

HONG KONG GOOD DELIVERY TAEI BARS

THE CHINESE GOLD & SILVER EXCHANGE SOCIETY

The Chinese Gold & Silver Exchange Society (CGSE) in Hong Kong has traded gold bars denominated in taels, a traditional Chinese unit of weight, since its foundation in 1910.

The CGSE, the world's oldest gold dealing exchange, celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2010.

1 tael = 1.20337 oz (37.429 g)
5 tael = 6.01685 oz (187.145 g)

HONG KONG GOOD DELIVERY 5 TAEI BARS

The CGSE lists 8 "Accredited Refineries" that are authorized to manufacture Hong Kong Good Delivery 5 tael bars for the settlement of tael-denominated transactions at the CGSE.

Good delivery 5 tael bars have a gold purity of 990 parts gold in 1,000 parts.

The CGSE specifies standard dimensions:

Length 78 mm
Width 20 mm
Thickness 5 mm

The bars are renowned for bearing the official stamps of both the manufacturer and the CGSE (the only gold dealing exchange worldwide to do this).

The CGSE official stamp, in use since 1947, depicts a "golden key", a symbol of wealth and good fortune.



The CGSE celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2010.

Accredited Refinery	Weight	Type	Shape	Fineness	Year of Original Accreditation*	HQ Location
King Fook Gold & Jewellery Co Limited	5 tael	Cast	Biscuit	990	1949	Central
Po Sang Financial Investment Services Co Limited**	5 tael	Cast	Biscuit	990	1952	Central
Lee Cheong Gold Dealers Co Limited	5 tael	Cast	Biscuit	990	1959	Central
Wing Fung Precious Metals Limited	5 tael	Cast	Biscuit	990	1998	Kowloon
Heraeus Limited	5 tael	Cast	Biscuit	990	1999	Fanling, NT
Wong Sha Co Limited	5 tael	Cast	Biscuit	990	2002	Kowloon
Sun Yip Hong Gold Dealers Limited	5 tael	Cast	Biscuit	990	2004	Kowloon
Marigold International Bullion Dealers Ltd	5 tael	Cast	Biscuit	990	2009	Kowloon

Source: CGSE and accredited refiners. * Dates before 2002 relate to the company's original accreditation as a CGSE Bullion Group Member. ** Owned by the Bank of China Hong Kong Limited.

It can be noted that Hong Kong Good Delivery **1000 g bars** (since 2002) are also traded at the CGSE.



Other 5 tael bars

Some refiners (in Hong Kong and elsewhere) also produce many 5 tael bars that are **not** used for the settlement of transactions at the CGSE. They are manufactured for dealers and issuers in Hong Kong and other countries in the region, such as Taiwan. These bars, traded outside the CGSE, bear only the official stamps of the manufacturer or issuer, and often have a gold purity of 999.9.

APPLICATION OF OFFICIAL STAMPS

The CGSE applies the official stamps of both the CGSE and the accredited refinery to 5 tael bars – after the “blank” bars, provided by the accredited refinery, have been assayed and weighed by the CGSE. To do this, the CGSE operates an assaying and stamping workshop at its headquarters.

According to CGSE records, the application of CGSE official stamps to 5 tael bars has been standard practice since at least 1958.

Over the past 40 years, accredited 5 tael bars have been marked in different ways over the following periods: 1967 – 2002, 2002 – 2006 and since 2006.

A significant change occurred in 2006. A reference on the CGSE official stamp to the month and year when the bar was marked was replaced by a serial number.

According to CGSE records, more than 5 million good delivery 5 tael bars have been manufactured since 1967. This excludes the millions of non-good delivery 5 tael bars that have also been manufactured in Hong Kong since that time.



Hong Kong Good Delivery 5 tael bars are stamped by the CGSE.

EXAMPLES OF HONG KONG GOOD DELIVERY 5 TAIEL BARS

Illustrating past and current CGSE official stamps.

