

Alexander Pushkin leans dramatically against a Moscow or St.

Petersburg iron railing, from an unknown factory, circa 1940s-1950s, bisque porcelain figurine offers a very good likeness of Russia's foremost poet.

Bisque porcelain, 8 5/8" high with a 3 3/4" square base (21.5cm; 9.5 x 9.5cm)

Very good to excellent condition, no chips or cracks. There is a little roughness to the cape edge on the back of his overcoat but it probably dates to when the figure was originally made. Overall, the sculpture shows only the surface dirt that almost all older bisque figures frequently display. There are a few tiny smudge marks here and there that may disappear after a very careful cleaning.

Alexander Pushkin is considered the greatest Russian poet and the founder of modern Russian literature. He was born on 6 June 1799 and died aged 37, killed in a duel on 10 February 1837. He published his first poem at the age of 15 and was widely recognized and hailed as a genius by the literary establishment before he had even graduated from the Imperial Lyceum in Tsarskoe Selo.

Pushkin pioneered the use of vernacular speech in his poems and plays, creating a style of storytelling still associated with Russian literature. He greatly influenced later Russian writers and his contributions to the Russian language are often compared to those of Shakespeare for English speakers.

Pushkin was also very active politically and gradually became a spokesman for the literary radicals. In the early 1820s, he was exiled to southern Russia for two years by the government. Because of his liberal political views and influence on generations of Russian freethinkers, the Bolsheviks portrayed him as an opponent to bourgeois literature and a forerunner of Soviet literature and poetry.

The Soviets staged large commemorations on the hundredth anniversary of his death in 1937. While we believe this figure was made at mid-century, it is possible that it could date to as early as the 1930s.

The nineteenth century iron bridge and fence railings of St. Petersburg have been well studied over the years that it is possible that the sculptor's "location" for this figurine might be identifiable! This is certainly a dramatic vision of the poet as a young adult and would make the perfect addition to a reader's desktop or bookshelf.

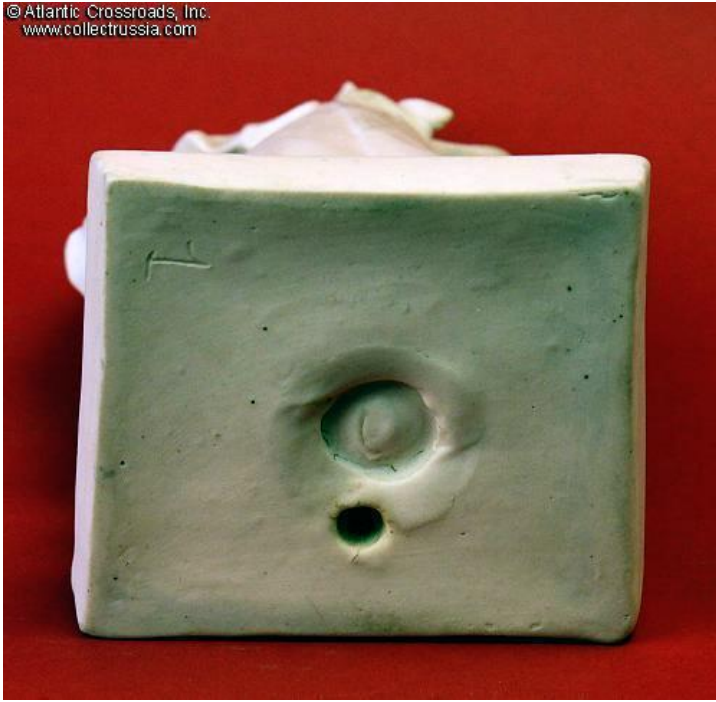
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