

COMMEMORATIVE COIN TO MARK THE NEW MILLENNIUM

At a press conference held at Norges Bank on 18 May 1999, Minister of Culture Anne Enger Lahnstein presented a silver commemorative coin, the first of a two-coin series in celebration of the turn of the millennium. The second coin is to be of gold. The first coin is being issued by Norges Bank in collaboration with Tusenårskiftet - Norge 2000 AS, which was established by the Government to prepare and implement activities to mark the arrival of the new millennium, and the celebration of 100 years of Norwegian independence from Sweden in 2005.

The motif on the coin's obverse is the Norwegian lion. The obverse also bears the coin's denomination, the mint year and the text "Norge år 2000" (Norway - 2000). The turn of the millennium is symbolised on the reverse by the rings of a tree trunk and the text "Tider skal komme" ("Times will

come" - Luke 21.6). The coin was designed by the Chief Engraver of the Royal Norwegian Mint, Ingrid Austlid Rise.

The coin is of silver (925/1000) and struck in proof quality, so that the matt relief of the motif contrasts with the mirror-bright background. The coin has a nominal value of NOK 100, a diameter of 39 mm and weighs 33.6 grams. It contains one ounce (31.1 grams) of silver. A maximum of

50 000 will be struck. The coin will be delivered in a special case with a certificate of authenticity.

The coin may be purchased for NOK 395, and is being marketed by Samlerhuset AS on behalf of Tusenårskiftet - Norge 2000 AS. The coin will be issued on 1 September, but all households in Norway will receive a pre-issue offer. Sales profits will be used for millennium projects and cultural initiatives throughout the country.



Obverse



Reverse