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Official Communications

The new 500-franc-banknote

At the April 4, 1977 the Swiss National Bank (SNB) put the new 500-franc note into circulation. It is devoted to the Bernese doctor, naturalist and poet Albrecht von Haller and has been very well received by the public.

Albrecht von Haller (1708-1777) studied in Tübingen, Leiden, London, Paris and Basle and set up as a doctor in Berne at the early age of 21. He had previously toured the region of the Lakes of Neuchâtel and Geneva, the Rhone valley and the Gemmi

and Brünig passes and carried out scientific studies. This journey inspired his first great poem «Die Alpen» («The Alps»), which brought him fame as a writer, long survived his time and is still effective today. From 1736 till 1753 he was a professor at

Should you want to vote in Switzerland

Swiss abroad

Please apply to your official representation, which will fill in the necessary form.

This form is reproduced here in our three official languages to show you what information the representation needs.

You will have to specify the commune in which your vote is to be counted («**voting commune**») and the commune in which you wish to pick up your voting material («**commune of presence**»).

It would be a good idea to apply at once ...

Forthcoming federal ballots

in 1977 25th September
14th December

in 1978 26th February
28th May
24th September
3rd December



Absender Schweizerische Vertretung in		Expéditeur Représentation suisse à		Mittente Rappresentanza svizzera a	
Adresse An die Gemeindekanzlei Stimmregisterbüro in		Destinataire Chancellerie communale Bureau du registre des électeurs de		Destinatario Cancelleria comunale Ufficio del catalogo elettorale di	
Betrifft: Anmeldung eines(r) stimmberechtigten Auslandschweizers(in) Der/Die bei untenstehender schweizerischer Vertretung immatrikulierte		Concerne: Demande d'un(e) Suisse(sse) de l'étranger ayant le droit de vote immatriculé(e) auprès de la représentation suisse mentionnée ci-dessous		Concerne: Annuncio di uno/una Svizzero(a) all'estero avente diritto di voto immatricolato(a) presso la sottoscritta rappresentanza svizzera.	
Name nom cognome		Vornamen prénoms nomi			
Sohn, Tochter des fils, fille de figlio, figlia di		Name und Vornamen des Vaters / nom et prénoms du père / cognome e nomi del padre			
und der et de o di		Name und Vornamen der Mutter / nom et prénoms de la mère / cognome e nomi della madre		pab- née nata	
Heimatgemeinde(n) commune(s) d'origine comune(i) d'origine				Mädchenname / nom de jeune fille / cognome da ragazza	
geboren am né(e) le nato(a) il		in à a		Kanton canton cantone	
wohnt in domicilié(e) à domiciliato(a) a				Land pays paese	
wünscht, gestützt auf das Bundesgesetz vom 19. Dezember 1975 und die Verordnung vom 25. August 1976 über die politischen Rechte der Auslandschweizer das Stimmrecht in eidgenössischen Angelegenheiten (Teilnahme an Nationalratswahlen und eidgenössischen Abstimmungen, Unterzeichnung von eidgenössischen Referenden und Volksinitiativen) auszu- üben und ersucht um Eintragung in ein Stimmregister. Er/Sie hat Ihre Gemeinde als Stimmgemeinde gewählt.		desire, conformément à la loi fédérale du 19 décembre 1975 et à l'ordonnance du 25 août 1976 sur les droits politiques des Suisse(s) de l'étranger, exercer les droits politiques en matière fédérale (participation aux élections du Conseil national et votations fédérales, signature sur le plan fédéral de demandes de référendum et d'initiatives populaires) et vous prie donc de l'inscrire dans un registre des électeurs. Il/Elle a choisi votre commune comme commune de vote.		desidera, conformemente alla legge federa- le del 19 dicembre 1975 e all'ordinanza del 25 agosto 1976 sui diritti politici degli Svizzeri all'estero, esercitare i diritti politici in materia federale (partecipazione alle elezioni per il Consiglio nazionale e alle votazioni federali e firma dei referendum e delle iniziative popolari federali) e chiedo di essere iscritto(a) in un catalogo elettora- le. Egli/Elia ha scelto il Vostro comune come comune di voto.	
- *weil er/sie das Bürgerrecht Ihrer Ge- meinde besitzt		- *car il/elle possède le droit de cité de votre commune		- *perchè possiede la cittadinanza del Vostro comune	
- *weil er/sie von _____ bis _____ in Ihrer Gemeinde gewohnt hat.		- *car il/elle a été domicilié(e) dans votre commune du _____ au _____		- *perchè è stato(a) domiciliato(a) nel Vostro comune dal _____ al _____	
*Das Stimmrecht wird er/sie in der Stimm- gemeinde durch persönliche Vorsprache ausüben und dort das Wahl- und Stimm- material abholen.		*Il/Elle votera dans la commune de vote en s'y présentant personnellement et y reti- rera le matériel de vote et d'élection.		*Egli/Elia voterà nel comune di voto presen- tandosi personalmente e vi ritirerà il ma- teriale di voto e di elezione.	
*Das Stimmrecht wird er/sie brieflich aus- üben und das Wahl- und Stimmmaterial in der Anwesenheitsgemeinde _____ abholen.		*Il/Elle votera par correspondance et reti- rera le matériel de vote et d'élection dans la commune de présence _____		*Egli/Elia voterà per corrispondenza e riti- rerà il materiale di voto e d'elezione nel comune di presenza di _____	
*Nichtzutreffendes streichen.		*Biffer ce qui ne convient pas		*Cancellare quanto non conviene al caso.	
den le il		Stempel der Vertretung und Unterschrift Timbre de la représentation et signature Bollo della rappresentanza e firma			
1. und 2. Kopie (rosa) an die Kanzlei der Heimatge- meinde(n).		1. et 2. copie (rose) pour la chancellerie de(s) (la) commune(s) d'origine		1. e 2. copia (rosa) alla Cancelleria del/del comune(i) d'origine	
3. Kopie (gelb) an die Kanzlei der Anwesenheitsge- meinde		3. copie (jaune) pour la chancellerie de la commune de présence		3. copia (gialla) alla Cancelleria del comune di presenza	
4. Kopie (grün) verbleibt bei der Vertretung		4. copie (verte) pour la représentation		4. copia (verde) resta alla rappresentanza	
5. Kopie (chamois) an den Stimmbürger		5. copie (chamois) pour l'intéressé(e)		5. copia (cazzocci) all'interessato	
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Göttingen University and taught anatomy, surgery and botany. In 1753 he returned to Berne, where he held various offices. Haller wrote important works on Swiss flora, and on anatomy, surgery and physiology. He ranks among the greatest polymaths of Switzerland and the Age of Enlightenment.

