

# SHORT LIST, LONG LIST

## WHAT'S ON *YOUR* LIST?

By **AGWire™**  
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Most people, I have discovered, carry distinct plans around in their heads. Marching orders, as it were, for the future: a clear overview of where they will be and what they'll be doing five or 10 years from now. If they have any common sense, the plan usually covers things like career moves, buying a house, having or not having children and saving for retirement.

Plans like these are fine, of course, as long as they don't interfere with the important stuff... like ingot collecting. What I prefer to carry around in my own head (ignoring for a moment the calling of tonight's homemade pizza and the order of my favorite Steve Martin movies) is a vision of the future shaped not by real estate or other investment portfolios, but an ever changing list of ingots. Two lists of ingots, really. The Short List and the Long List.

The Short List might be defined as that succession (or collection, for those with the storage availability) of three or four ingots that a person genuinely has plans to buy someday, ingots without which life won't seem quite complete. These include the ever popular but accessible Legacy ingots you'd like to own, study, admire and gaze at given any opportunity at some time during those remaining years before you fall off your perch. They are ingots you **will** eventually own. It's only a matter of time. And perhaps tax returns.

The Long List, as you might imagine, takes in a much larger number of ingots. It includes all those interesting, oddball or perfectly normal examples you might be tempted to buy if you found a great deal on them or they just sort of fell into your lap. A typical Long List ingot purchase scenario: You walk into your LCS and your regular guy is sorting through a stack of bars and ingots he just bought from a walk in customer, and he says, "I don't know whether to stick this 10oz bar in the resell pile or send it off to be melted down. Do you have any interest in buying it at spot plus a buck fifty?"

You weren't really **looking** for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Series 10oz Canadian ingot, but circumstances have made the purchase irresistible. The Canadian suddenly appears on your Long List, and out comes your checkbook. The Long List is a very flexible thing and, in fact, includes almost all the Engelhard ingots ever produced, except maybe for some of the ultra rare Legacy Tier 1 examples.

But back to the Short List. Everyone has one, I think. At least everyone we know within the community does. We know a collector that plans for the day when a poured Canadian half-kilo will smile back at him. A close bud of mine will not rest until he has another 2<sup>nd</sup> Series 4oz ingot exactly like the one he shouldn't have traded to Adam several years ago. Personally, I can't decide among such enticements as a 6<sup>th</sup> Series 7oz ingot or a 50g Sheffield Smelting bar or a 500g Australian ingot or a kilo produced by The Westminster Mint - you ought to hear my list of favorite movies.

The Long List, of course, could go on forever, because opportunity and sweet pricing can make some ingots or bars suddenly very appealing. Under the right circumstances, I could easily be tempted by any 4<sup>th</sup> Series or 'W' prefix 10oz bar, or any bar with T.OZ weight designation, or the random well-toned ingot that is far too undervalued, or any random ingot with great cooling marks.

Neither of these lists, naturally, should ever be confused with the Legacy List, which encompasses a small (10 or 15) collection of some of the world's greatest and most desirable ingots ever produced, which I will buy as soon as I win the Powerball and get settled into that big brick and stone manor with the lake and perfect sunsets and close enough in proximity to my bank's safe deposit box but of course not too close. More on that later.

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