

# THE PERTH MINT INGOTS

## VINTAGE WORLDLY BULLION

By AGWire™  
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We are clearly devoted collectors and ambassadors to Engelhard bullion. To date, the majority of our publications have focused exclusively on Engelhard bars and ingots, exploring their inherent beauty and relative scarcity. However, there is another great refiner from Down Under that we also very much appreciate. **The Perth Mint.** Australia's largest refiner and bullion dealer was once a truly boutique bullion producer, creating iconic poured legacy silver ingots in their earliest production years... and we absolutely love these morsels!

From the late 1970's through the mid-1980's, The Perth Mint produced silver ingots in 1oz, 5oz, 10oz, 20oz, 1kg, 50oz, 100oz, and 200oz weight class. The majority of these ingots were serial numbered on the reverse, shown in above photos. Total overall production of all early Perth poured ingots, as reflected on The Perth Mint Definitive Page, is estimated at approximately 45,000, rendering them *highly* collectible in all sizes and variety. We liken these early Perth ingots to Engelhard top-logo examples, as the limited production quantity and inherent classic appeal of these ingots are quite similar.

The above photos tell a story of when bullion was not in favor, yet refiners placed great care and determination into creating a very simple "old world" ingot design that carried a timeless

appearance, a legacy heritage, limited serial stamp, and a sumptuous feel - if you've had the pleasure. This pride of workmanship sets these ingots apart from the field, truly placing them in a class of their own. Like an empty canvas to an artist, there's something about the large, thin surface area of many early Perth ingots that allows formation of cooling lines and patina beneath beautiful hallmark and stamping presentations. The Engelhard 20oz ingot is quite similar in these features.

A practical way to determine the scarcity of a collectible item is by how many examples are available for sale on the public market at any given time. As a general comparison, these older Perth Mint silver ingots come available about as frequently as Engelhard London silver kilos and half-kilos, with a *once in a blue moon* auction frequency of one ingot every 3-4 months. This comparison makes logical sense, as estimated total production of all varieties of Engelhard London kilo and half-kilo ingots matches that of early Perth poured ingots. Quite surprisingly, final sale prices on Perth ingots have often been rather disappointing for sellers, even embarrassingly low if you're the fortunate buyer. This is clearly the sign of an exceptionally undervalued market, one in which very few collectors recognize the undiscovered collectability and strong investment play offered by these rare underdog gems.

These early Perth Mint ingots are esteemed as Australia's premiere vintage silver bullion, but they've gone bloody walkabout here in the States! And (if you have read our other articles, we sincerely apologize for sounding like a broken record) like most poured ingots of this era, very high percentages were melted over the years, leaving few survivors. So, if you plan to add a few of these Aussie pieces to your Engelhard collection from *up over*, it would be wise to ring your favorite mate or bloke from *down under*, offer up a Vegemite sandwich, and have them keep their eyes peeled on the outback for these Perthy morsels! They surely won't be available to perthue, rather ***pursue***, at a pittance for long! Good onya mate, and ***G'Day!***

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