

GOLD BEHIND THE DOORS

Special Dossier 11 / Monetary history, allegations and documents, 1944–1982.

Fort Knox is both a store of metal and a symbol of trust. Peter David Beter made it the center of a story about secretly removed American gold and monetary power. This dossier follows his allegations, contemporary visits, audit reports and a literary detour through Goldfinger.

1

MONETARY BACKGROUND

From Bretton Woods to 1971

Gold, exchange rates, the London Gold Pool and the closing of the gold window. Actual monetary changes explain why reserve questions attracted attention.

2

BETER'S CASE

Shipments, Durell and a public campaign

An allegation that reserves had been removed, a supposedly unlisted 1965 shipment, the 1974 visit and a demand for independent investigation.

3

CONTROL AND INTERPRETATION

Document, scope, conclusion

GAO reports should be read according to their actual scope. Goldfinger can prompt questions, but cannot prove Beter's account of Fleming's intentions.

AN ILLUSTRATION IS NOT EVIDENCE

Storage, transport and correspondence scenes are editorial visualizations. They are not exact facility plans, authenticated shipment photographs or verified portraits of every participant.

SOURCES AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Audio Letter transcripts establish what Beter claimed. Contemporary documents, archives and institutional histories provide separate verification and context. Captions are editorial paraphrases; images are newly created illustrations. Full references are in Sources.pdf and Sources.txt attached to the PDF and included in the ZIP.

Sources: Sources.txt / source register and verification notes.

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EDITORIAL OVERVIEW - Beter's narrative does not establish the alleged secret operations.

1 / GOLD, DOLLARS AND CONFIDENCE

Before the allegations: why a bullion reserve became a public symbol.



1 A building and a promise

Fort Knox became a powerful symbol of American financial strength. Yet the building, the ownership of its contents and the monetary rules surrounding the dollar are three different subjects.



2 The postwar framework

The Bretton Woods system linked currencies to the dollar and the dollar to gold. Its operation depended on international confidence and on official monetary arrangements, not on public access to a vault.



3 London Gold Pool

Eight central banks formed the London Gold Pool in 1961 to defend the official gold price. It collapsed in March 1968. Beter interprets these real monetary operations as cover for a secret theft.



4 15 August 1971

President Nixon suspended the dollar's conversion into gold for foreign official holders. A change in monetary rules is documented; it does not by itself establish that a depository was secretly emptied.



5 Beter enters the argument

Beter linked gold, inflation and political power in his book *The Conspiracy Against the Dollar* and later *Audio Letters*. The Fort Knox allegation became a recurring foundation of his wider account.



6 The question to carry forward

What was held, where, when and under whose control? Those questions connect the dramatic story to records that can be compared: inventories, transfers, assays and audit reports.

2 / THE VISIT AND THE ALLEGATION

The public visit and the inventory were separate events.



1 23 September 1974

Members of Congress and the press visited Fort Knox. The Mint's announcement distinguished this visit from an inventory beginning on 24 September. A press tour is not itself an audit.



2 What the visitors could see

The encounter with visible stacks of bullion offered a powerful public image. Beter challenged what this image proved and alleged that the visitors had been shown a deceptive display.



3 An alleged hidden core

AL02 describes an alleged inner storage area and a separate outer display. This is Beter's account of the building, not an authenticated architectural plan. The illustration is deliberately conceptual.



4 The Tatom manuscript

In AL01, Beter invokes a manuscript associated with Stanley Tatom and an allegedly withheld chapter. This dossier has not authenticated that manuscript; the transcript proves that Beter cited it.



5 The substitute-metal claim

AL02 alleges that deceptive bars could conceal a different metal beneath gold-colored surfaces. No tested counterfeit bar from Fort Knox is supplied here. An illustrated comparison is not a recovered specimen.



6 Two records to compare

Beter rejects the official account; GAO reports a physical inventory and assay work. The useful comparison is between the stated allegation and the published audit methods, scope and findings.

3 / A SHIPMENT AND A PAPER TRAIL

The alleged 1965 transfer sits at the center of Beter's correspondence story.



