Sergey Kirov Mourning / Commemorative Badge, circa 1934-35.

In bronze-plated and silver-plated steel, enamels; 23.2 mm wide. Pin back attachment. In excellent condition. The enamels are intact, with just light surface wear and completely free of flaking or chips. Details of the portrait are extremely well defined and crisp; good amount of original silver finish is still present.

Kirov was one of Lenin's closest allies during the revolution. His popularity (he was called "the favorite of the Communist Party") led to his Stalin-authorized assassination in 1934. Blamed on counter-revolutionary conspiracy, Kirov's death served as a starting point of the bloodiest wave of purges in Soviet history.

/"Avers 8", p. 27, fig. 181/

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