

The Goldsmiths' Company Assay Office

- is where hallmarking began...

...and we have been testing the quality of gold and silver in London for over 700 years (and, more recently, platinum and palladium). In fact, the word 'hallmarking' refers to Goldsmiths' Hall where, from the 15th century, London craftsmen brought their work for assaying and marking.

Hallmarking
- trusted by the best for centuries

The key to surviving for 700 years has been integrity and this is something that lies at the heart of everything we do. The skills of our workforce honed over this remarkable history, our continuous investment in training, apprenticeship schemes and state of the art technology and equipment has made the London hallmark revered for its quality. Our service is unrivalled and being part of the Goldsmiths' Company means we are committed to supporting the jewellery and silversmithing trade.

The Assay Office today

Hallmarking today is carried out according to the 1973 Hallmarking Act. We offer a wide range of services to help our customers with their hallmarking needs. These include traditional services, such as handmarking, and modern techniques, such as laser marking. You can register with us by using our quick and easy online registration or download an application form from our website. We have three conveniently located London offices; Goldsmiths' Hall, Greville Street (off Hatton Garden) and Heathrow Airport. Over the years we have expanded our service portfolio and we aim to be a one-stop-shop for the jewellery trade.

Seminars, training, lectures
and tours - a global centre
of expertise

Have you ever wanted to know how an Assay Office works? Our in-depth tours include a visit to our library (the largest in the UK for jewellery, silver and hallmarking). We also provide hallmarking presentations and visits to students at jewellery and silversmithing colleges. Our bespoke seminars and training courses cover a range of topical issues and can be tailored to your needs. We can host them at your premises or at Goldsmiths' Hall.

What our customers say about
us

"We always receive support and can rely on the Assay Office to get things done at the last minute."
Corrall Warner, Solange Azagury-Partridge

"We have been using the Assay Office to hallmark and laser engrave our jewellery and have found their work to be efficient and of a high standard."
Jody Wainwright, Boodles

Contact us

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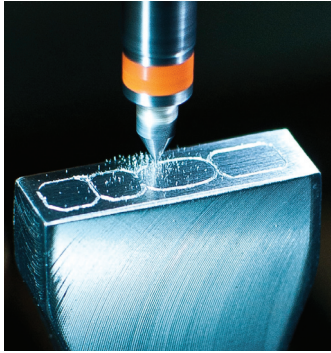
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Laser marking and punch making - helping you make your mark



Laser marking

When it comes to laser marking, we use a very fine high-powered laser beam to create a highly detailed mark. In addition to hallmarking, this high quality service is ideal for your personalised messages, lettering, serial numbers, stone weights, logos and signatures.

Punch making

We have pantograph engraving and state-of-the-art laser machines that enable us to offer a fast and efficient punch manufacturing service. We can make flat or curved punches on 'traditional straight' or 'swan neck' shanks. The punches are finished by hand to an exceptional standard and are suitable for hand marking or marking by press.

Expert services, valuations, laboratory – the complete solution provider

Expert services

The Assay Office has run the Antique Plate Committee (APC) since 1939, which is the internationally renowned body for adjudicating spurious silver. We also work closely with the Trading Standards Authorities providing inspection assistance, testing and expert witness statements for test purchases and seizures thought to flout the Hallmarking Act.



Valuations

We offer professional valuations for jewellery, watches and silverware either by valuation days at Goldsmiths' Hall or at your store, drop-off services, secure postal services and home visits. Every item is registered on our confidential e-register database ensuring it is properly protected in the event of loss or theft. Valuations also mean that you will have the correct level of insurance cover.

Laboratory

We use sophisticated modern techniques, state-of-the-art equipment and rigorous procedures. Our laboratory is fully independent and UKAS-accredited and we offer nickel testing, antique silver dating, complete compositional analysis of metal alloys, plating thickness measurement, smelting and analysis of jewellery sweeps, powders and ores.

Trial of the Pyx

Every year we are asked to verify that the UK coins produced at the Royal Mint are within statutory limits – this is known as the Trial of the Pyx and has taken place since 1246. Hosted in Goldsmiths' Hall, this important event is presided over by HM The Queen's Remembrancer. The name 'Pyx' refers to the chests in which coins are transported and derives from the Pyx Chamber in Westminster Abbey.



Hallmark of
The Goldsmiths' Company
since 1300



The
GOLDSMITHS'
Company

ASSAY OFFICE



The Goldsmiths' Company Assay Office

700 years of innovation,
integrity and excellence