

NINETEENTH CENTURY SAN FRANCISCO MINT BAR

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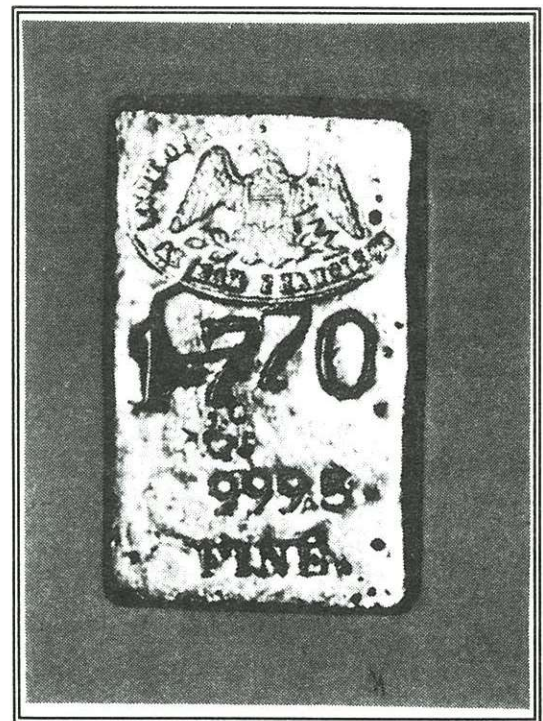
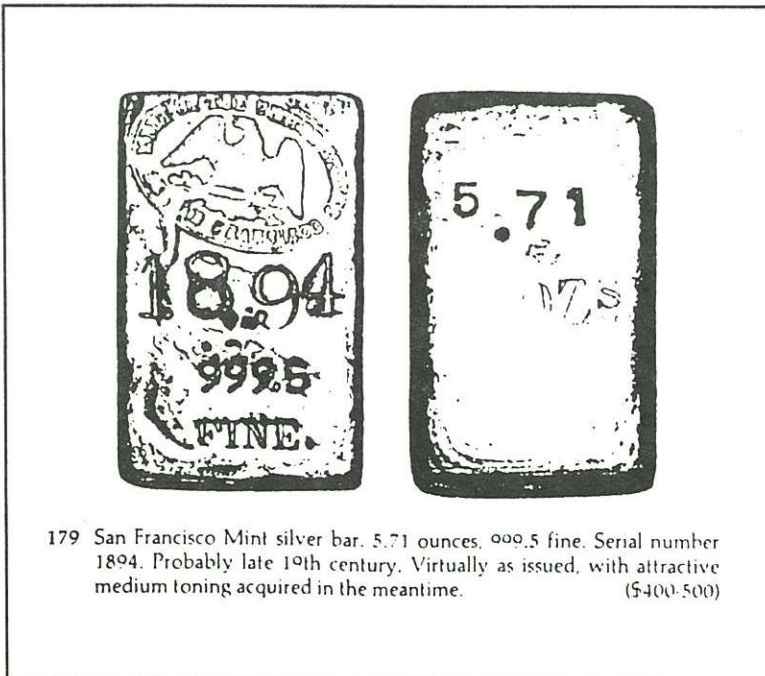
Small gold and silver bars from the San Francisco mint are stamped with the words "The Mint of the United States at San Francisco" surrounding the heraldic eagle with a hand stamped weight, fineness and serial number. The silver bar example shown here is stamped with a serial number of "1770" and "999.5 FINE" on the front and "5.22 OZS" on the back.

Two similar silver bars were auctioned in the 1982 Henry H. Clifford collection by Bowers and Ruddy Auction Galleries of Los Angeles, California. This sale included many rare gold and silver ingots from mining companies, assay offices and the U.S. Mint. Lot #179 and lot #180 brought bids of \$900 and \$950 respectively at auction. The example shown here is of the same type as those in the Clifford sale.

U.S. Mint bars of any type are rare. The United States Mints at Carson City and San Francisco were placed in high gold and silver producing areas. Almost all bullion produced in the western states ended up at these two mints.

This is an interesting piece of Western Americana and rarely offered for sale.

The bar shown here is crudely made by today's standards and most probably of nineteenth century origin. This bar is guaranteed genuine!



A photograph of an original San Francisco Mint bar that measures 2 inches long by $1\frac{3}{16}$ inches wide and is $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch thick. Note the hole just below the first 7 used for assaying the bar.