1 20 January 1965

Beter describes four tractor-trailers leaving Fort Knox with gold. The date and convoy are elements of his allegation. This drawing does not reconstruct a verified photograph of the shipment.



2 Jeffersonville to New York

His account sends the cargo through a rail transfer at Jeffersonville, Indiana, toward the New York Assay Office. Movement between facilities and disappearance from national ownership are different claims.



3 Edward Durell's role

Beter presents businessman Edward Durell as a persistent investigator who questioned officials and preserved their replies. In AL56, the correspondence campaign becomes a model for listeners seeking an inquiry.



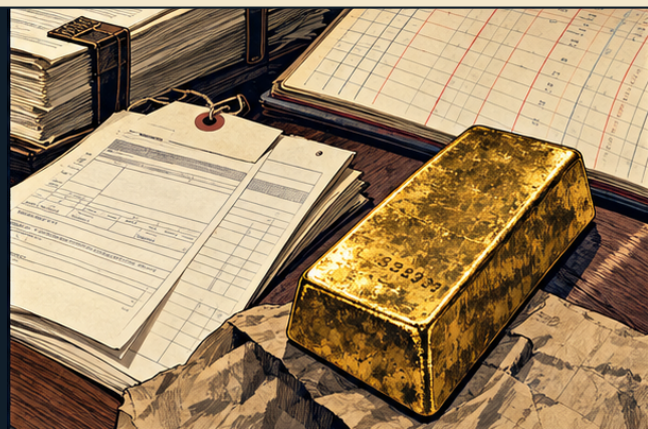
4 The Brooks reply as quoted

AL02 quotes a reply attributed to Mint Director Mary Brooks, dated 19 June 1975, describing over 1.76 million fine troy ounces. We cite Beter's quotation; the original letter has not been authenticated here.



5 The disputed list

Beter says the transfer was absent from a supplied shipment list and treats the discrepancy as evidence of a wider removal program. Testing that inference requires the list, its coverage and the original replies.

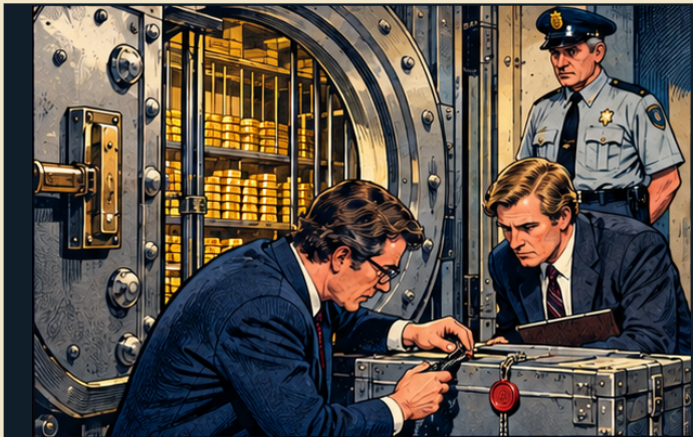


6 Follow the receiving entry

A complete inquiry would connect dispatch, transport, receipt and subsequent ownership. A transfer document alone cannot determine every later event; an unexplained gap should be investigated rather than filled with an invented conclusion.

4 / WHAT THE AUDIT DID

The 1975 GAO report provides a specific, limited test of the gold holdings.



1 Selected compartments

GAO reports that it selected the compartments and withheld the selection until the inventory began. Three of thirteen compartments received a full count of their contents; the others were visually inspected.



2 The scale of the count

The committee counted 91,604 bars, representing roughly 21% of the depository's gold. This was substantial sampling, not a complete fresh assay of every bar at Fort Knox.



