

Yuri Gagarin, large bust in Silumin alloy, circa 1960s.

This is one of the hardest to find busts of the first man in space, very different from the more common, familiar portraits and statuettes. Instead of the spacesuit or Air Force uniform Gagarin is wearing in most of his official photos, monuments and paintings, this statuette shows him dressed in old style "bomber" jacket and leather aviator's helmet.

The front of the plinth has the name "Yu.A. Gagarin" in raised letters. Interestingly, since this is the way Gagarin first appeared on the front pages of Soviet newspapers announcing his space flight, the image probably really struck the cord with the contemporary generation of Soviet citizens. The reverse shows raised maker's logo "LZM" and "Leningrad".

The bust has been painted black at some later date, probably to imitate a cast iron sculpture. There is minimal amount of pitting and wear on the back and the base but the front is in outstanding condition. A very impressive and scarce piece, this bust can be a centerpiece of the Soviet space collection!

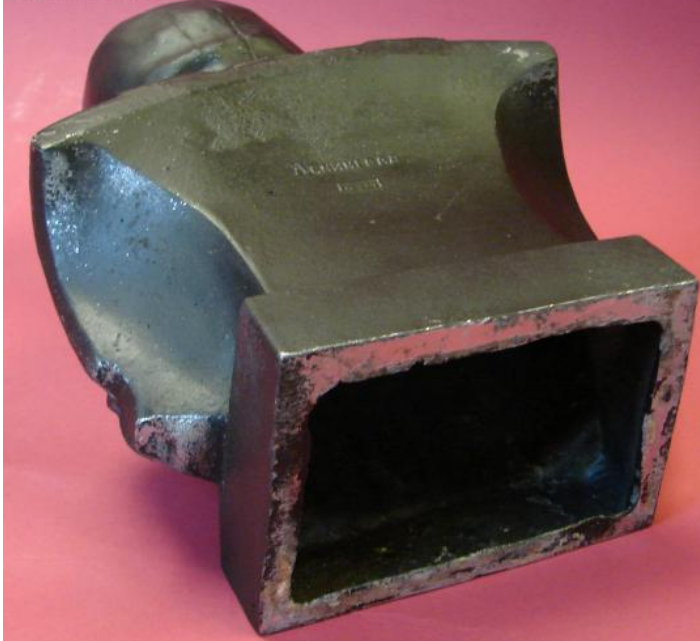
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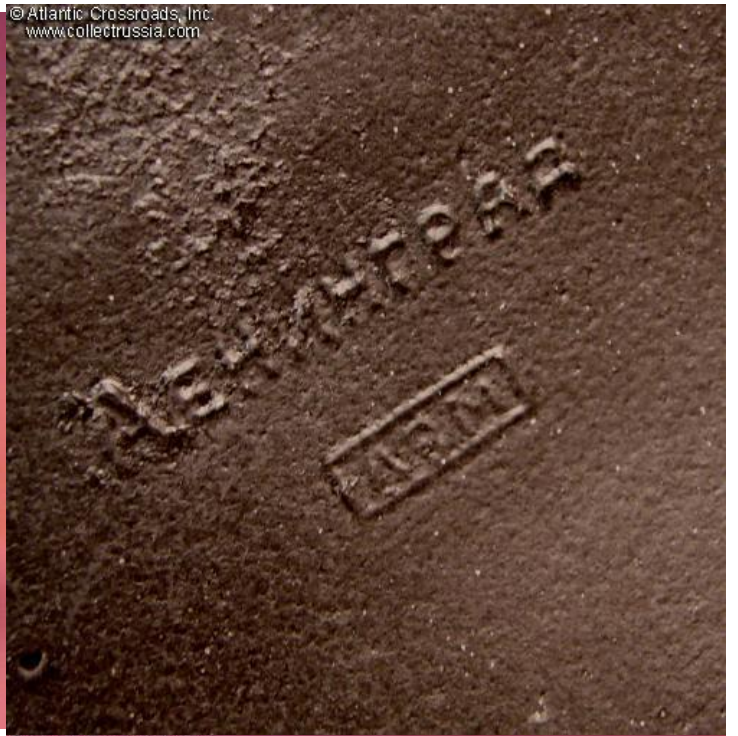




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