

# SIMMONS REFINING CO.



By AGWire™  
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Over the years, we have written about many vintage bullion refiners, celebrating their old world fabrication methods and the primitive beauty and mystical allure of the relics we have come to love. Some of these iconic refiners are the likes of The Perth Mint, SilverTowne, Cascade Refining, and of course Johnson Matthey and Engelhard. One vintage refiner that is seldom seen but of notable discussion and pursuit in our collector community is **Simmons Refining Company**.

Simmons Refining Company was located in Chicago, Illinois and was known as a trusted and accurate (purity, weight, consistency, and availability) refiner throughout the 1960's and 1970's, producing beautiful (to us! back then probably not so much...) poured ingots with a recognizable 'crucible' hallmark and hand placed weight and purity stampings. Many varieties of these early Simmons ingots had hand-stamped serial numbers.



Total estimated production of these early 'crucible' ingots was less than 3,500, and because they were produced mostly for industry, it's a safe bet to assume that most (perhaps 85-90%) were consumed for fabrication, or if not for that, later melted in the great melts of 1979/1980 or 2011, before 'collectible bullion' was on anyone's radar. Simple math = <500 survivors.

In the mid-1970's, Simmons changed its bullion hallmark to include a large shadow font "S" in **Simmons** as shown below, and produced poured ingots in the 10oz, 50oz and 100oz weight classes. These varieties are very rare as well, with an estimated total mintage of less than 1,000, and a likely survivorship in the 20-25% range. Simmons also produced a more common 1oz pressed bar with the same hallmark, and these are becoming sought after as well.



In the late 1970's, Simmons again changed its hallmark format, this time to **SIMMONS REFCO**. While one might assume that 'REFCO' would represent 'Refining Company,' the acronym was in reality derived from **Raymond Earl Friedman & Company** in New York, a financial services company specializing in commodities and futures contracts. During the 'REFCO' production era, Simmons also produced many sizes of pressed bars in varying weight class from 'gram' size to 1oz and 10oz bars. The last of the SIMMONS REFCO production run simply had a large "S" followed by either REFCO, SIMMONS REFCO or REFCO METALS. These bars are more available today on local platforms, but production was still relatively low compared to the larger bullion producers in its day. Simmons Refining Company / Simmons REFCO was absorbed by Mid-States Recycling & Refining in 1982.



If you have a moment, please visit our [Simmons Refining Company](#) Definitive Page. When we think of the old Simmons ingots like the 14.5oz and the Half-Pound examples, it reminds us of what collect-ability is all about, like old comic books, vintage sports cards, rare coins, and classic cars, all with undeniably recognizable beauty today, and very low survivorship. And if you add to that a fast growing collectible bullion community worldwide, you might just keep an eye out for these precious ingots before they completely disappear off the radar!

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