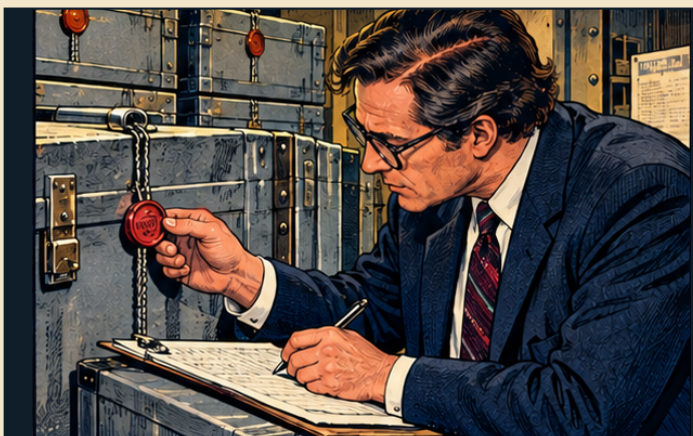
3 Weight and records

The report describes weighing sampled melts, meaning groups of bars from a single pouring, and comparison with inventory records. Gross weight and fine-gold content are separate quantities.



4 How samples were taken

GAO describes small chips from the top and bottom of representative bars, coded before assay. Reported fineness fell within Mint tolerances. Beter disputes the adequacy of such sampling.



5 Controls between counts

Seals and custody procedures help connect one inventory to the next. They provide a record of control, while their reliability depends on how consistently the procedures are followed.



6 Finding and recommendation

GAO concluded that Fort Knox holdings agreed with its records and recommended cyclical inventories. The conclusion has a defined evidentiary basis; it should neither be ignored nor expanded into unlimited certainty.

5 / THE DISPUTE ESCALATES, 1975-1976

Gold policy, new allegations and the government replies quoted by Beter.



1 The IMF enters the story

AL04 casts proposed IMF gold sales as part of a cover-up. IMF records document a different stated purpose: reducing gold's monetary role. In 1976-1980, 25 million ounces went to members and 25 million to the auction program.



2 From empty vault to alleged refill

In AL03, Beter adds a new claim: borrowed gold is supposedly being returned to the alleged inner vault. This changes the story's test. Finding gold later would not, in his account, settle what had happened earlier.



3 A radiation allegation

AL05-06 introduce claims about radioactive material at the depository. We have no authenticated test result supporting that accusation. The pictured meter symbolizes a proposed check; it is not a record of a measured hazard.



4 The meeting as Beter describes it

AL06 recounts a September 1975 meeting with Representative Otis Pike and retired General John L. Ryan Jr. Beter says Ryan supported his vault description. This remains his report of the conversation, not independently verified minutes.



5 The denial inside the transcript

AL07 quotes Mary Brooks's letter of 21 November 1975: she rejected plutonium storage and disputed the alleged vault arrangement. AL08 quotes a further denial by Treasury Secretary William Simon. The quoted originals are not independently authenticated here.



6 Durell's open letter

AL08 reproduces Durell's 7 January 1976 appeal to Representative John B. Conlan, organizing charges around shipments, records and audits. It is a citizen's accusation and request for action, not a court indictment or judicial finding.

6 / FLEMING, GOLDFINGER AND BETER

A novel can frame a question without proving its answer.



1 A writer with wartime experience

Ian Fleming worked in British naval intelligence during the Second World War. That real background helps explain his espionage interests; it does not authenticate every fictional plot as a disguised operation.



2 A precise biographical correction

AL56 calls Fleming a former MI5 officer. The biographical sources used here identify his wartime post in Naval Intelligence. Those institutions should not be casually treated as the same organization.



3 Goldfinger, 1959

The novel centers on gold, a criminal scheme and the vulnerability of Fort Knox. The publisher identifies it as fiction. Its existence shows that the subject entered popular imagination before Beter's campaign.



4 Beter's proposed key

In AL56, Beter claims that David Rockefeller was the model behind Goldfinger and that the story hinted at an actual monetary conspiracy. This is Beter's interpretation, not a demonstrated finding about Fleming's intent.



5 From warning to distraction?

Beter argues that Fleming's fiction opened minds, while later screen treatment made the same possibilities seem ridiculous. He alleges deliberate manipulation; a difference in artistic tone alone cannot establish that operation.



6 Read the two genres differently

A novel supplies characters, suspense and imagined motives. A historical case needs traceable records and corroboration. Their resemblance may inspire research, but it cannot replace that research.

7 / WHO OWNS THE GOLD?

Accounting, continuing audits and the legacy of a public campaign.



