

VINTAGE ENGELHARD AUSTRALIA AG

SIMPLY BEAUTIFUL... AND SURPRISINGLY RARE!

By AGWire™
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The above photos illustrate just a few examples of why we folks from the States just can't seem to get enough vintage Engelhard Australia silver ingots and bars from 36+ years ago! If a picture is worth a thousand words, this collage will likely stir up much dialogue on the collector front. Between the varied Engelhard Australia Hallmarks, unique weight and purity stampings, and the historically significant counter-stamps of **SCCC** [Southern Cross Coins and Commodities] and **SILEC** [now Siltech PMR Pty Ltd], one could literally embark upon an entire dissertation of Australian mining history and bullion refining that would take you back to Australia's dynamic Gold Rush in the second half of the 1800's, if you so desired. We won't get into details on that just yet... but we will discuss the very gems that resulted from Australia's rich mining history. Or as Joe Friday would say, "Just the facts, ma'am."

Engelhard Australia silver ingots and bars were refined and produced at the Thomastown refinery, located in a suburb of Melbourne in Victoria, Australia. If you're a collector of vintage Australian silver ingots, you have undoubtedly recognized the size, stamping and mould similarities between the 1kg and 0.5kg ingots of Engelhard, Johnson Matthey, DEAK International and ABC¹. Research indicates these were all produced at the Thomastown facility from pre-1967 through about 1981, when, as rumor has it, Johnson Matthey solely took over operations.

Below, we provide a quick summary of the bar and ingot sizes, and estimated mintages of vintage Engelhard Australia silver production:

1gm	Pressed Bar	<50
2.5gm	Pressed Bar	<50
1oz	Poured Ingot	<200
1oz	Pressed Bar [3 varieties of est. 500 each]	<1,500
5oz	Poured Ingot	<350
10oz	Poured Ingot	<50
1/2 kilo	Poured Ingot	<50
0.5kg	Poured Ingot	<1,000
500gm	Poured Ingot	<200
1kg	Poured Ingot	<15,000
1.5kg	Poured Ingot	<200
50oz	Poured Ingot	<500
100oz	Poured Ingot	<100
5kg	Poured Ingot	<1,000

Total production of the above tallies 20,250 ingots and bars, over an estimated fourteen-year production period. This represents approximately 500,000 troy ounces of Engelhard Australia silver bullion. Although this may **seem** like a significant production figure, it's important to note that, in an average year, the United States Mint produces 500,000 1oz Silver Eagles in **four days**. Any questions? And, the new generation of so-called 'Engelhard' branded generic bullion from **Engelhard Australia Pty Ltd**, headquartered in Perth, Australia, has already produced many multiples of this volume in their first year of production... *and they're just getting started!* Collectible? You decide. And certainly always worth noting is that many, if not most, of the real vintage Engelhard Australia silver bars were melted down over the years, leaving very few survivors. This explains why they are so collectible and in such great demand today.

Vintage examples of Engelhard Australia silver ingots and bars are seldom available for sale. When they do come to market, collectors across the globe pay strong premiums both privately and on eBay public auction. And, certainly the folks down under cherish their native production as well, as we regularly interact with many strong-handed collectors who know perhaps better than we just how rare these are, and what they're worth. We express our thanks and gratitude to our many friends down under who continue to source these bars in their homeland and offer them to us here in the States. Our wives would call you 'enablers,' but we are just fine with you providing more! And **MOAR!** As with most Engelhard bullion, we are finding there are very few bargains left as the collector market continues to expand internationally.

So, whether you come from the land down under, or you're living in America, or Canada, or the UK, or you're living in a van down by the river², vintage Australian **Engelhard** silver is the name, rarity and scarcity are the claim, and collecting is the game.

G'day mates,

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We at AllEngelhard Proudly **STAND** for our National Anthem.



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¹ Information sourced from the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) <http://www.lbma.org.uk/refiners-gold-former>

² Couldn't resist this one: <http://www.nbc.com/saturday-night-live/video/motivational-speaker/n10432>