

## ODD (Friend of Children Society), membership badge, 1924 - 1935.

In brass-plated and silver-plated steel and enamels; 26.4 x 21.0 mm. Variation with screw back attachment. Nice quality colorful piece depicting a young pioneer reading a book (it must be a volume of Marx or Lenin, or otherwise there would have been no reason to be friendly).

In outstanding, excellent condition. The enamel is beautifully preserved - a highly unusual case for a badge of this vintage; the couple of tiny "dots" on the red enamel, one near the flagpole and another at the lower right edge of the banner appear to be manufacturing imperfections, not the result of damage. The details of the youngster are extremely crisp; some of the original silver finish is still visible in the crevices. The silver plating on the reverse is completely intact. The screw post is approx. 7 mm long (it might have been slightly reduced but the remaining length is more than enough for proper functioning). The screw plate is roughly of the period although probably not original to the badge.

The ODD society operated under the direct control of the Detkomissiya (Children Agency) of the VTsIK (Central Executive Committee). Its stated goal was assisting the personnel of schools, summer camps and other child care establishments in communist indoctrination of the young children. It was also instrumental in rounding up scores of homeless children left in the wake of the Civil War and collectivization, "sponsoring" orphanages and in some cases, finding foster homes for the orphans.

/"Avers 8", p. 343, fig. 1672; "Badges of Volunteer Societies of the USSR" p. 297, fig. 13.1/

Item# 24265

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