

Podstakannik Tea Glass Holder in Silver, by Vasiliy Agafonov, Moscow, 1908-1917.

In silver with partly gilded exterior and interior; measures 75 mm tall, not including the handle; overall height with the handle is 107 mm; 82 mm diameter base; 72 mm lip; weighs an impressive 189.9 g. The lower half and the interior are gilded. The upper portion is adorned with an Art Nouveau pattern in 3-d profile. The base and handle are richly decorated with florals. The lower part of the exterior has an engraved monogram "KO" of the original owner.

Unlike later Soviet Podstakanniki that have open bottoms with narrow inside lips for a glass insert to rest upon, the solid bottom here means that this holder will probably allow you a little more latitude as you shop around for a glass to use as a replacement insert. (If you do find a tumbler that fits, please make certain that it is made of tempered glass! Otherwise, you run the risk of the glass shattering the first time you pour hot water into it.)

On the bottom, there is a full-size oval "Kokoshnik" hallmark of 1908 type; it features a Greek character Delta next to the lady's head, which is the identification of the Moscow Assay Inspection, attesting to the fact that the cup holder was made of "84" quality silver. Next to the hallmark is a Cyrillic maker's mark BA ("VA") of Vasiliy Agafonov's workshop in Moscow.

Excellent condition. The exterior is beautifully preserved and shows a very attractive even patina, while the original gilt finish is still clearly visible. The gold plating on the inside is likewise clearly visible, albeit pail. There is a very minor wear to the edge of the base and some very mild bumps, all of it visible only from the bottom.

The Vasily Agafonov jewelry factory was in operation from 1895-1917. As of 1901, it boasted as many as 80 workers - an impressive number for a single workshop. Several silver items produced by it are in the permanent collection of the State History Museum in Moscow.

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\$1,400.00

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