

PAMP Currency Bar Collection

While I have every intent to write definitive information regarding PAMP and the various bars and rounds it has produced over the years, I know my knowledge changes over time as I stumble upon new and rare pieces. With this said, I believe there are four designs to what I call the currency series. It is likely these were made early in the history of PAMP as they are found in the clear plastic mint seals, not on assay cards. Furthermore, the design details are more sculpted, in line with the early work of PAMP.

The currency series stands out among PAMP designs as they have unique art on both sides of the bar. It is certain they were made in 1 oz and 5 gram ingots, but unknown if produced in other sizes. While I think it is unlikely other sizes were made, as I have never seen them, this is speculation and is contrary to fact that PAMP produced an array of weights in their products. The currencies in this series are from the United States, Italy, Argentina and Germany.

The 1975 United States \$100 bill is glorious in details. The fine details can be appreciated with magnification, but the more obvious details such as Ben Franklin are distinctive. The one ounce bar also has the typical PAMP logo and "ONE ONCE 999 FINE SILVER" written on it. Even more impressive, the details of the currency are crammed onto the surface of a 5 gram bar. With more limited space on the 5 gram bar, only "FINE SILVER 999" is located where the text is on the larger version, but the PAMP logo is to the left of Franklin in the blank area.

United States \$100 1 oz bar



The

Italian 100000 Lire with the 1974 design is a sight to behold. As banknotes often have fancy designs and scrolls, seeing these details work out on the surface of silver is impressive. I do not see a year on the bar itself nor on the currency this bar is based on.

The PAMP logo and “ONE OUNCE FINE SILVER 999” and “5 g FINE SILVER 999” are in the blank surface space of their respective bar. The reverse of both sizes is crammed with details staying true to the original.

Italian 100000 Lire 1 oz bar



The Argentina currency is the 10,000 Pesos from 1976-1983. This bar has a portrait on the right and fancy details on nearly the entire piece. This currency bar has some blank space to the left side with “ONE OUNCE FINE SILVER 999” and the PAMP logo on the one ounce bar and “5 g FINE SILVER 999” with the PAMP logo under it on the 5 gram bar. The reverse is busy with details and has tropical trees in the center.

Argentina 10,000 Pesos 1 oz bar



The final bar in the series (that I am aware of) is the 1000 Deutsche Mark used in the late 1970s to early 1980s. With a portrait and swirl designs taking up most of the surface, the left has blank space for “ONE OUNCE FINE SILVER 999” with the PAMP logo under it on the one ounce bar and “5 g FINE SILVER” with the PAMP logo under it on the 5 gram version. The reverse has a castle with designs in the background reminiscent of a swirly painting.

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German 1000 Deutsche Mark 1 oz bar



While I would consider all the currency bars rare, or at least hard to find, they do show up for sale more often than the Zodiac series, but perhaps less often than something with a Four Seasons design. I recall mention of a variant of the US \$100 bill replica in a discussion group and I am sure it is possible variants of the other bars also exist.

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