



Chain of Office, worn by ZAGS (Office for Records of Civic Status) registrars when conducting weddings in the USSR, with original shipping/storage box, dated 1984.

Unlike earlier massive versions in bronze, this version is in light-weight metal and cold enamels. Consists of 3.5" wide five-pointed center pendant with 29 alternating enameled links that are, respectively, 1.25" and 1" in diameter. The medallion and each of the links have suede disks fastened on the reverse. The purpose? To hold the chain in place when being around the official's neck so that it could not slip into careless looking positions. The chain is in excellent condition, with all links and enamels intact. The suede backings show minimal wear from actual use but no significant damage.

Comes with its original shipping/storage box with the original manufacturer's label on the lid identifying the item as manufactured at the Kiev (Russian spelling of the Ukrainian capital city of Kyiv) Metal Housewares Factory. Below the name of the factory is the handwritten and stamped information identifying the item, quantity in the box (4), price (4 rubles 97 kopeks), quality control stamps and date (May 1984). Inside the box there is the original small packing/QC slip which repeats much of the information on the large label and has the Quality Control stamp on its reverse.

Also of note are the remaining pieces of the rope glued under the label. It's part synthetic fiber part hemp burlap which was still in use in the USSR in 1984.

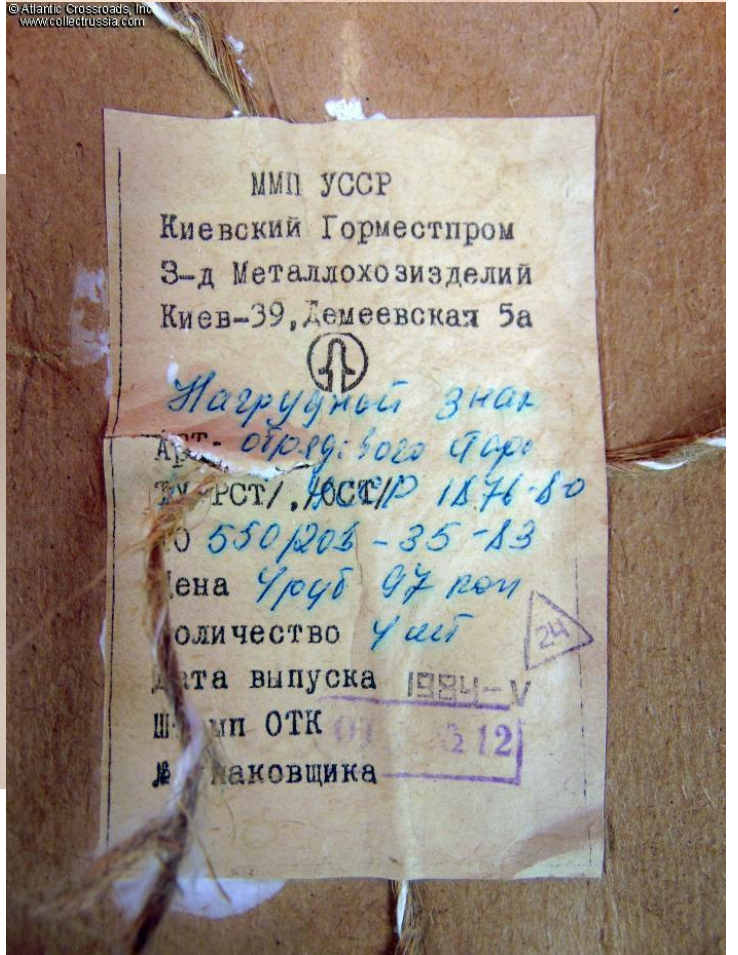
After the Communists largely eradicated active role of church in society - much like it happened during the Great French Revolution over two hundred years prior - the state assumed the responsibility for conducting weddings in the Soviet Union. There eventually was a desire to recapture at least some of the "pomp and circumstance" of weddings previously held in Orthodox churches. This chain of office was intended to replace the large gold and silver crosses worn by the priests, unacceptable in an atheist state, but at the same time, retain the aura of a solemn and festive ritual.

Please note that the pen in our photo is for size reference.

Item# 38828

\$95.00







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