ENGELHARD LONDON

BEST OF THE BEST

By *AG*Wire™ December 25, 2022





Our very first <u>All Engelhard</u> article in March of 2015 featured "<u>Engelhard London Kilos and Half Kilos</u>". **This** is where it all started for us... the mystique and allure of these old-world vintage ingots intrigued us on many levels, setting us on a journey that continues to this day. There truly is something magical about these very early, iconic legacy ingots that is more captivating than any other collectible bullion we know of.

Engelhard London began producing 1 Kilo ingots in 1960, in both Silver and Gold, and reliable sources tell us that early production years were shared with N.M. Rothschild & Sons London, who later sold their bullion interest to Engelhard in 1968. The large and heavy font of the Engelhard London ingots was a typical and unique characteristic of Rothschild bullion production. Engelhard ceased production of London ingots in 1973, but their relatively short tenure delivered 100g, 250g, 10oz, ½ Kilo, 1 Kilo and even a 200oz example to the market.

In total, only about 15,000 Engelhard London ingots were produced over a 14 year span1, with the latter examples now 50 years old. If you visit our All Engelhard Definitive Page on Kilo and Half Kilo, you will see that Engelhard London used most of the alphabet letters to prefix the serial numbers on their ingots, all followed with 1 to 5 numerical digits. Engelhard London used one continuous numerical serial run while shifting and interspersing letter prefixes along the way. While some of the ingots had slightly higher production, like the "P" prefix Portrait **1 Kilo** ingots with the Mocatta Goldsmid Bullion Broker counterstamp (center photo above), only a paltry 7,000 of these were minted and most have been melted over the years, still making this 'more common' example extremely rare in its own right. Lower production Engelhard London Kilos and Half Kilos are now off-the-charts rare, and seldom seen or offered on the market today. That said, few collectors truly understand their absolute rarity and relative significance in collectible bullion. Please visit our AG / ½ Kilo / 1 Kilo Definitive Page that illustrates all varieties, and mintages.

At All Engelhard, we have been logging serial numbers on a daily basis for over 15 years now, and as of this date we have logged well over 30,000 photo verified serial numbers. Yet we have only logged a total of 560 Engelhard London 1 Kilo ingots, and 21 Engelhard London 1/2 Kilo ingots. These numbers represent approximately four percent of estimated original production mintage. While we originally surmised that the sheer beauty of these bars would have led owners to hold and store them indefinitely, resulting in a higher survivability rate (these bars are absolutely beautiful and we can't imagine melting them!), in actuality it was to the contrary. Because these early bars were Engelhard, the finest and most trusted name in bullion of its era, they were the choice bullion ingots of jewelers and fabricators, and sadly most were melted. We would estimate based on the numbers of logged survivors, that overall 15-20% of the 15,000 ingots produced are still with us, so possibly 2,250 to 3,000 survivors in the World, and that number includes all prefix letters and varieties of 1 Kilo and 1/2 Kilo ingots. As rare as that may sound, examples still do come available for sale occasionally, mostly in the UK where they originated, and when they do come to market, they are determinately met with very strong interest.

Below are a few recent confirmed eBay sales on Engelhard London 1 Kilo ingots. These prices actually seem quite reasonable given the age and scarcity of these ingots, and we would anticipate prices continuing upward going forward.

<u>Engelhard London 1 Kilo s/n P16493</u> portrait variety. No Mocatta Goldsmid counterstamp. Estimated mintage <500. Sold 12/17/22 for \$2,018.88 with 50 bids, at \$62.80/oz. Free shipping. Very nice example with strong cooling lines and solid character. We were surprised that this didn't bring a higher value based on the P16306 sale below, as we expected the non-successful bidders in that auction to participate aggressively in this one.

<u>Engelhard London 1 Kilo s/n P8391</u> portrait variety w/Mocatta Goldsmid counterstamp. Sold on 11/25/22 for \$1,818.02USD on Ebay with 29 bids. Shipping \$10.85USD. Estimated Mintage <7000. Very nice example, but weak Mocatta Goldsmid counterstamp showing only the

bottom portion of the stamp reading 'Bullion Brokers'. Still a Great buy at the final auction price of just under \$57/oz.

<u>Engelhard London 1 Kilo s/n J755</u> landscape variety. Sold on 11/19/22 for \$2,136USD with 22 bids. Free Shipping. Estimated Mintage <300. Beautiful example displaying great toning and character. Given its rarity, a tremendous buy at final auction price of \$66/oz.

¹ Not including the 1969 Engelhard London **Hallmark Collection** of 4 100g Silver Ingots in set, an estimated 5000 sets were produced and sold at retail.

<u>Engelhard London 1 Kilo s/n P16306</u> portrait variety. No Mocatta Goldsmid stamp. Estimated Mintage <500. Sold on 10/09/22 for \$2,555.99USD with 36 bids. Free Shipping. Beautiful example with aged patina and brilliant cooling lines. Given its rarity a very fair market price for this Tier 1 legacy ingot at \$79.50/oz.

As seen above, there is a noticeable margin of variance in final sale prices even within the same series, possibly due to visual appeal of the ingot, but more than likely related to current collector sentiment influenced by market conditions.

Every Engelhard collection should have at least one variety of Engelhard London Kilo to fondle and brag about. It's like the Hank Aaron, Willie Mays or Mickey Mantle baseball card that **makes** the collection, or that 1878 Morgan Silver Dollar in MS65 that makes almost everything else look insignificant. No two Engelhard London Kilos are alike, each has its own serial number, surface lines and texture, stamping placements and character. The easy part is loving them and appreciating them, the hard part is **FINDING THEM**!

Engelheartedly,

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!

WE'LL SEE YOU BACK HERE IN 2023!