

Rural Court Judge (Volostnoy Sudya) of Kamenets- Podolskiy District, 1989-1912, breast badge.

In solid bronze; medallion measures 46.9 mm in height, 48.4 mm in width, 4.0 mm thick; weighs 46.0 grams not including the suspension. The obverse shows inscription in stylized Old Slavonic "Волостной Судья" (Volostnoy Sudya or Rural District Judge) and the coat of arms of the town of Kamenets-Podolskiy (in the Ukraine). The reverse has Monogram of Emperor Alexander III and the dates 19 February 1861 (the date of the liberation of peasants and introduction of the new rural court system in Russia) and 12 July 1889 (the date when the rural courts were established in this particular region).

The medallion is in very fine condition. There are occasional scratches and dings, but the details are well preserved. Reddish oxidation patina and light pitting to both sides. Comes with intact original suspension chains; the original bar is present although it broke in half, and missing a small piece in the middle and the attachment pin. It will nevertheless display very nicely.

The lowest level, Volostnoy or rural court would usually decide minor civil cases as well as misdemeanor and petty criminal cases involving farmers. Unlike the prior history of the Russian Empire (and also in contrast with the Communist period), the judge of the court was democratically elected from local population, not appointed by the administration.

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