

## TOKURIKI HONTEN CO LTD

### GOLD BAR MANUFACTURER IN JAPAN

**Tokuriki Honten Co Ltd**, the oldest gold refining and trading company in Japan, has its headquarters in the Chiyoda-ku area of Tokyo.

Gold refining and bar manufacture take place at the company's factory in Shobumachi in the Saitama Prefecture, about 60 km from Tokyo.

The company issues a standard range of 6 cast and 3 minted bars:

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

Minted: 50 g, 10 g, 5 g

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

A representative range has been included in the Industry Collection.

### BACKGROUND

Tokuriki Honten can trace the origin of its name to the period of the Emperor Saga in 814, its first commercial operations to 1624 and its first involvement in precious metals to 1727 when the Togugawa Shogunate ordered the company to refine and trade gold and silver.

For more than 280 years since 1727, the company's head office has remained on the same site, despite the devastating earthquake in Tokyo in 1923 and the bombing of the city in 1945. Gold refining was originally undertaken in Tokyo, before being transferred in 1966 to the Sagami Factory in the Kanagawa Prefecture and then to the Shobumachi Factory in 1999.

Incorporated in 1934, the company manufactures precious metal products for the jewellery, electronics, decorative and dental industries. It also issues silver, platinum and palladium bars.

Annual gold refining capacity: 120 tonnes.

Number of employees: 210

### Accreditation

1981 London Bullion Market Association

1982 Tokyo Commodity Exchange

Website: [www.tokuriki-kanda.co.jp](http://www.tokuriki-kanda.co.jp)



Tokuriki Honten has refined gold since 1727.



The company's gold bars have been manufactured at the Shobumachi Factory since 1999.



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



**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION**

Weight	Type	Fineness	Shape	Dimensions mm	First Made	Serial Number System	System Introduced
400 oz	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	260 x 79 x 38 235 x 60 (base)	2008*	Letter Plus 6 numbers Full year date	2008  2008
1000 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	117 x 52 x 9	1981	Letter Plus 6 numbers	1981
500 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	86 x 38 x 8.5	1981	Letter Plus 6 numbers	1981
300 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	65 x 32 x 8	1981	Letter Plus 6 numbers	1982
200 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	53 x 28 x 7.5	1981	Letter Plus 6 numbers	1982
100 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	45 x 24 x 5	1981	Letter Plus 6 numbers	1981
50 g	Minted	999.9	Rectangular	43.5 x 25.5 x 2.35	1982	Letter Plus 6 numbers	1982
10 g	Minted	999.9	Rectangular	25 x 15 x 1.355	1982	-	-
5 g	Minted	999.9	Rectangular	23.5 x 13.5 x 0.84	1982	-	-

Source: Tokuriki Honten Co Ltd \* Between 1981-2007, the dimensions of the 400 oz bar in mm were: 245 x 88 (top), 215 x 58 (base), 40 (thickness). Its serial number system: 6 numbers recorded the serial number (1st/2nd no's), the month (3rd/4th no's) and the year.

**Serial numbers**

400 oz. Letter plus 6 numbers. The numbers record the last figure of the year (1st no), numbers without meaning (2nd/3rd no's) and the serial number (last 3 no's). A reference to the full year date has been applied since 2008.

1000 g – 50 g. 6 numbers record the last figure of the year (1st no), a number without meaning (2nd no) and the serial number (last 4 no's).

**HISTORY OF GOLD BAR MANUFACTURE**

All bars were denominated in monmes (1 monme = 3.75 g) until 3 cast bars in grams were issued in the 1960s: 1000 g, 500 g and 100 g. These bars were reissued in their current dimensions in 1981, together with the first 400 oz bar.

In 1982, two new cast bars were added to the range: 300 g and 200 g. In the same year, 4 minted bars were issued: 50 g, 10 g, 5 g and 1 g.

In 2008, the 400 oz bar was reissued with new dimensions.

Manufacture of the 1 g minted bar ceased in 2000.

The current official stamp, introduced in 1981, replaced one that had been in use since around 1900.

A serial numbering system, first applied to 1000 g, 500 g and 100 g cast bars in 1975, was modified in 1981, and in the case of the 400 oz was modified again in 2008.



The dimensions of the London Good Delivery bar were modified in 2008.



EXAMPLES OF GOLD BARS



1000 g



500 g



100 g



Obverse



Reverse



10 g

50 g

**OFFICIAL STAMP**

On bars issued by Tokuriki Honten since 1981.







The company's headquarters in Tokyo has remained on the same site since 1727.



Retailing gold bars at the company's sales office in Osaka.

#### 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](http://www.goldbarsworldwide.com)

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