



Soviet space exploration themed podstakannik in Melchior, circa 1960s.

Stands almost 11 cm tall to the tip of the handle, 8.5 cm wide at the bottom rim. Oversaturated ornamental design, with the centerpiece featuring sputniks and rockets rising to the moon and stars from the Spasskaya Clock Tower of the Moscow Kremlin, the peaceful nature of Soviet space exploration emphasized by the laurel branch at the bottom of the centerpiece vignette. Grapes-themed ornament runs around the skirt, underscored by a row of vertical column-like slits in the metal. The bottom rim features the maker's logo graphic of a wood grouse, the trademark of the Kolchugino Factory. The letters "МНЦ" stand for "Медь, Никель, Цинк" (copper, nickel, zinc). Depending on the ratio of the component metals, the alloy is called either Neusilber / German silver / nickel silver or Melchior. This mark also means that there is no lead in the alloy and it is safe for contact with food products. To the right of the maker mark is the price of 2 rubles 69 kopeks.

In very fine condition. The metal is exceptionally clean, practically patina-free, retaining almost all of its silver luster which earned Neusilber and Melchior the name "nickel silver" and made it the best alloy for high-end art castings in Russia. The bottom rim shows very minor shallow indentation, barely noticeable and not at all detractive, as well as very light traces of wear in the form of scuffs and minuscule scratches.

Please note: If you try to come up with a replacement glass liner, it should be made of tempered glass even though we urge you not to use this to drink from! We offer this strictly as a historic artifact (and dramatic stage prop for your dining room or study). We provide no warranty of its suitability for actually drinking hot beverages like tea or coffee. All we know is that it should look great sitting on a tray next to your antique family samovar.

Enjoy!

Item# 39834

\$25.00



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