

### Nicholas II Medal for Zeal, 1894-1915.

In silver, measures 35.4 mm in height incl. eyelet, 30.2 mm in width; weighs 16.1 g without the suspension and connecting link. This variation of the Nicholas II Medal for Zeal was issued only between 1894 and 1915, until the introduction of the smaller, 28 mm version.

In outstanding, excellent condition. The obverse of the medallion is nearly pristine, free of any wear visible to the naked eye with the exception of a few minuscule dings to the raised edge that are barely noticeable. The raised details of the bas-relief portrait are perfect and exceptionally crisp. The reverse has some very tiny scratches to the recessed field, obviously from cleaning, but they are not detractive and do not affect the raised florals and inscription. There are also very minor dings to the edge, but the medallion is completely free of nicks or edge bumps.

The medal comes on a custom-made period suspension as worn by the original recipient, in what appears to be cardboard backing wrapped in cloth, complete with the pin attachment and measuring approx. 61 x 58 mm. The Order of St. Stanislaus ribbon in moiré silk is likewise original, and it is carefully sewn-in to the cloth wrapping of the suspension. The silver connecting link appears to be original as well.

Overall, a magnificent ensemble! Although the medal itself is relatively common in comparison to most other awards of Nicholas II's reign, it is quite rare to see an example as well-preserved and complete as the one offered here.

/Dimitri Romanov, Orders, Medals and History of Imperial Russia , p. 224 fig. 201A; Mikhail Diakov, Medals of the Russian Empire, Part 7, 1894- 1917 , p. 39/.

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