

ENGELHARD'S

MANFRA, TORDELLA & BROOKES [MTB] ALLIANCE

By **AGWire™**
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Manfra, Tordella & Brookes, Inc. is an active and prominent New York bullion dealer, established in 1957. Known and well-respected in the bullion world by their acronym **MTB**, their website states that they '*provide much of the world with the widest selection of international legal tender bullion coins and pure investment bars. We offer these products to individuals and institutions who seek the traditional way of owning and possessing physical precious metals.*' MTB's strong and long-standing Manhattan identity, coupled with Engelhard's legendary name in the bullion arena, created yet another iconic co-brand with a huge collector following.

In the 1970's, the MTB retail bullion products division teamed up with Medallion Art Company Ltd (MA) to design a specialty collector bar and round with the moniker of Liberty Trade Silver, displaying an intricate and stunning image of the Statue of Liberty. MTB produced these bars and rounds under their own name, and in limited production runs, they co-branded with Engelhard (and Johnson Matthey, to be addressed at a later date). The Engelhard / MTB product was identifiable by a small capital 'E' encircled within an octagon border, as shown in the photos above.

This exclusive and limited production run of Engelhard / MTB **Liberty Trade Silver** bullion was represented in the following sizes and estimated mintages:

<u>WEIGHT CLASS:</u>	<u>MINTAGE:</u>
1oz BARS	< 75,000
1oz ROUNDS	< 15,000
5oz BARS	< 7,500
10oz BARS	< 7,500
100oz BARS	< 50

As these were specialty art bars and rounds, and produced following the great melts of 1980 (excepting the 100oz bar), a high survival rate is very likely. The above numbers suggest over 100,000 bars and rounds came out of this Engelhard / MTB partnership. Specific information on all varieties represented within the above sizes and mintage estimates can be found in the AllEngelhard.com Definitive Pages.

One ounce Engelhard / MTB bars and rounds are frequently seen on eBay for sale, while 5oz and 10oz are rarely seen, and 100oz are virtually never seen, with the exception of bar #A0006 (shown in above bottom right photo) which is occasionally seen on eBay auction at a Buy it Now price of \$7,500, offered by Kedzie Coins in Chicago. While this may seem like a steep price for a 100oz bar, All Engelhard estimates the mintage at less than 50 examples, although credible sourced rumors place that number at less than TEN (10), making them exceedingly rare, especially with a serial number like A0006! These 100oz MTB's were believed to be the earliest Engelhard MTB product, issued in the late 1970's to customers at MTB Bank, New York, who opened accounts with a minimum of \$100,000 balance. THAT was a lot of money back then.

There is no denying that the Engelhard alliance with **Manfra**, **Tordella**, and **Brookes** was **meant to be**. And certainly adding a few of these bars into your collection will get you **more than** you bargained for, and as far as we're concerned, the **more the better!** So, turn on some MLB, put on a fresh pot of MJB, and move aside your MFR's to make room for some MTB's before you're SOL!

With Liberty and Physical Silver for All ¹, AE

AGWire™ is a conduit of the AllEngelhard Society. All representations are opinion and not to be taken as financial advice. Visit AllEngelhard.com for more specific information on Engelhard bars and ingots. Additional readings are available at this link to the AllEngelhard.com website: <http://allengelhard.com/community-links/ae-in-the-news-2/>

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¹ honest, ethical, tax-paying citizens