

Press RelationsP.O. Box
CH-8022 ZurichTelephone +41 1 631 31 11
Telefax +41 1 631 39 10**Press release**

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New 1000 franc banknote of the Swiss National Bank to be issued in April

Largest Swiss banknote features Basle historian of culture Jacob Burckhardt

On 1 April the Swiss National Bank will issue the largest banknote of its new series. The 1000 franc note, whose predominant colour is violet, is dedicated to the historian of art and culture, Jacob Burckhardt (1818-1897), of Basle. Burckhardt is widely regarded as one of the fathers of art history as a modern academic discipline. As a brilliant art historian and prophetic critic of his age he helped to shape our understanding of the development of modern culture.

The 1000 franc note shows the same structural elements and design as the other banknotes of the new series. The front, with the security features, is dominated by a portrait of Jacob Burckhardt. The illustrations on the back of the note bear a close relation to the most important historical epochs treated in his work, classical antiquity and the Italian Renaissance.

The 1000 franc banknote is already the fifth denomination of the new series. It incorporates the six familiar and easily recognisable security features, including the perforated number. Approximately six months after the date of issue, 60% of the current 1000 franc notes are expected to be replaced. The largest Swiss banknote continues to play an important part in cash transactions and is much used as a payment instrument. In terms of number, the 15 million notes account for a mere 6% of all outstanding banknotes while in terms of value they represent Sfr 15 billion, i.e. approximately half of total banknote circulation.

The last banknote of the new series will be the 100 franc note, to be issued in autumn 1998.

Swiss National Bank