

Centennial coins commemorating the end of the union of Norway and Sweden

In 2005 it will be a hundred years since the union of Sweden and Norway was dissolved, and Norges Bank will be issuing a series of commemorative coins in 2003, 2004 and 2005. The coin series will comprise three gold and three silver coins. The first pair, consisting of one gold and one silver coin, is being issued in autumn 2003, on 27 November. On the same in 1905, King Haakon VII swore allegiance to the Norwegian Constitution in the Storting (national assembly). The next pair of coins will be issued in 2004, on 23 September, the date that the treaty to dissolve the union was signed in Karlstad, Sweden, in 1905. The last pair will be issued on 7 June 2005, the centennial of the Storting resolution to dissolve the union. The gold coins have a nominal value of NOK 1500 and will be minted in an issue limited to 10 000 coins. The silver coins will have a nominal value of NOK 100. Those issued in 2003 and 2004 will be minted in an issue limited to 65 000 coins, and those issued in 2005 will be minted in an issue limited to 100 000 coins.

The motif on the obverse of all the coins is the same : a triple portrait of the three kings who reigned in the course of the century, with the motto they shared: ALL FOR NORWAY, below the portrait. The motif was

designed by Øyvind Hansen, a former coin engraver at the Royal Norwegian Mint. The motifs on the reverse of the coins are the results of a contest, and illustrate a century of change in Norway. The reverse of the silver coins depicts the development from agriculture, via the oil boom to the age of IT - a macroperspective in which the different epochs are reflected in a series of illustrations each on a broad horizontal band spanning the coin. The motifs on the reverse sides of the gold coins parallel those of the silver coins, but the artist has employed a micro-perspective. The motifs on the reverse of the gold coins were designed by sculptor Tomasz B. Ozdowski, and those on the silver coins by sculptress Danuta Haremska.

The coins will be struck at Den Kongelige Mynt AS (Royal Norwegian Mint). Their issue is taking place through a collaboration between Norges Bank and Hundreårsmarkeringen – Norge 2005 AS, the company in charge of the official programme, and also for the marketing and sale of the coins.

The illustrations below show the coins that will be issued on 27 November 2003.

Coin data:

Gold coin:

Diameter: 27 mm
Weight: 16.96 g
Alloy: 917/1000 Au, remainder Ag
i.e. 15.55 g fine gold (1/2 ounce)
Edge: Plain

Silver coin:

Diameter: 39 mm
Weight: 33.8 g
Alloy: 925/1000 Ag (Sterling silver)
i.e. 31.1 g fine silver(1 ounce)
Edge: Plain

