

The personality on your banknote

Remember this man's picture.



The portrait on the front of the 20 franc banknote shows Arthur Honegger (1892–1955), one of this century's greatest composers. The broad-ranging work of this Swiss composer includes two operas, five symphonies, several orchestral works, various dramatic oratorios and a large body of

chamber music. In addition to his famous symphony for the steam locomotive "Pacific 231" (the elements on the reverse of the banknote refer to this work), Honegger wrote extensively in a lighter vein for the ballet, stage and film. The strict formalism and clarity of his musical idiom, with which he hoped to reach a very wide audience, is an important bridge between German and French speaking culture.

The design elements on your banknote

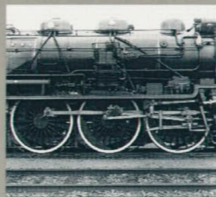
Get to know the musical side of your banknote.

Back



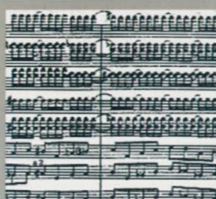
The orchestral works

The three trumpet valves symbolize the crucial role played by brass instruments in Honegger's orchestral works. Together with the locomotive wheel and compressor, the piano keyboard and the score, they evoke Honegger's famous composition about a locomotive.



"Pacific 231", a locomotive in music

With his symphonic work "Pacific 231", Honegger created a musical monument to this wonder of technology. The wheel symbolizes rhythm, power and motion, and the compressor stands for technology mastering power. The two elements conjure up the composition's recurrent themes of acceleration and deceleration.



The score

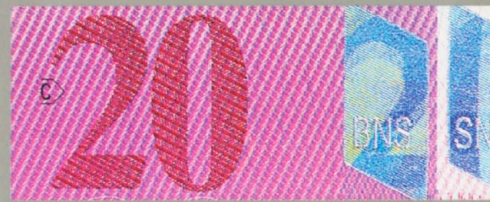
Typical parts of the score of "Pacific 231" are reproduced. The musical notation reflects an intense rhythmic texture and evokes both the composer as creator and the typical sound of "Pacific 231".



The work instrument

The piano is the composer's work instrument. Together with the trumpet valves, the piano keyboard represents two fundamental principles of Honegger's composition: rhythm as a vital, defining structure and harmony, which aims at immediate effect.

The new banknote. Easy to check.



SCHWEIZERISCHE NATIONALBANK
BANQUE NATIONALE SUISSE
BANCA NAZIONALE SVIZZERA ☒

Why issue new banknotes?

Counterfeiters have been around ever since money was first used. In order to prevent forgery of its banknotes, the Swiss National Bank provides them with special security features. The rapid development of printing and copying technologies, however, makes it necessary to update the security features used on the banknotes from time to time and thus to change the banknotes' appearance. That is why the Swiss National Bank has started issuing an entirely new series of banknotes, to be completed in 1998. The banknotes currently in circulation remain valid and will be gradually replaced by the new banknotes.

This leaflet presents the new 20 franc banknote, the second in the series, and describes five special security features. It also explains a few simple methods of verifying the genuineness of the banknote. The new series is dedicated to six famous Swiss whose contribution to cultural life extends beyond the borders of Switzerland. One of them is the distinguished composer Arthur Honegger, who is portrayed on the new 20 franc banknote.

The most important security features of your banknote

Discover your banknote in five different ways.



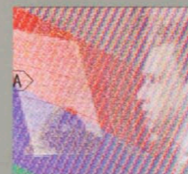
Test your banknote to find out whether it is genuine

Check the "20": it's all in there.

The 5 special security features on the new banknote are easy to find and to check. They are all on the front of the banknote and are concentrated on the denomination, the number 20. The features are positioned vertically one under the other. The most striking feature, the moving number, is situated in the middle of the banknote. Follow the arrows marked A, C, E and G on the left-hand side of the banknote and you will quickly find the other four features.

1

The magic number
The number 20 is printed in a shimmering, transparent colour. Depending on how the light falls on the banknote, the number appears and disappears. Tilt the banknote slowly towards the light until you can see the number.



2

The coloured number
The number 20 is clearly visible and its print is rough to the feel. If you rub the coloured number on a sheet of paper, it will leave distinct traces.



3

The moving number
In the middle of the banknote the number 20 is seen on a special silver foil known as Kinegram®. Tilt the banknote back and forth. The moving number appears to move vertically up and down the Kinegram®.



4

The chameleon number
The number 20 is printed with a special ink and changes colour depending on how the light falls on the banknote. Tilt the banknote slowly away from you or towards you: watch how the colour of the chameleon number changes.



5

The glittering number
The number 20 is metal-coated and partially covered with ink. Hold the banknote like a sheet of paper you want to read. When you move the banknote, the number has a silvery glitter.

