

HANDY & HARMAN

HISTORICAL GOLD BARS ISSUED IN THE USA

PERIOD OF MANUFACTURE

Handy & Harman, an iconic name in the history of precious metals in the USA, manufactured London Good Delivery (LGD) 400 oz gold bars at its gold refinery in Attleboro, Massachusetts, from 1975 until 1996.

Following the acquisition of Handy & Harman's Refining Division by Golden West Refining Corporation Limited in 1996, the refinery in Attleboro (about 160 miles north east of New York) continued to manufacture LGD bars under the name of **Handy & Harman Refining Group Inc** until 2001.

The Industry Collection acquired a Handy & Harman 1000 g gold bar in 1993, and a range of Handy & Harman Refining Group Inc gold bars in 1997.

ACCREDITATION

Handy & Harman

1975 London Bullion Market Association
1974 New York Mercantile Exchange, COMEX Division

Handy & Harman Refining Group Inc

1996 London Bullion Market Association
1996 New York Mercantile Exchange, COMEX Division

BACKGROUND

Handy & Harman

Handy & Harman, a public company listed on the New York Stock Exchange, had its origins in a precious metals trading company, Peter Hayden & Co, which had been established in New York in 1867.

Over the next 19 years, the company's name changed three times: The Banking House of Parker Handy (1870), The Banking House of Parker and Cronise (1878) and, finally, Handy & Harman (1886). Peter Handy was Vice President of the Third National Bank of New York, while John Harman, employed by the company as a young clerk, had worked up his way to a full partnership.

Although the company had traded precious metals since 1867, as well as operating precious metal recovery, sampling and manufacturing plants since around 1900, it reported in 1990 that it had relied on external entities for high purity gold refining until 1967.

Following the acquisition of the Attleboro Refining Company in 1967, a large gold and silver refinery was built in Attleboro, commissioned in 1969. From that time, all gold bars were manufactured at the refinery, apart from 1000 g bars made in 1984 at a former recovery plant of the company in Northvale (New Jersey).

Apart from precious metals refining, the company focused on the manufacture of precious metal products, original equipment and replacement parts for the automotive industry, as well as non-precious metal wire and tubing products.



Handy & Harman served the precious metals industry in the USA for more than a century.

The vault of the New York office in 1893.



Handy & Harman constructed a large refinery in Attleboro in 1967-1969.



The Attleboro refinery manufactured London Good Delivery 400 oz bars from 1975 until 2001.



In 1990, the company had 55 operating plants in the US and Canada, as well as 50 sales, service and warehouse locations. This included three gold recovery and sampling plants in Phoenix (Arizona), South Windsor (Connecticut) and Rexdale (Ontario). Its headquarters was at 850 Third Avenue, New York.

Outside North America, subsidiary companies were located in the UK, Ireland and South Korea, together with 50% joint ventures in Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan. The gold refinery of Handy & Harman Mfg (Singapore) Private Ltd, a joint venture with the King Fook group, was opened in 1984.

The company had a long tradition in the refining of silver, manufacturing 1000 oz bars. From 1892, the daily silver price of Handy & Harman was published in New York. An authoritative review, "The Silver Market", was published annually from 1916.

Number of employees in 1990: 5,000 (group)

Handy & Harman Refining Group Inc

The company was formally established in August 1996 when the assets and business of the Precious Metals Refining Division of Handy & Harman were acquired by **Golden West Refining Corporation Limited** (GWRC), a public company listed on the Australian Stock Exchange. This included exclusive rights to the "H & H" hallmark. The major shareholder of GRWC was **N.M. Rothschild & Sons (Australia) Limited**.

In 2000, Golden West Refining Corporation closed down the Attleboro refinery.

Number of employees in 1997: 98 (Attleboro refinery)

GOLD BARS

Handy & Harman reported, in 1990, that it manufactured 3 bar weights at its Attleboro refinery:

Cast: 400 oz, 100 oz, 1000 g.

Handy & Harman Refining Group Inc reported, in 1997, that it manufactured 5 bar weights:

Cast: 400 oz, 100 oz, 1000 g, 10 tola, 5 tola.



Refining gold at the Attleboro refinery in 1990.



Advertising Handy & Harman in 1906.

