

Alexander III Medal for Zeal, 1881-1894.

In silver. Measures 34.1 mm in height incl. eyelet, 29.0 mm wide; weighs 14.3 g not including the suspension and connecting link. This is the second version of the medal, created by the die-cutter Griliches. Features bas-relief portrait of Emperor Alexander III facing right with Cyrillic initials АГ ("A.G.", for Avraam Griliches) in recessed letters to the undercut of the shoulder. The obverse has an abbreviated inscription "By the Grace of God Alexander III, Emperor and Autocrat of All Russia" in raised characters. The reverse shows the inscription "For Zeal".

In very fine to excellent condition. The bas-relief portrait has only a couple of tiny dings that are nearly unnoticeable to the naked eye; its details are beautifully crisp and free of significant wear. The lettering on both sides is essentially pristine. On the obverse, the raised border has just a couple of minuscule dings near the eyelet; on the reverse, there is a single mild edge bump at approx. 4 o'clock (noticeable only from the reverse and just barely) and a few microscopic dings to the raised border. The original mint luster is exceptionally well-preserved on recessed areas on both sides. Attractive toning to silver throughout.

The medal comes on an original period St. Anne ribbon in silk moiré measuring 2 cm in width and approx. 17 cm in length; the ribbon is mounted on a Soviet-era suspension device for collector's display. The connecting link is a modern replacement.

/M. Diakov, Medals of the Russian Empire, Part 6, 1881-1894 , p. 21, fig. 896.6/.

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