

**hallmark**1. [ˈhɔːlmɑːk] *n*

1. пробирное клеймо, проба (*мж.* hallmark stamp)
2. признак; критерий  
the hallmark of genius - печать гения

2. [ˈhɔːlmɑːk] *v*

- 1) ставить клеймо, пробу  
to hallmark gold - поставить пробу на золоте
- 2) определять качество; устанавливать критерий

**hallmark**

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

**hall-mark** [**hallmark hallmarks hallmarked hallmarking**] *noun, verb BrE*[ˈhɔːlmɑːk] *NAmE* [ˈhɔːlmɑːrk]**noun**

1. a feature or quality that is typical of sb/sth
  - Police said the explosion **bore all the hallmarks of** a terrorist attack.
2. a mark put on gold, silver and <sup>↑</sup>platinum objects that shows the quality of the metal and gives information about when and where the object was made

Word Origin:

early 18th cent. (as a noun): from Goldsmiths' Hall in London, where articles were tested and stamped with such a mark.

Culture:**hallmarks**

Hallmarks are official marks that are **stamped** into articles made of gold, silver and **platinum** to prove their quality. Under British law all items made of these metals must be **hallmarked** before they are put on sale. The marks are very small and are usually placed where they will not spoil the appearance of an article.

Hallmarks were introduced in Britain in 1300. They are controlled in Britain by the <sup>↑</sup>Assay Offices. Most modern hallmarks include four symbols: the **sponsor's mark** identifies the company which made the article; the **standard mark** describes the quality of the metal; the **Assay Office mark** indicates the city where the article was tested and marked. A **date letter** which indicates the year in which the article was stamped, may also be added.

The sponsor's mark used to be an emblem such as a bird, but now consists of the **initials** of the **maker**. The standard marks consist of a number which indicates the quality of the metal. The number 916, for example, indicates 22 **carat** (*AmE karat*) gold. Formerly gold items were marked with a crown. Any silver items are marked with a lion, as well as the number 925, to indicate **sterling silver**, which is 92.5% pure. **Platinum** items may be marked with an **orb** (= a decorated ball with a cross on top). The Assay Office mark was first added in 1478, when all items had to be tested for quality at Goldsmiths' Hall (hence the name **hallmark**) in London. Britain currently has Assay Offices in four cities: the symbol for London is a **leopard**, for Birmingham an **anchor**, for Sheffield a **rose** and for Edinburgh a **castle**. Date letters are in different styles of **type** and set inside a **shield**. Additional symbols may show that the article was made to celebrate a particular occasion such as a <sup>↑</sup>coronation or the millennium.

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries a system of hallmarks similar to that used in Britain was introduced in the US. Items were **stamped** with a date letter, **duty mark**, which indicated that tax had been paid, and a lion. The practice did not last long, and instead **goldsmiths** and **silversmiths stamped** their work with their **initials** or full name. Some added a date, but many items have no date, so their age can only be estimated by the style. In 1868 <sup>↑</sup>Baltimore **silversmiths** were the first to add below their names the **sterling standard** of 925/1000 (i.e. 92.5%). **Silversmiths** in <sup>↑</sup>Boston and New York City had **guilds** which decided their own standards, and items were often marked with the name of the city in which they were made.

Items made in the US now must have on them the mark of the person or company that made them and a standard mark. Gold items are marked in **karats**, usually abbreviated to 'K'. Most gold jewellery in the US is 18 **karat** and marked '18K'. Silver items of sterling standard may be **stamped** 'silver', 'solid silver', 'sterling silver', 'sterling' or 'ster'.

The idea of a hallmark as a means of identifying the origin and quality of an item has a wider use in English. If something is **the hallmark of** or **has/bears all the hallmarks of** something, it has all the essential features associated with that thing. If somebody **leaves/stamps their hallmark on** something, they have a **unique** and lasting effect on it.

Example Bank:

- The regime adopted the style which was to become its hallmark in the 1960s.
- The theory has as its hallmark the achievement of a political consensus.

**verb ~ sth**to put a <sup>↑</sup>hallmark on metal goods

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	hallmark
	BrE / 'hɔ:lma:k/
	NAmE / 'hɔ:lma:rk/
he / she / it	hallmarks
	BrE / 'hɔ:lma:ks/
	NAmE / 'hɔ:lma:ks/
past simple, past participle	hallmarked
	BrE / 'hɔ:lma:kt/
	NAmE / 'hɔ:lma:kt/
-ing form	hallmarking
	BrE / 'hɔ:lma:kɪŋ/
	NAmE / 'hɔ:lma:kɪŋ/

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hallmark

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **hallmark**<sup>1</sup> /'hɔ:lmark/ \$'hɔ:lmark/ *BrE* *AmE* *noun* [countable]

[Date: 1700-1800; Origin: Goldsmiths' Hall in London, England where gold and silver articles were tested and marked]

1. an idea, method, or quality that is typical of a particular person or thing

hallmark of

- \* These hotels still offer the sort of service which was the hallmark of the grand days of travel.
- \* The explosion had all the hallmarks of a terrorist attack.
- \* Their performance did not bear the hallmark of European champions.

2. a mark put on silver, gold, or **platinum** that shows the quality of the metal, and where and when it was made

II. **hallmark**<sup>2</sup> *BrE* *AmE* *verb* [transitive]

to put a hallmark on silver, gold, or **platinum**

hallmark

Freakuency Pack

12500 **8520** *MCW*

15000 **6003** *COCA*

RANGE: **9k** **HALLMARK** 2165

hallmark 1638

hallmarks 527

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

1345 **15377**<sup>1638</sup> *nn1*