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# Official Communications

## The new 20-franc banknote

*This year the Swiss National Bank will complete the issue of the new banknote series. The 20-franc note will appear at the beginning of April and the 10-franc note probably in October. The new notes are, of course, devoted to eminent Swiss whose work in the fields of mathematics, natural sciences, medicine and architecture has been highly acclaimed at both national and international level. Thus, the Ticinese Francesco Borromini (1599–1667) figures on the 100-franc note (issued in 1976), the Bernese Albrecht von Haller (1708–1777) on the 500-franc note (issued in 1977), Auguste Forel from Vaud (1848–1931) on the 1,000-franc note (issued in 1978) and Konrad Gessner from Zurich (1516–1565) on the 50-franc note (also issued in 1978).*

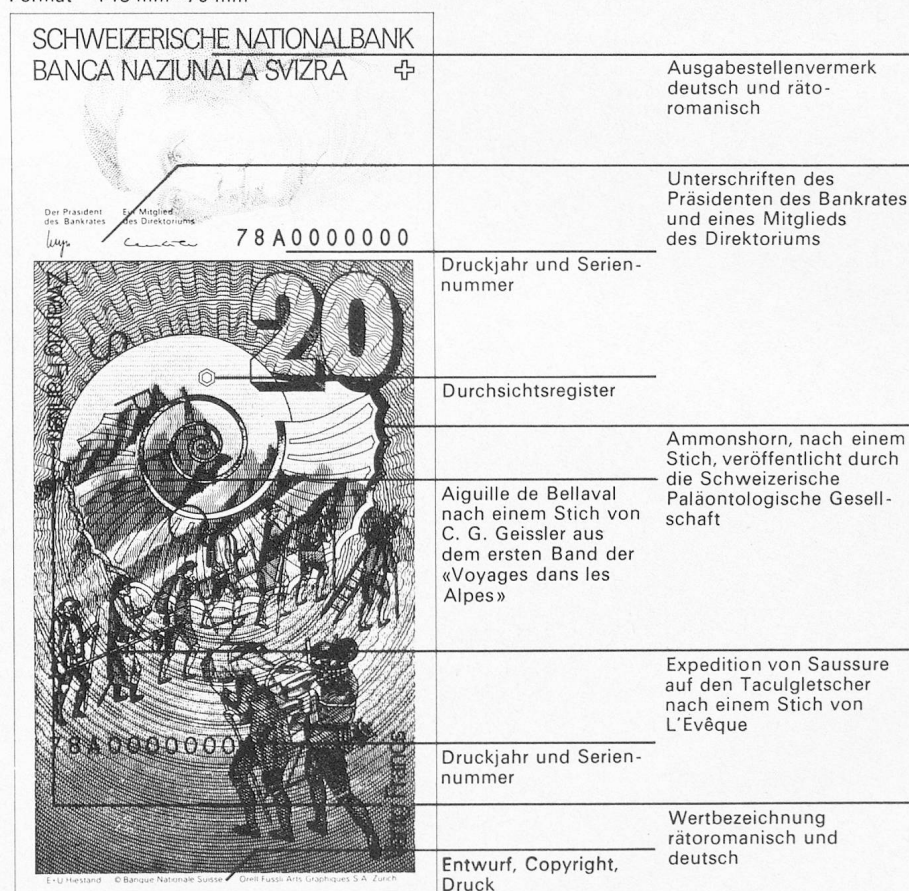
The new 20-franc note portrays the Genevese geologist, geophysicist and meteorologist **Horace-Bénédict de Saussure** (1740–1799). The de Saulxures – that was the family's original name – came from Lorraine; they were refugees from the religious wars who settled in Canton Vaud in the 16th century, adapting the spelling of their name. In 1635 an ancestor of Horace-Bénédict de Saussure became a citizen of Geneva. Since then the family has given Canton Geneva many famous scholars.

De Saussure was born in Conches (Canton Geneva) in 1740. Encouraged by his parents, he first

Format 148 mm × 70 mm



Format 148 mm × 70 mm



interested himself in botany. At the age of 18 he made the acquaintance of Albrecht von Haller who, as Director of the Bernese Salt Administration, was at that time in charge of the salt works at Roche. Under his influence de Saussure devoted himself entirely to botany. The main purpose of his first visit to Chamonix, where the Alpine world cast a spell on him, was apparently to collect plants for Haller.

From 1762 de Saussure taught philosophy and natural sciences at the Geneva Academy. His interest was concentrated more and more on geology and the exploration of the Alps, which he traversed in every direction for thirty years. His ascent of Mont Blanc in 1787 made an epoch in the history of both science and mountaineering. «Travels in the Alps», published in four volumes between 1779 and 1796, is his best-known work. It contains the results of his research, observations and experiences in the course of his expeditions. De Saussure was a member of the principal European academies and learned societies and one of the founders of the Geneva Arts Society. He died in that city in 1799.

The main theme on the **front** of the note is de Saussure's portrait, in blue gravure printing. On the left, also in gravure, is the hair-hygrometer which he invented. The polychrome ground in offset represents snow crystals, whose metamorphosis he studied.

The three motifs on the **back** of the 20-franc note evoke de Saussure's scientific expeditions in the Alps. The mountainous landscape, in offset, represents the Aiguille de Bellaval, situated on the south-west side of the Mont Blanc massif. It is reproduced from an engraving by C. G. Geissler which appears in the first volume of «Travels in the Alps». The group of climbers, in gravure printing, was inspired by an engraving by H. L'Evêque entitled «Monsieur de Saussure, his son and his guides arriving at the Tacul glacier on the Grand Géant where they spent 17 days in tents in July 1788». De Saussure's observations of fossils led him to recognize the marine origin of certain rocks. This reference to paleontology is symbolized by an ammonite, in offset, which forms the centre of a network of polychrome lines. The predominant colour on the back is blue.

