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Badge of Distinction of the Order of St. Anne, #10834, 1908 issue to Stepan Sakovskiy, a policeman in the city of Odessa

. Please note that although we do not have documentary proof, the name of the recipient has been determined with certainty using privately held archival records, and we can guarantee that the medal was indeed awarded to Sakovskiy.

In silver, measures 31.4 mm in height incl. eyelet, 24.2 mm in width; weighs 13.6 g.

Fine condition. As is usually the case with these, the red enamel is almost entirely missing, although small traces of it remain on both sides. The details of the artwork, both raised and recessed, are nevertheless well-preserved; the imperial crown above the cross in particular is practically pristine. There are a few tiny dings, mostly to the raised edge, and some very tiny, barely noticeable scratches on the reverse, but both sides of the medallion are free of significant wear.

Established in 1797 by Emperor Paul, St. Anne Badge of Distinction (aka St. Anne Medal) was awarded to enlisted men and NCOs for valor on the battlefield as well as for the length of service beyond the required conscription period. Starting in 1907, it was also given to military men for outstanding feats in non-combat situations. Some of the medals were also awarded to policemen for many years of uninterrupted blameless service. The recipients who were giving the award for distinction rather than length of service would wear the medal on a ribbon with a bow as opposed to the ribbon alone.

According to D. Peters, over 115000 St. Anne Medals were issued by the end of Alexander I reign in 1826, with an additional 40000 awarded under Emperor Paul in 1786-1801. This particular piece however is unmistakably of Nicholas II period judging by its details and the style of the serial number. It is especially interesting to see that it was awarded to a gorodovoy (lowest-ranking police officer of a city or larger town) in Odessa. During the Russian Civil War, this city would become the site of prolonged bitter struggle between various factions and governments. For a long time, the anarchy ruled there, and the former policemen who had not managed to escape in time were being exterminated with vengeance by the Bolsheviks and well-organized criminal elements. Very few of the Odessa cops and their immediate family members - or their medals - survived the slaughter.

/D.I. Peters, [Award Medals of Russia of XIX - early XX Centurie](#)s, pp. 10-11/.

Please note, penny in our photo is for size reference.

Item# 41344

\$1,400.00





