

Motherhood Medal, 1st class, Variation 2, Sub-Variation with mint mark "MMD" on the suspension device, circa 1960s-70s issue.

Medallion is in solid silver, measures 29.3 mm wide; weighs 17.2 grams without suspension and connecting link; overall weight with suspension is 23.2 g. The suspension device is in gilded brass and enamels. The medallion features flat eyelet. The suspension is of late style, with narrow rectangular base of the pin. Unlike vast majority of the motherhood medals, the suspension has raised mint mark "MMD" (Moscow Mint) on the reverse just above its eyelet. This is a very scarce version of the otherwise common motherhood medal!

In very fine to excellent condition. The obverse of the silver medallion shows practically no wear visible to the naked eye; its details are perfect and crisp. The reverse has a few tiny dings, most of them to the raised edge, otherwise perfect. The enamel on the suspension has a few scratches that are not too detractive and few miniscule surface flakes along the edges that are barely noticeable without a loupe. The gilt finish on the suspension is nice and bright. Overall, an attractive example.

Medal for the Defense of Leningrad, Variation 1, very early sub-variation with "Short Horizon", circa 1942-43. In brass; 32.1 mm wide. This is the earliest version of the medal featuring the line of the horizon on the obverse not extending beyond the letters of the inscription (unlike on the more common issues of the Variation 1). This version also features characteristically wide outer rim. There are other, more subtle differences indicating a very early issue - note for example the edges of the Admiralty spire that are different than the later versions. Overall, the extremely crisp details are typical of the early strike, before the wear took its toll on the quality of the Mint dies.

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