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Thematic coin with Børsen's dragon spire

The characteristic spire of the old Copenhagen Stock Exchange, Børsen, with four intertwined dragon tails, is the motif for the second coin in Danmarks Nationalbank's series of thematic coins that have towers as their common theme. Børsen was built in 1618-1624 by King Christian IV to mark Copenhagen's increasing importance as a trading centre. The dragon tails were said to protect Børsen against fire and foe.

The thematic coin is issued as a 20-krone coin, and the motif on the face of the coin is the Queen in profile, facing right, as on the ordinary 10- and 20-krone coins in circulation. The coin is of the same size and alloy as the circulating 20-krone coin. It will be minted in an edition of approximately one million coins, and can be used as an ordinary 20-krone coin. The coin can be purchased at face value from banks and Danmarks Nationalbank as from 1 May 2003.

Governor Torben Nielsen motivates Danmarks Nationalbank's decision to issue thematic coins and explains why towers were chosen as the theme:

"The reason for issuing a series of thematic coins is the wish to introduce new artists to the work of designing coins, so that Denmark will have more artists that master this special art. New motifs also stimulate interest in coins among the general public. Towers have been chosen as the theme since they represent both national and historical symbols. Unlike e.g. whole buildings, they also give the artist a good opportunity to create an interesting coin with depth and a wealth of detail."

The sculptor Karin Lorentzen designed the relief of Børsen, and comments on her work with the coin:

"The tower is a beautiful symbol of artistic extravagance and richness which is not designed to impress by being largest and most authoritative, but which charms us with its delicate, sophisticated form and artful dragons. I have stressed this by shifting the position of the tower in relation to the central vertical axis of the coin, and by placing emphasis on the gaps. It is possible to look through the tower cham-

ber below the dragons, which underlines the lightness of the tower."

The first thematic coin had Aarhus City Hall Tower as its motif and was issued in December 2002. Towards the end of 2003 the third coin in the series will be issued, featuring the tower of Christiansborg Palace.

The motifs for future thematic coins will be chosen on the basis of the many suggestions submitted to Danmarks Nationalbank by the public. Importance will be attached to achieving a certain geographical distribution, as well as architectonic and graphical diversity.

For further information please contact Winnie Jakobsen on tel.: (+45) 33 63 60 22.