The basic motif on the front of the note, depicting a stylized Alpine thistle, reminds us of Haller's botanical studies. The supplementary motif shows a view of the Gemmi pass in an allusion to his affection for the Swiss Alps. The illustrations on the back refer to his work in medicine, physiology and botany.

Like the hundred-franc note before it, this one, too, has some special features. It is again appreciably smaller, more oblong and thus handier than its predecessors. The ground-colour is also reddish brown. The portrait printed on the note appears as a watermark in the white border as well. It also has a metallic thread for security purposes and a transparent spot. The so-called «tilt effect» can be used to check the presence of gravure printing on the front:

- When the note is tilted slightly the portrait has its normal appearance.
- When the note is tilted more sharply the portrait becomes darker.
- When the note is tilted very sharply the portrait becomes completely dark, and white lines appear on the left-hand side of the portrait.

Unfortunately, not only are security techniques in the production of banknotes improving, but so are forgery techniques. With the general growth of crime, banknotes from the most diverse countries are being increasingly forged. It is therefore as well to memorize the security features of our new notes so that in case of doubt one can always check their genuineness oneself.

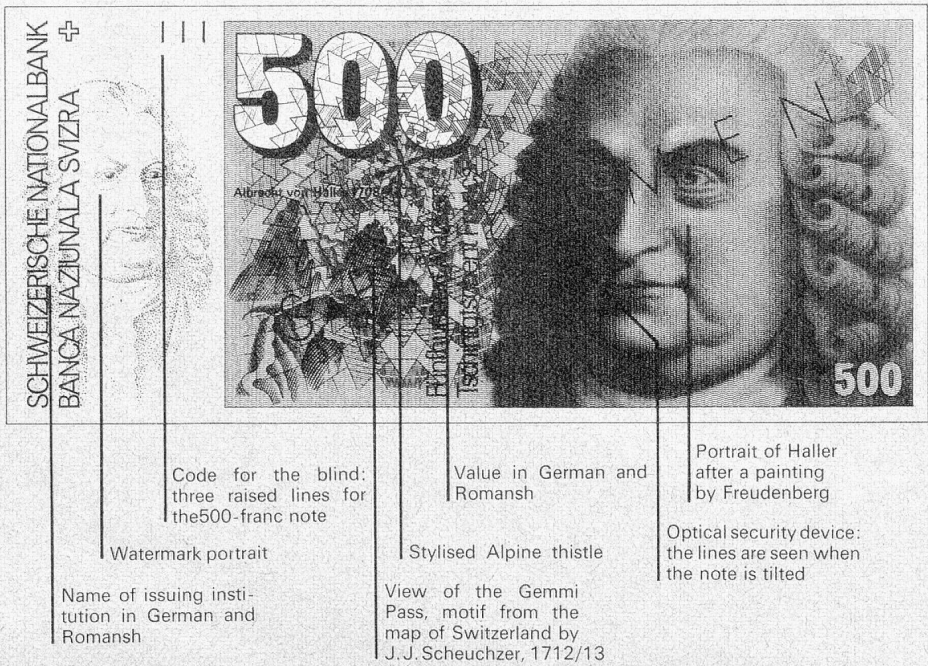
The next note issue, the thousand-franc note, will probably appear in April 1978 and is devoted to the entomologist, anatomist and psychiatrist Auguste Forel (1848-1931).

