

Badge of a Graduate of the Artillery Officer School, 1909-1917 issue.

In silver-plated brass; measures 50.3 mm in height, 43.7 mm in width; weighs 20.5 g not including the screw plate. Complex five-piece construction: the cannon, upper portion of the double-headed eagle, its tail, and the bow at the bottom are separate parts superimposed on the wreath and held together by wires and screw post.

In fine overall condition. The imperial crown has been removed, almost certainly by the original owner of the badge (Following the fall of the monarchy in March 1917, this was a common practice among active-duty military officers. Some did it out of loyalty to the new democratic regime, while for the others - especially those in the trenches and surrounded by mutinous soldiers - it may have been simply a survival tactic.) The badge is in excellent condition otherwise. The details of the eagle, cannon and wreath are extremely well-preserved, nearly pristine. Note that even the details of the provincial coats of arms on the wings of the eagle are well discernable, as well as the details of the heraldic emblem of Moscow in the center. The silver plating is very well preserved as well. The original attachment wires are intact and tight. There is some pitting and minimal amount of verdigris on the reverse, not detractive and actually adding character. The screw post is original and of full length, nearly 21 mm. The screw plate is a Soviet-era replacement but fits the screw perfectly.

/S. Patrikeev, A. Boynovich, Badges of Russia, Vol. I, Figure 1.1.42/

Item# 39029

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