

ENGELHARD INDUSTRIES OF CANADA LTD.

THE FIRST COMMERCIAL 1 TROY OZ SILVER BARS
OFF THE PRODUCTION LINE IN THE LATE 1960'S

By **AGWire™**
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With each passing day, the *ENGELHARD INDUSTRIES OF CANADA* 1oz silver bar draws more acclaim and allure, resulting in immediate increase of investor and collector demand. According to AllEngelhard.com, the overall mintage for Engelhard's flagship commercial 1oz bar was less than 25,000 units, accounting for less than 1% of Engelhard's overall 1oz bar production run. To put this low mintage into proper perspective, in today's terminology 25,000 units equals about 60 minutes of US Silver Eagle production in a normal 4 million production month!

Enter 1968, when the United States was at war with Vietnam, political unrest engulfed the country, and silver spot shot up almost overnight from a then near-constant of \$1.29/oz to \$2.57/oz in light of the RFK and MLK assassinations. Engelhard Industries of Canada introduced its first commercial production silver bar to satisfy the appetites of a growing breed of contrarian investors, in what became a long and varied ingot production run through the late 1980's. This new commercial silver bar, commonly referred to as EI-1 by enthusiasts and collectors, came at a time when other refiners were either producing crude globular ingots that were barely pure, or conversely, known retail refiners (Foster, Whitman, Hamilton) were producing specific art bars for collectors, as well as for the novelty gift market.

Engelhard Industries of Canada took their trade very seriously and stamped a beautiful landscape 1 troy ounce bar with Engelhard's new hallmark, and of course, an individual serial number. Little did anyone know at the time, but these shiny new bars would become one of the most sought after varieties of the entire Engelhard 1oz bar production run. Clean examples regularly trade at 2 to 3 times silver spot price, but we consider this a bargain today given the rarity and beauty of these bars. And, without doubt, they are poised to increase exponentially as the collector market catches on to these seldom seen gems. It is now common knowledge that many of these were melted in the great melts of 1980 and 2011, leaving few available for collectors to accumulate. So, dare we repeat ourselves, as with any vintage Engelhard bar or ingot with limited production, pick 'em now when they're still within reach!

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