

THE ENGELHARD MFR DESIGNATION

ULTRA RARE... ENGELHARD'S FINEST EXAMPLES!

By AGWire™
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A very select number of early poured Engelhard ingots were graced with an "MFR" designation denoting "Metals, Fabrication & Refining." As illustrated in the above photos, smaller ingots display the MFR stamp to the right of the serial number, and larger ingots show the MFR to the right of the weight stamp. "Metals, Fabrication & Refining" was a trademark and literal description of Engelhard's primary business at the time, and the MFR stamping was truly a symbol of pride in their workmanship. While at this time we do not know exactly why specific ingots were given the MFR designation, we do know that these ingots were limited to very tight and select serial ranges in varied sizes. We also know that the ingots given this designation were generally exceptionally remarkable specimens. In fact, it is rumored that Engelhard placed this designation on specific ingot serial number runs that demonstrated only the best quality stampings and surface features.

Based upon the serial number ranges of known MFR ingots, we estimate the production time span of MFR stampings from the early to mid-1970s, rendering these ingots at 40+ years old at minimum. A total of approximately 1200 ingots were blessed with the MFR designation, in the sizes below:

3oz	5 th Series 5 Digit	<250
5oz	4 th Series 5 Digit	<700
10oz	2 nd Series 5 Digit	<100
50oz	4 th Series 5 Digit	<100
100oz	3 rd Series 5 Digit	< 50

We have yet to see an MFR designation on the 7oz, 20oz, 25oz and kilo / half kilo varieties, but we will triumphantly welcome the addition if any of these come to the surface! Engelhard MFR ingots are comparatively more desirable and rare than their non-MFR counterparts. Valuations are anywhere from 125% to 250% of that of non-MFR's, depending on size,

mintage and market conditions. While these MFR ingots rarely come available to market, at the time of this writing there are surprisingly six 3oz MFR ingots and three 5oz MFR ingots available on eBay. Asking prices are all fixed, and healthy at that, but surely a bargain in future hindsight! And as the story goes, many of these MFR ingots were melted in the 1979-1980 and more recent silver spikes, as these, too, were once considered junk bars.

So, if you stumble across an MFR from **My Favorite Refiner**, keep your OMG's on the DL and buy it ASAP, FYI. If you're not interested, PLMK, LOL! AE

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