

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Acquisition of the world's most important collection of ancient stock and bond certificates**

### **The history of stock and bond certificates in the hands of FSG Swiss Financial Services Group AG**

**Zurich, (21 September 2001) – On 20 September 2001, the holding company FSG Swiss Financial Services Group AG, which SIS Segaintersettle AG is a part of, acquired the world's most important collection of ancient stock and bond certificates. The collection comprises more than 6,000 certificates issued in over 100 different countries and represents the history of securities both in economic and financial as well as in geographical terms. FSG plans to open this unique collection to the public by founding the world's first museum of international stock and bond certificates on the occasion of the joint-stock company's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2002.**

The collection will be held in a trust to ensure its appropriate use and further enlargement. The foundation of the world's first museum of international stock and bond certificates will allow to make the collection accessible to the public in a permanent exhibition. In addition, special exhibitions, temporary (touring) exhibitions and other events will be organised.

Heinz Haeberli, CEO of SIS Segaintersettle AG, a subsidiary of FSG, said: "To FSG, which is active in the securities business and therefore closely linked to the world of stock and bond certificates, it has always been clear that the collection must absolutely be preserved in its entirety, not least in view of its significance in terms of economic history. Thus we want to make sure that the collection is opened to the public." Ronny Vogt, SIS' Head of Marketing, said: "Furthermore, we think that the acquisition of such an exceptional collection is of utmost importance for Switzerland. This collection represents a unique asset for the Swiss financial centre and will help to give the public an understanding of its role and significance."

The collection covers the whole history of stock and bond certificates, starting in the year 1602, when the first securities were issued. Not only the early distant trade and the emerging industrialisation are documented in the collection, but also the development of modern infrastructures including navigation and aviation, automobile and railroad traffic as well as the economic opening up of developing countries. The collection contains certificates bearing the original

signatures of famous personalities from the worlds of industry, technology, science and culture, namely Rockefeller, Vanderbilt, Rothschild, Goethe, Edison, Nobel, Geigy, Meyer-Guggenheim and many others.

It has been compiled over many years with the aim of documenting the global economic development. This is what makes the collection unique with respect to economic and cultural history. It was in fact the collector's wish to sell the collection in its integrity in order to preserve its historical and cultural significance.

A leading London auction house describes the collection as "... one of the finest collections, if not the finest collection of bonds and share certificates known". An independent expertise emphasizes "... that the collection is the most important of its kind in terms of economic and financial history". According to another expert "... the collection contains certificates that are nearly or totally unobtainable. Compiling a comparable collection is quite impossible".