate.

What’s your favourite stamp? The Basel Dove, obviously. The first colour stamp – an eternal classic.
Other products

**Colourful stamps**

Issue set with single stamps 2/2021

The single stamps and sets in the 2/2021 issue are displayed on a free A5 backing card and protected with cellophane wrapping.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item no.</th>
<th>Price in CHF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A361 150</td>
<td>13.45</td>
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Issue set with first-day covers (FDC) 2/2021

The first-day covers with single stamps and sets in the 2/2021 issue are combined in one free cover.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item no.</th>
<th>Price in CHF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A361 580</td>
<td>20.65</td>
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</table>

2020 year book

Representing a valuable record of our times, the year book presents the Swiss stamps and first-day cancellations for 2020, along with an exclusive black print, on over 100 pages in four languages (DE/FR/IT/EN). The “COVID-19 Solidarity” commemorative stamp is not included in the year book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item no.</th>
<th>Price in CHF</th>
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<tr>
<td>A333 830</td>
<td>69.00</td>
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2020 year set

All Swiss stamps for 2020, clearly laid out on four handy display cards with transparent protective sleeve. The “COVID-19 Solidarity” commemorative stamp is not included in the year set.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item no.</th>
<th>Price in CHF</th>
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<tr>
<td>A335 120</td>
<td>68.60</td>
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2020 year set with first-day covers (FDC)

All the year’s first-day covers – including the single stamps, sets or miniature sheets with the respective first-day cancellations.

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**2021 stamp catalogues**

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<td>A326 725</td>
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</table>

Zumstein

Switzerland/Liechtenstein/UN, Geneva 2021, German/French

Swiss stamp catalogue

Switzerland 2021, German/French

The stamp catalogues can be delivered in Switzerland and Liechtenstein only.

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**2021 stamp catalogues**

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<th>Item no.</th>
<th>Price in CHF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A326 787</td>
<td>27.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Official special edition products from the Federal Mint Swissmint

2021 Baby coin set
✓ with a fun bear medal
✓ contains all 2021 circulation coins
✓ to remember a child’s birth year
✓ in a colour illustrated cardboard slipcase
✓ for collecting, giving and making someone happy

2021 Birthday coin set
✓ with an attractive birthday cake medal
✓ contains all 2021 circulation coins
✓ a brilliant idea for a birthday present
✓ in a colour illustrated cardboard slipcase
✓ for collecting, giving and making someone happy

2021 Classic coin set
✓ with a 10-franc bimetal coin „Fox”
✓ contains all 2021 circulation coins
✓ exquisite minting craftsmanship
✓ in a colour illustrated cardboard slipcase
✓ for collecting, giving and making someone happy

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