

AUSSIE *POSSE*

By AGWire™
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If you're a serious bullion collector, you are well aware of the incredible and uniquely diverse lineup of the many prominent and historical refiners that have graced the land down under throughout Australia's rich mining past. The continent of Australia is one of the richest mineral-dense landmasses on our beautiful Mother Earth. Australia is the world's largest exporter of coal, iron ore, lead and diamonds, and is the second largest exporter of gold, and the third largest exporter of aluminum. While silver has predominantly been a byproduct of other refining, Australia has held it's own as one of the world's largest producers of silver bullion.

At the top of Australia's silver and gold production is The Perth Mint, founded in 1897 and remains in strong operation today. Once a private mining company, The Perth Mint is now operated by Gold Corporation, and is wholly owned by the Government of Western Australia. The Perth Mint has long been our favorite vintage bullion name - most specifically it was the short run of vintage poured and predominantly serial-numbered ingots from the late 1970's to early 1980's that stole our hearts. This array of beautiful and rare bullion may be reviewed on our [Perth Mint Definitive Page](#). It has long been rumored, and in recent times confirmed, that for many years The Perth Mint purchased these old poured ingots back from the public at their gift shop and then re-melted them into shiny new bullion. While that thought may make some of us want to stab ourselves in the eye with a dinner fork, it does explain why these pieces are so scarce today.

Mining is a dominant industry and significant component of Australia's economy, contributing over 8.5% of the continent's GDP and employing over 2% of the population. In comparison, the United States mining industry contributes approximately 2% to the GDP, and employs only .2% of the population.

Many of Australia's most notable refiners listed below have become household names to us, and others are up and coming and quickly capturing our collector interest:

THE PERTH MINT - Perth since 1897

ENGELHARD - Thomastown Refinery, Melbourne 1967-1981

JOHNSON MATTHEY

MATTHEY GARRETT

Kalgoorlie Bullion Exchange, W.A.

Phillip J. Williams PJW

Peter W. Beck Pty. Ltd. (PWB)

Harringtons Metallurgist Ltd. - Melbourne since 1906

DEAK International

Australia Bullion Company (ABC) - Sydney since 1972

Ainslie Bullion Company - Brisbane since 1974

Geomins

S.R. Mitchell & Co. (SRM)

Most of the above names are represented in our OTHER REFINERS pages, with the remaining to be added soon. There are likely names that we have missed that will soon come to our attention.

When time allows, please refresh yourselves with our archive [SUGGESTED READINGS](#) on Australian bullion:

[Meet the Harringtons](#)

[Rock the Perthbah!](#)

[Vintage Engelhard Australia AG](#)

[The Perth Mint Ingots](#)

Our many thanks to our Australian collector community for continuing to provide our friends worldwide with vintage Australian bullion, in-depth historical knowledge and insight into this fascinating worldwide hobby we all so much enjoy.

Collectively,

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