

Ready for Labor and Defense, Unit Banner Award, 1931-1936.

In silver plated brass and enamels. The medallion measures 60.1 mm in height, 59.6 mm in width; stands an incredible 123 mm (over 4 1/4") in overall height with fully extended chains. Massive and extremely impressive piece. The enamel and the details of the artwork are of spectacular quality. Shows a running athlete crossing the finish line with the inscription "Ready for Labor and Defense". The abbreviation "TsIK USSR VSFK" on the suspension stands for "All-Union Council of Physical Culture at the Central Executive Committee of the USSR".

In fine to very fine condition. The enamel is well preserved overall although there are small chips near the tips of the top and upper right arms of the star - not too noticeable given the scale of this award. There are also the usual hairline cracks to all arms that neither significantly affect the surface nor seriously detract from the overall impression. The enamel is free of buffing or excessive wear, retains beautiful luster and translucency. The details are pristine and the silver finish on the obverse is perfect creating an impression of solid silver. The reverse shows a bit more wear especially on the suspension; however the silver plating is still clearly visible on all parts of the badge. The wire attachments of the star are perfect. The prongs of the suspension device were replaced at some point with a conventional pin attachment; this however did not affect the enamel on the suspension which is still practically perfect.

The award was issued to sports teams of factories, state farms, schools etc when no less than 80% of their members achieved the "Ready for Labor and Defense" qualification. It was to be attached to the banner of the organization.

Please note: the regular badge in one of our photos is for size reference only, not included with the purchase of the Unit Award.

/ "Avers 8", p. 636, fig. 3360; Badges of USSR Defense Societies, p. 24 fig. I-12/.

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