Berne, 14th June 1977

PASSEPORTS

Do not wait until the eve of your holiday before applying for your Swiss passport to be renewed... it may not be possible to return it to you in time.

Size: 181 mm x 82 mm



Code for the blind: three raised lines for the 500-franc note

Value in German and Romansh

Portrait of Haller after a painting by Freudenberg

Optical security device: the lines are seen when the note is tilted

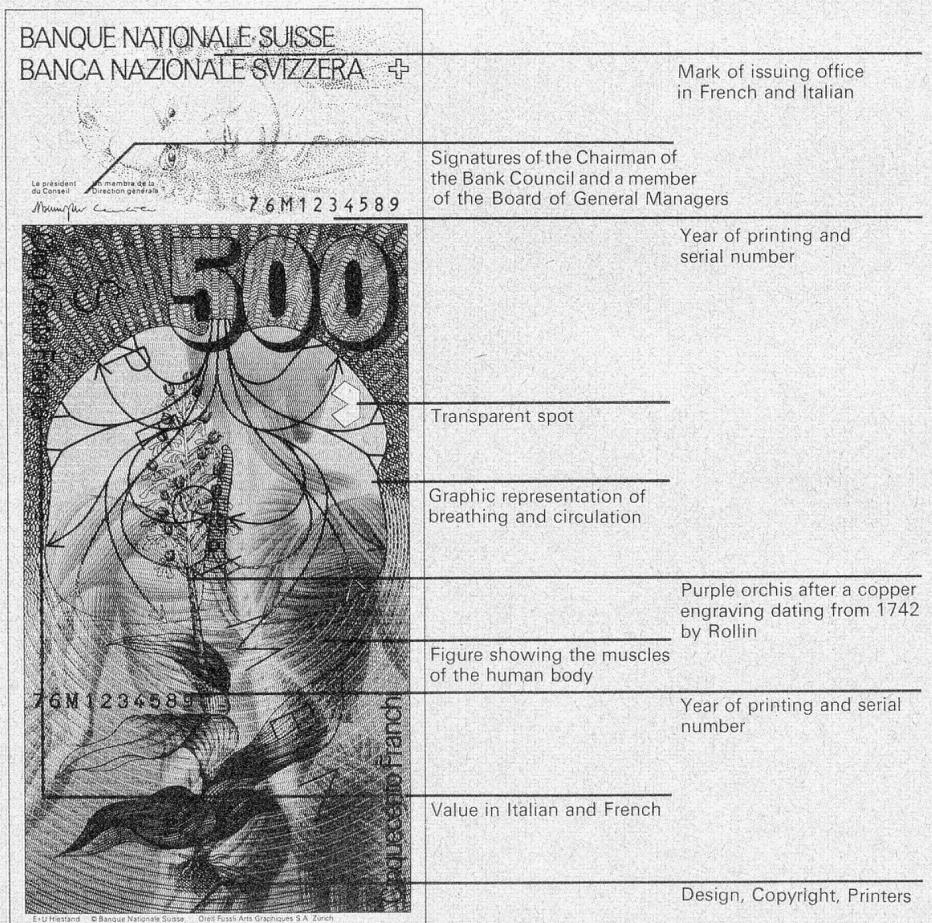
Watermark portrait

Stylised Alpine thistle

Name of issuing institution in German and Romansh

View of the Gemmi Pass, motif from the map of Switzerland by J.J. Scheuchzer, 1712/13

Size 181 mm x 82 mm



Mark of issuing office in French and Italian

Signatures of the Chairman of the Bank Council and a member of the Board of General Managers

Year of printing and serial number

Transparent spot

Graphic representation of breathing and circulation

Purple orchid after a copper engraving dating from 1742 by Rollin

Figure showing the muscles of the human body

Year of printing and serial number

Value in Italian and French

Design, Copyright, Printers

