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.
A message from the Swiss National Bank

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 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 contributions to cultural life extend beyond the borders of Switzerland. One of them is the distinguished composer Arthur Honegger, who is portrayed on the new 20 franc banknote.

Swiss National Bank

The most important security features of your banknote

Discover your banknote in five different ways.

1. The magic number

2. The coloured number

3. The moving number

4. The chameleon number

5. The glittering number

Test your banknote to find out whether it is genuine

Check the “20”:

it’s all in there.

1. The magic number

2. The coloured number

3. The moving number

4. The chameleon number

5. The glittering number

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