

ISHIFUKU METAL INDUSTRY CO LTD

GOLD BAR MANUFACTURER IN JAPAN

Ishifuku Metal Industry Co Ltd, established in 1930, has its headquarters in the Chiyoda-ku area of Tokyo.

Gold refining and bar manufacture take place at the company's plant in Soka City, about 25 km from Tokyo.

The company issues a standard range of 7 cast and 4 minted bars:

Cast: 400 oz, 1000 g, 500 g, 300 g, 200 g, 100 g, 50 g

Minted: 20 g, 10 g, 5 g, 2.5 g

Its bars are traded in Japan through its own retail shops in Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya and Kyushu, as well as through jewellery shops, department stores and bank branches.

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

BACKGROUND

The company, established by Yuju Komiya in 1930, was originally called Murata after the family's traditional tobacco-pipe manufacturing business, Murata Bunroku. Following the employment in 1933 of Mr Ishifuku, who was a renowned precious metal expert in Japan, the company was renamed Ishifuku, but retained as its trademark the Japanese symbol, "BUN".

In the 1930s, the company played a leading role in the purchase of gold bars required by the Japanese government for the nation's official gold reserves. In 1945, the company was recognized as the sole refiner of precious metals for the occupying forces.

Since that time, Ishifuku has expanded its operations, focusing on precious metal refining and the manufacture of products for the jewellery, electronics, decorative and dental industries.

Gold refining and the manufacture of bars took place in Tokyo from 1930 until the construction of the new refinery in Soka City in 1968.

Annual gold refining capacity is around 10 tonnes.

Number of employees: 400

Accreditation

1982 London Bullion Market Association

1982 The Tokyo Commodity Exchange

Website: www.ishifuku.co.jp



Ishifuku Metal Industry Co Ltd has refined gold for more than 75 years.



The company's gold bars have been manufactured at its plant in Soka City since 1968.



London Good Delivery 400 oz bars have been issued since 1982.



TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

| Weight | Type | Fineness | Shape | Dimensions mm | First Made | Serial Number System | System Introduced |
|--------|--------|----------|-------------|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 400 oz | Cast | 999.9 | Rectangular | 238 x 82 x 40 222 x 66 (base) | 1982 | 6 numbers Plus year date | 1982 2007 |
| 1000 g | Cast | 999.9 | Rectangular | 114 x 51 x 10 | 1982 | 6 numbers | 1982 |
| 500 g | Cast | 999.9 | Rectangular | 83 x 41 x 8 | 1982 | 6 numbers | 1982 |
| 300 g | Cast | 999.9 | Rectangular | 64 x 32 x 8 | 1982 | 6 numbers | 1982 |
| 200 g | Cast | 999.9 | Rectangular | 56 x 30 x 7 | 1982 | 6 numbers | 1982 |
| 100 g | Cast | 999.9 | Rectangular | 48 x 25 x 6 | 1982 | 6 numbers | 1982 |
| 50 g | Cast | 999.9 | Rectangular | 30 x 22 x 6 | 1982 | 6 numbers | 1982 |
| 20 g | Minted | 999.9 | Rectangular | 30 x 17 x 2 | 1982 | - | - |
| 10 g | Minted | 999.9 | Rectangular | 26 x 15 x 1.3 | 1982 | - | - |
| 5 g | Minted | 999.9 | Rectangular | 22.5 x 13 x 0.9 | 1982 | - | - |
| 2.5 g | Minted | 999.9 | Rectangular | 16 x 10 x 0.9 | 1982 | - | - |

Source: Ishifuku Metal Industry Co Ltd

Serial numbers

400 oz. 6 numbers record: the last 2 digits of the year (1st/2nd no's) and the bar serial number (last 4 no's). The full year date has also been stamped on the bar since 2007.

1000 g – 50 g. 6 numbers record: the last digit of the year (1st no), the number designating the bar size (2nd no) and the serial number (last 4 no's).

HISTORY OF GOLD BAR MANUFACTURE

Bar manufacture dates back to 1930 with the issue of 100 monme cast bars (1 monme = 3.75 g) and stamped gold plates for industrial use.

In 1973, 5 cast bars denominated in grams were introduced: 1000 g, 500 g, 200 g, 100 g and 50 g. Their dimensions changed in 1979, and again in 1982 when two more cast bars, 400 oz and 300 g, were also issued.

In 1979, 4 minted bars were issued: 20 g, 10 g, 5 g and 2.5 g.

The company used the same official stamp, depicting the "BUN" trademark on cast bars until 1978. The words "Ishifuku Tokyo" were added in 1979, the word "Melters" in 1982.

Since their introduction in 1979, the official stamp on minted bars has combined the traditional "BUN" trademark with the single word "Ishifuku", as well as recording repetitive lines of the letters "IFK" on their reverse sides.



The company's range of bars issued since 1982.



Stamping kilobars.



EXAMPLES OF GOLD BARS



1000 g



300 g



100 g



10 g

OFFICIAL STAMPS



On cast bars issued since 1982.



On minted bars since 1982

CERTIFICATION MARK



On 400 oz bars issued since 1982.





Manufacturing London Good Delivery bars.



The year date has been applied to London Good Delivery 400 oz (12.5 kg) bars since 2007.

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. 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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