1 A certificate is not a bar

The Federal Reserve explains that the Treasury owns the monetary gold transferred under the 1934 law. The Fed received gold certificates. Their appearance in accounts does not mean the Fed owns the physical bars.



2 Book value and market value

The statutory gold price used in the accounts differs from a changing market price. Comparing the two without naming the valuation rule can manufacture a mystery where the first issue is accounting.



3 The 1978 follow-up

GAO's May 1978 report found the continuing gold audits at Fort Knox and Denver properly performed and inventory controls adequate. It also raised a separate concern about standards for coinage-metal waste and surplus.



4 The campaign continues

By AL56 in July 1980, Beter again highlighted Durell's correspondence and urged attention to Senator William Proxmire. His persistent demand for an inquiry belongs to the history of the controversy.



5 A listener's practical question

Which exact claim does a document support? Keep the original, its date, author and context. An unanswered letter may justify another question, but silence alone cannot prove the proposed explanation.



6 The durable lesson

Beter made Fort Knox a story about trust and concentrated power. The strongest way to examine that story is to preserve its actual claims, compare the records and state plainly where evidence remains missing.

Sources: [B,C] AL02 and AL56; [G,J] GAO 1978 and Federal Reserve

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COMIC VISUALIZATION - Beter's account; does not establish the allegations as historical fact.

8 / THE CAMPAIGN REACHES 1981

From correspondence and predictions to the Gold Commission's published conclusions.



1 Proxmire and the inspector general

In AL61, Beter describes Senator Proxmire's intervention and a Treasury inspector-general report dated September 1980. He criticizes its scope and delayed release, while urging listeners to demand a stronger inquiry.



2 Two totals are not one measure

AL62 compares Fort Knox shipments with net gold sales abroad and calls the difference missing gold. Gross movements between facilities and net international sales require reconciliation; subtracting unlike totals alone cannot establish a theft.



3 A prediction about the commission

In AL67, Beter predicts a limited gold-backing scheme without public convertibility and depicts the Gold Commission as part of that plan. This is a forecast made in August 1981, to be compared with the later published outcome.



4 The allegation moves to New York

AL70 claims that late-1981 shipments from the New York Assay Office, ostensibly to West Point, concealed another theft. Beter also cites newspaper coverage. Neither the illustrated convoy nor a quoted news story authenticates that alleged diversion.



5 31 March 1982: the report

The Gold Commission's majority did not recommend restoring a gold standard as an inflation remedy under then-current conditions. It accepted the continuing audit program, while recording dissent, including a demand for a complete annual audit.



6 What the record leaves us

Beter's campaign, the official responses and dissent within an official commission are all part of the history. Their evidentiary roles differ. A fair account preserves the dispute without presenting its most dramatic accusations as established events.

TIMELINE / EVENTS AND CLAIMS

Documented events are distinguished from dates in Beter’s narrative.

DATE	EVENT / SOURCE	SIGNIFICANCE / CLAIM
1944	Bretton Woods conference. [F]	A framework for the postwar monetary system.
1959	Goldfinger is published. [I]	A novel; Beter’s interpretation comes later.
1961-1968	London Gold Pool. [F]	Documented monetary interventions.
20.01.1965	Alleged disputed shipment. [B,C]	A date in Beter’s account.
15.08.1971	Nixon closes the gold window. [F]	Conversion suspended for foreign official holders.
23-24.09.1974	Visit; then inventory begins. [D]	Two separate events.
10.02.1975	GAO report FOD-75-10. [E]	Findings and a recommendation for cyclical counts.
06-07.1975	AL01 and AL02. [A,B]	Beter develops his gold allegations.
1975-1980	Dispute, replies and further audits. [C,G,K]	Beter’s campaign continues.
1981-1982	AL61-70; commission report. [L,N]	Predictions and published conclusions.

WHAT WOULD ADVANCE THE INQUIRY

Authenticated original correspondence, the precise coverage of shipment lists and matching receiving records. Distinguish Beter’s quotation of a document from the document itself, and an open question from established proof.

Sources: Sources.txt - úplné odkazy priložené / full references attached.