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**Press release**

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## New 100 franc banknote available as from October 1998

From Borromini to Giacometti: the new series of banknotes is now complete

On 1 October, the Swiss National Bank issues the 100 franc note "Giacometti", the last of its new series of banknotes. The famous sculptor and painter from the southern valley of the Canton of Graubünden known as Bergell replaces the architect Borromini from Ticino on this most-used Swiss banknote. Alberto Giacometti (1901-1966) is considered to be one of the most outstanding artists of the 20th century. His elongated, thin figures sculptured by him after the Second World War are the chief source of his world fame. To many, they epitomise the distinctive "Giacometti style".

The new 100 franc banknote will retain its blue colour, but will be somewhat shorter and narrower than the old note. It incorporates the well-known security features including the perforated number; its design follows the principle applied to the other denominations. The 100 franc banknote is of major significance for payment transactions in Switzerland. Just under a third of all banknotes in circulation - i.e. around 70 million notes - are accounted for by this denomination. When the 200 franc banknote was introduced, however, the number of 100 franc notes in circulation declined by some 10 million, an effect intended by the Swiss National Bank.

The new series has been completed by the issue of the 100 franc banknote. With this series, the Swiss National Bank has ventured onto new territory in several respects. Notably the combination of innovative security features and new production technologies, which has been realised for the first time, has gained much recognition among international experts.

The banknotes of the last series, of which 70 percent have already been replaced, will be withdrawn by the National Bank in the course of 1999. After that, they can still be exchanged at the counters of the Swiss National Bank for the next twenty years.

Swiss National Bank