BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE *BAR*HOLDER!

UGLY *CAN BE* A SUBJECTIVE TERM . . .

By ***AG****Wire*™
December 10, 2016

With regard to most collectibles, ugly is as ugly does, and pretty is as pretty does. It's no mystery that collectors favor pretty, shiny, unblemished examples over worn, discolored, tattered examples. Unless, of course, the distinction is a characteristic of production, and the product in question is Engelhard bullion. The examples above are not the prettiest, but all are likely in their near production condition excepting oxidation and patina variances from the elements. Whether pitting from air bubbles or inconsistent pours, holes or craters from erratic cooling, overlay pouring to make proper weight, or stamping anomalies, these were all good reasons to throw these once considered junk bars into the melting vats in the last great melts of 1979/1980, and 2011. Because of this, today, these peculiar bars are incredibly scarce and hard to come by.

Just what is it about these distinct bars that make us want to have them? Are we smarter than the rest of the crowd? What do we know that makes them so intriguing and alluring? Our bet is that collectors feel it's all about common sense and which bars have the best fundamentals. And these one-of-a-kind examples have just that. Uniqueness elicits character, individuality, personality and history. It is a beautiful thing! And it evokes a true collector's desire to obtain these rare examples. If you read our last article, "*Mine is better than yours*," just for fun we might contest that *our bars are uglier than yours*! That's not something we would generally brag about, unless the subject was, of course, Engelhard ingots. What is beautiful is not always seen as such by those with definitive and sophisticated tastes.

Subjectively yours,

A**E**

AG*Wire™* is a conduit of the AllEngelhard Society. All representations are opinion and not to be taken as financial advice. Visit AllEngelhard.com for more specific Engelhard information. Additional readings can be found at the AllEngelhard IN THE NEWS and SUGGESTED READINGS pages.

###