

Lot of 4 Matching Cosmos-Themed Podstakanniki in Melchior, by Mstyora Jeweler Factory, 1973.

Each podstakannik measures 92mm tall to the top of the handle, 69mm wide at the body, 80mm wide at the bottom ring. The centerpiece cartouche features a young woman walking on the globe and reaching up to the sputnik as if inspiring it to go farther and higher. The stars in the sky "blend" with the star on top of the Spasskaya Clock Tower of the Kremlin, symbolizing the driving force of the Soviet government behind the space exploration effort and successes. The frame around the cartouche is in the form of a shield and is surrounded by stalks of wheat and oak leaves bursting up and away from it, symbols of abundance and strength.

Maker marked "3KOMMET" on the bottom. "3" stands for 1973, "Ю" stands for "jeweler", "М" - Mstyora. "MET" stands for "metal" indicating that this is not silver (Melchior looks very similar to silver when the item is new). This format of the Mstyora Jewelers Workshop was used from 1970 to 1977. The other stamp is the 1973 price of 1 ruble 70 kopeks, rather hefty for a salaried Soviet worker.

The lot stands out against all other podstakanniki of this design that we have seen in that all four of them are in outstanding, superb condition, perfectly matching one another. Wear is almost nonexistent, patina is only just beginning to form on the bottom of the skirt. Four podstakanniki of this age, in this condition, together, is truly a rare find!

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

Enjoy!

Item# 41592

\$190.00

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