

Commemorative Wall Plate "Memory of the Crimea", Budy Faience Factory, circa late 1950s.

A popular technique (sepie daguerreotype on porcelain or faience) for commemorative souvenirs in the Soviet Union of the mid-1950s to mid-1960s.

This 24 cm (nearly 9.5") plate shows the fountain "Night" in the park of the Central Sanitorium for the Armed Forces in Gurzuf, Crimea. Note the inscription "Memory of the Crimea" at the bottom. The reverse has provision to hang the plate on the wall (two pre-drilled holes for a cord) and shows the trademark of the Faience Factory "Sycle and Hammer" in Budy, Ukraine, in use between 1950 and 1967 (fig. #78 in Volume One of Marks on Soviet Porcelain, Faience, and Majolica, 1917-1991 by Nasonova et al). The number 37 above the trademark denotes the number of the master or the group which worked on this plate. Please note that the pen in the final photo is for size reference.

Very good to excellent condition. The artwork is perfect. There are minor scuffs and a couple of barely noticeable imperfections to the gilt border. There are no chips or cracks.

The Central Sanitarium for the Armed Forces used to be Gubonin's Resort in pre-Soviet Russia. The park takes up 18 acres of this 25-acre property. The "Night" fountain was created by unknown Russian masters and is a copy of the sculpture by Professor Berger (Germany) presented at the International Fountain Exhibition in Vienna at the end of the XIX century. In this composition the goddess of the night Nyukta is accompanied by the god of sleep Hypnos and the god of love, Eros. In the center of the composition, we see a globe covered with the Zodiac signs, a symbol of the Universe.

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