**MANUFACTURED DURING PERIOD
1967 – 2002**



Obverse
Lee Cheong



Reverse
Lee Cheong



King Fook



Po Sang



**MANUFACTURED DURING PERIOD
2002 – 2006**



Obverse
Wing Fung



Reverse
Wing Fung



Sun Yip Hong



Wong Sha



Heraeus

MANUFACTURED SINCE JULY 2006



Obverse
Lee Cheong



Reverse
Lee Cheong



HISTORICAL CGSE BACKGROUND

The Chinese Gold & Silver Exchange Society, known by this name since 1918, was originally established as “The Gold & Silver Trading Company” in 1910.

Prior to that date, the CGSE traces its origins to an informal group of money changers and precious metal dealers who rented premises at 197 Des Voeux Road Central in 1904.

The original members of the CGSE operated from this address until 1920, when they relocated to 248 Des Voeux Central. Since 1927, the CGSE has been based in Mercer Street, the original building constructed in 1935, rebuilt in 1976 and then remodeled in 1986 to an appropriate standard of “grandeur and magnificence”.

In 1931, the CGSE’s constitution was revised, incorporating much of the constitution of the Shanghai Gold Standard Exchange (closed in 1949). Trading procedures were again reviewed in 1949 when an Assaying Department was established.

The CGSE traded consistently from 1918 until the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong in 1941. Reopened in 1945, it closed temporarily in 1947 when the import and export of gold was banned under the “Importation and Exportation of Gold (Prohibition) Regulation”.

Trading limited for 27 years: 1947 – 1974

Although subsequent negotiations with the government in late 1947 enabled the CGSE to continue, not least as gold could still be imported and stored in the nearby Portuguese enclave of Macau, trading was limited.

Not until January 1974, 27 years later, when all restrictions on the export, import and private ownership of gold were removed, was the CGSE revitalized as the dominant gold dealing centre in South East Asia.

The CGSE’s standard trading lot in taels has remained 100 taels since 1946. Before the Second World War (1939-1945), the standard lot had been 10 taels. For a brief period after 1974, 50 tael lots were also traded.



金銀業貿易場
The Chinese Gold & Silver Exchange Society

Tael bars have been traded by members of the CGSE since its foundation in 1910.



Historical photographs associated with the CGSE.



The CGSE has been based in Mercer Street, Hong Kong since 1927.



The trading hall of the CGSE in the 1980s.



HISTORICAL HONG KONG GOOD DELIVERY 5 TAEI BARS

Known brands issued between 1967 and 2002

According to available CGSE records, the CGSE stamped, as Hong Kong Good Delivery, 5 tael bars of the companies as listed below during the period, 1967 – 2002.

Company#	5 Tael Bars Stamped By CGSE		
	Year First Stamped	Year Last Stamped	Period In Years
Lee Cheong*	1967	2002	36
King Fook*	1967	2002	36
Po Sang*	1967	2002	36
Lai Kee	1967	1996	30
Lee Shing	1967	1995	29
Sze Zee	1967	1995	29
Chow Sang Sang	1967	1993	27
Wing Shing Loong	1967	1992	26
Shing Shun	1967	1989	23
On Lung	1981	2002	22
King Shing	1974	1988	15
On Hing	1967	1980	14
Sun Hung Kai	1982	1995	14
Hing Fung	1990	2002	13
Chow Tai Fook	1972	1983	12
Heng Shing	1967	1974	8
Heng Fat	1967	1974	8
Cheung Shun	1974	1980	7
Wing Fung*	2000	2002	3
Wing Lung	1970	1972	3
Wing Hang	1988	1988	1

Source: CGSE. # Company names are abbreviated. * Still listed as accredited manufacturers of Hong Kong Good Delivery 5 tael bars.

Gold purity

Between 1947 – 1970 (23 years), the purity was reduced to 94.5 parts gold in 100 parts in accordance with government regulations to provide gold only for industrial purposes.

The traditional gold purity of 99 parts gold in 100 parts by weight was reintroduced on 15 January 1970.



Chow Sang Sang
1967 – 1993



Lai Kee
1967 – 1996



Sun Hung Kai
1982 – 1995



Wing Hang
1988



Hing Fung
1990 – 2002

For the information and many copyright photographs,
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