HISTORICAL OFFICIAL STAMPS

On bars issued by Handy & Harman from at least 1969 until 1996.

On bars issued by Handy & Harman Refining Group Inc from 1996 until 2001.



TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

Weight	Type	Fineness	Shape	Dimensions mm	First Issued*	Serial Numbers	
						System	Year Introduced
Handy & Harman							
400 oz	Cast	999.5+/999.9	Rectangular	254 x 79 x 38 232 x 34 (base)	1974*	Letter "A" plus 6 numbers	1974*
100 oz	Cast	999.5+/999.9	Rectangular	105 x 65 x 29 95 x 57 (base)	1974*	Letter "A" plus 6 numbers	1974*
1000 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	113 x 50.8 x 12.7	1984	Letter "A" plus 6 numbers	1989
Handy & Harman Refining Group Inc							
400 oz	Cast	999.5+/999.9	Rectangular	254 x 79 x 38 232 x 34 (base)	1996	Letter "A" plus 6 numbers	1974*
100 oz	Cast	999.5+/999.9	Rectangular	105 x 65 x 29 95 x 57 (base)	1996	Letter "A" plus 6 numbers	1974*
1000 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	112 x 50 x 10	1996	Letter "A" plus 6 numbers	1974*
10 tola	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	45 x 28 x 5	1996	-	-
5 tola	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	31 x 19 x 5	1996	-	-

Source: Handy & Harman (1990) and Handy & Harman Refining Group Inc (1997). *Estimated.

Serial Numbers

Handy & Harman and Handy & Harman Refining Group Inc applied the same serial numbering systems to bars manufactured at the Attleboro gold refinery.

Cast bars. Letter "A" stood for "Attleboro". 6 numbers recorded the bar serial number which was dependent on its sequence within the unit production of gold bars. For example, "063682" on a 100 oz bar means it was the 63,682nd bar, regardless of weight, manufactured since 1974^{Est}.

Tola bars: 10 tola and 5 tola bars included serial numbers until 1997.

HISTORY OF GOLD BAR MANUFACTURE

Although the manufacture of gold bars with irregular weights is believed to date back to the early 1900s, Handy & Harman first manufactured 400 oz and 100 oz bars in 1974^{Est}.

Although a small quantity of 1000 g bars were made at the Northvale recovery plant in 1984, 1000 g bars were subsequently made in Attleboro from 1989.

In 1996, Handy & Harman Refining Group Inc continued to manufacture 400 oz, 100 oz and 1000 g bars. In the same year, it also launched 10 tola and 5 tola cast bars, mainly for the Indian Sub-continent.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Gold Refiners & Bars Worldwide (1991).
 The Industry Catalogue of Gold Bars Worldwide (1998).
 GIR communication with the company in 1990, 1993, 1997 and 2001.

Photographs: Handy & Harman (1990) and Handy & Harman Refining Group Inc (1997), and The Industry Collection of Gold Bars Worldwide.



100 oz

The Attleboro refinery manufactured COMEX Good Delivery 100 oz bars from 1974 until 2001.



LONDON GOOD DELIVERY 400 OZ BARS



Handy & Harman
1975 – 1996



Handy & Harman Refining Group Inc
1996 – 2001



EXAMPLES OF SMALL GOLD BARS



1000 g
Handy & Harman
1984 – 1996

1000 g
Handy & Harman Refining Group Inc
1996 – 2001

10 tola

THE INDUSTRY COLLECTION OF GOLD BARS WORLDWIDE

The **Industry Collection of Gold Bars Worldwide** is a worldwide effort to create a unique collection of standard, innovative and unusual gold bars to support the promotion of gold.

Since 1993, manufacturers from across the globe have supported this international project by making their bars available. The Founder was **N.M. Rothschild & Sons (Australia) Limited**, associated with N M Rothschild & Sons Limited, London. The Custodian and Official Location is **The Perth Mint**, wholly owned by the Government of Western Australia.

The Curator is **Grendon International Research Pty Ltd (GIR)**. Apart from acting as a consultant within the gold industry, GIR has published several reference books on gold, including *The Industry Catalogue of Gold Bars Worldwide*.

Refer to disclaimer on website: www.goldbarsworldwide.com

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