

THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

FOOTBALL has inspired numerous world coins in recent years. This year Austria and Switzerland co-host the UEFA 2008 European Football Championships. Such is the worldwide impact of the sport that the tournament will dominate the economic and cultural landscapes of both countries for the next three months. And new coin issues are part of the action.

Austria has kicked off proceedings with the release of two nine-edged €5 silver coins that symbolize both host nations. The issue date of 27th February was exactly 100 days before the referee blows the whistle to start the first match.

The Austrian venues for the games are Vienna, Salzburg, Innsbruck and Klagenfurt. In Switzerland they are Bern, Basel, Geneva and Zurich. All eight names appear on the reverses of both coins that feature action plays from two of the venues. On one coin a player dribbles the ball past an opponent who strives to tackle. On the second a forward kicks high in an attempt to control the ball.

On the obverse the denomination "5" is encircled by the nine coats-of-arms of the Austrian federal provinces.



"Expect Emotions", the slogan of the UEFA 2008 European Football Championships is epitomized by the designs of the two nine-edged €5 Austrian silver commemorative coins. Images courtesy Austrian Mint.

A total of 450,000 circulation coins have been struck of the two designs, with 100,000 pairs available in blister packs.

And the Isle of Man has also gotten in on the act with the Pobjoy Mint striking BU cupronickel and proof sterling silver crowns for the occasion. Mintage of the cupro-nickel crown is unlimited with 10,000 struck of the sterling silver.

The reverse designs show footballers strutting their stuff in front of maps of Austria and Switzerland enclosed in a hexagon and pentagon, the traditional shapes found on a football. The obverse displays the Ian Rank-Broadley effigy of Queen Elizabeth II, Lord of Man.

No doubt there will be many more issues to follow before the carnival is over.

☆☆☆

HUTT RIVER MARKS 38th ANNIVERSARY OF SECESSION



THE Royal Mint of Hutt has issued a \$30 coin under the authority of HRH Prince Leonard to commemorate the 38th Anniversary of Secession. The 28 mm, 10 g coin is struck in .999 fine silver with a limited mintage. Collectors interested in obtaining one or more can e-mail huttriver@principality-huttriver.com. Cost is \$40.00 plus p&p.

☆☆☆



One of the IOM's commemorative crowns for Europe's football extravaganza commencing in June. Image courtesy Pobjoy Mint.

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