## The Swiss abroad and unemployment insurance in Switzerland

Swiss abroad cannot take out voluntary unemployment insurance. However, if they are unemployed after returning to Switzerland, they are entitled to a daily allowance on certain conditions. In order that they may take advantage of the assistance available, they are advised to do two things:

- They should obtain, if possible while still abroad, the necessary papers concerning their employment, their training or their family circumstances, so that when they are back in Switzerland they can invoke the special arrangements referred to above (no privileges without proof!).

- If they are unemployed they should report immediately to the labour exchange at their new domicile in Switzerland (only then will their right to benefits begin). They are also advised, if possible, to make the necessary contacts before their return with a view to finding work in Switzerland.

The labour exchange will certify unemployment, will endeavour to find posts for the unemployed and will otherwise assist them, if need be. The daily allowance will be paid by an unemployment fund which the insured can, in principle, choose for himself.

The legal bases and other details are available at Swiss embassies and consulates.

*Federal Office for Industry, Crafts and Labour*

Schweiz  
Suisse  
Svizzera

Sonderpostmarken  
Timbres-poste spéciaux  
Francobolli speciali

EUROPA CEPT 1979

Ausgabetag  
Jour d'émission  
Giorno d'emissione

30. 4. 1979

Format  
Format  
Formato

28 x 33,1 mm



Historischer Briefkasten aus Basel  
Boîte aux lettres historique de Bâle  
Buca delle lettere storica di Basilea

Entwürfe  
Dessins  
Disegni

Klaus Oberli, Bern

Stahlstiche  
Gravures  
Incisioni

Max Müller, Bern



Alpine Relaisstation Jungfrau-Joch  
Station relais alpine du Jungfrau-Joch  
Ripetitore d'alta montagna dello Jungfrau-Joch

The import of foreign bank notes for the equivalent of more than 20000 Swiss Francs per person and quarter is no more prohibited since 24 January 1979.



## Free Admission of Gift Parcels

Gifts **not exceeding the total value of 100 Swiss francs** (i.e. the foreign retail value), sent by private persons residing abroad to private persons in Switzerland are exempt from import duties. Gift parcels must be clearly marked as such in the customs declarations and shipping documents.

For the below mentioned goods, contained in gift parcels, free admission is limited to the following maximum quantities, even if the total value is less than 100 Swiss francs:

Kind of goods:	Maximum duty free quantity:
Manufactured tobaccos	200 cigarettes <b>or</b> 250 gr pipe tobacco <b>or</b> 50 cigars
Alcoholic beverages:	
– up to 50 proof	1 liter
– over 50 proof	1/4 liter
Butter	500 grams

**Excluded from free admission** are goods, which with regard to their kind or

quantity cannot be considered as gifts, such as goods for storing or articles not usually meant for private use.

The importation of fresh and frozen beef, mutton, goat-meat, pork and horse-meat from any country as well as pork-products (except tinned pork) from Spain, Portugal and Africa is prohibited.

Under proviso of further import prohibitions depending on epidemics.

## Appeal to the old Citizens of Rougemont



The Commune of Rougemont is preparing to celebrate its 900th anniversary in 1980.

In order to do this in a worthy manner, we should like to appeal to all the old citizen families of our mountain Commune and to invite them to our celebration.

The 24 families Allamand, Bertholet Bouquet, Bovay, Breton, Buensoz, Cottier, Despland, Loup, Mange, Michet, Platel, Rairoux, Rossier, Saugy, Walther, Wehren and Yersin represent those resident at Rougemont around the year 1500. By means of telephone directories, we tried to find the addresses of members of these families within Switzerland. To all of them we sent a circular and a questionnaire.

To all our compatriots abroad, we appeal for immediate information to the «Secrétariat Municipal», 1838 Rougemont, Switzerland. Should you know anybody else whom we have not yet reached, we should be grateful for their addresses.

If you feel any ties with the homeland of your ancestors, we shall be very pleased to hear from you. Programme, information and application forms will be forwarded to you in due course.

With kind regards and au revoir

*The Organizing Committee:*

*René Saugy* *Charles-Ami Saugy*  
*Commune President* *Commune Clerk*

## National Council Elections – 21st October 1979

Dear Compatriots,

The Federal Act of 17th December 1976 on political rights, accepted by the Swiss people on 4th December 1977, provides that **the cantons shall send a complete set of voting papers to each elector not later than 10 days before election day**. For reasons connected with organization and printing it was necessary to fix a shorter time-limit than the three weeks prescribed in the case of referendums.

The Federal Council will circularize the Cantons about the National Council Elections, asking them to send the voting material for the Swiss abroad to the «communes of presence» in Switzerland as soon as possible.

**To be on the safe side, however, we would advise you, if possible, to plan your visit to Switzerland in such a way that you can cast your vote in your «commune of presence» or in your voting commune between 11th and 18th October 1979.**

Yours sincerely, Federal Chancellery

**Federal ballots 1979** 21st October, 2nd December

Schweiz  
Suisse  
Svizzera

### Pro Patria 1979

Schweizer Schlösser  
Châteaux suisses  
Castelli svizzeri

Ausgabetag  
Jour d'émission  
Giorno d'emissione  
25. 5. 1979

Oron

Spiez

Porrentruy

Rapperswil

Entwürfe  
Dessins  
Disegni

Anne Oertle, Winterthur

Format  
Format 33,4 x 28 mm  
Formato