

SUMITOMO METAL MINING CO LTD

GOLD BAR MANUFACTURER IN JAPAN

Sumitomo Metal Mining Co Ltd, which operates the largest gold mine in Japan at Hishikari in the Kagoshima Prefecture, has its headquarters in the Minato-ku area of Tokyo.

Gold refining and bar manufacture take place at the Toyo Smelter & Refinery in the Ehime Prefecture, about 500 km west of Tokyo.

The company issues a standard range of 4 cast and 3 minted bars:

Cast: 400 oz, 1000 g, 500 g, 100 g

Minted: 20 g, 10 g, 5 g

A representative range of the company's bars has been included in the Industry Collection.

BACKGROUND

Sumitomo Metal Mining Co Ltd, incorporated in 1950, traces its history back to 1590 when Soga Riemon, the founder of Sumitomo enterprises, established a copper smelting and manufacturing business in Kyoto.

Although producing gold as a by-product of non-ferrous smelting operations for centuries, the company has been associated with some of Japan's largest gold mines. The Kounomai gold mine in the Hokkaido Prefecture yielded 73 tonnes from 1920 until its closure in 1973. The Hishikari gold mine, about 1,000 km west of Tokyo, is renowned as the largest gold mine in Japan, having yielded more than 165 tonnes since its opening in 1985.

The company has refined gold for more than 85 years in the Ehime Prefecture: at the Niihama Refinery from 1922 until 2004, and at the Toyo Smelter & Refinery since 2004.

Apart from the mining or processing of gold and non-ferrous metals in Japan, USA and Peru, its operations worldwide include the manufacture of fabricated precious and other metal products, as well as a diverse range of advanced materials.

The company is listed on the Tokyo and Osaka stock exchanges.

Annual gold refining capacity at the Toyo Smelter & Refinery: around 60 tonnes.

Number of employees: 2,131 (independent), 9,786 (consolidated).

Accreditation

1981 London Bullion Market Association
1982 Tokyo Commodity Exchange
2006 Dubai Multi Commodities Centre

Website: www.smm.co.jp/E/



Sumitomo Metal Mining Co Ltd, incorporated in 1950, has been associated with the smelting of metals since 1590.



The Toyo Smelter & Refinery has manufactured the company's gold bars since 2004.



London Good Delivery 400 oz bars have been issued since 1981.



TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

Weight	Type	Fineness	Shape	Dimensions (mm)	First Issued
400 oz	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	250 x 75 x 38 230 x 60 (base)	2007
1000 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	115 x 51 x 9	1982
500 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	83 x 38 x 8	1982
100 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	45 x 24 x 5.5	1982
20 g	Minted	999.9	Rectangular	30 x 17 x 2	1987
10 g	Minted	999.9	Rectangular	26 x 15 x 1.3	1987
5 g	Minted	999.9	Rectangular	22.5 x 14 x 0.9	1987

Source: Sumitomo Metal Mining Co Ltd. Note: gold granules have also been produced at a fineness of 999.99 since 2004.

HISTORY OF GOLD BAR MANUFACTURE

The manufacture of bars denominated in monmes (1 monme = 3.75 g) dates back to 1922 when gold refining facilities were established at the Niihama Refinery.

In 1927, the metric system was adopted and for the next 25 years bars weighing approximately 15 kg were supplied to the national Mint.

In 1953, a new range of cast bars was introduced: approximately 10 kg, 5 kg and 1 kg, followed in 1962 by an unusual 7 kg cast bar with a gold purity of 999.99, which was subsequently withdrawn.

In 1980, 400 oz bars were issued, followed in 1982 by 3 cast bars with exact weights: 1000 g, 500 g and 100 g.

In 1987, 3 minted bars were introduced: 20 g, 10 g and 5 g.

In 2007, the 400 oz bar was issued with new dimensions. Historically, its dimensions had been in mm: 177 x 77 (top surface), 182 x 85 (base surface), 40 (thickness).

The same official stamp has been applied to all bars since 1922.

The stylish "SMM" (Sumitomo Metal Mining) logo has been stamped on the reverse sides of minted bars since 1982.



The original shape of 400 oz bars manufactured by Sumitomo Metal Mining Co Ltd between 1980 and 2007.



Kilobars have been manufactured since 1982.

OFFICIAL STAMP



On all bars issued since 1922.

CERTIFICATION MARK



On 1000 g, 500 g and 100 g cast bars, since 1982.

"SAO" stands for "Sumitomo Assay Office".

REVERSE DESIGN



On 20 g, 10 g and 5 g minted bars, since 1982.



EXAMPLES OF GOLD BARS



1000 g



500 g



10 g



100 g



Sumitomo Metal Mining Co Ltd issued the new shape of its London Good Delivery 400 oz gold bar in 2007.





The Hishikari gold mine, the largest in Japan, has yielded more than 165 tonnes since its opening in 1985. Mineralisation of the ore occurred about a million years ago.



Illustrating the historical “Nanban-buki” method of smelting that was developed by Soga Riemon, one of the founders of Sumitomo in the 16th century.

THE INDUSTRY COLLECTION OF GOLD BARS WORLDWIDE

The Industry Collection of Gold Bars Worldwide is the culmination of 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. Founder was **N M Rothschild & Sons (Australia) Limited**, associated with N M Rothschild & Sons Limited, London. Custodian and Official Location is **The Perth Mint**, wholly owned by the Government of Western Australia.

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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