

Vitus Bering Memorial Table Medal, 1966.

In bronze, 60.2 mm wide. The obverse features a bas-relief portrait of Vitus Bering and dates of his life, 1681-1741. The reverse shows a sailing ship with a map encompassing the areas explored and mapped by Bering over the course of his voyages: the Kamchatka peninsula, western shore of Alaska, Bering Strait and Bering Sea.

In excellent condition. The details are pristine. Very attractive even toning to the bronze throughout.

The medal marked 225 years since the death of the famous Danish explorer who enlisted as an officer with the nascent navy of Peter the Great and later explored the Russian Far Eastern seacoast. Over the course of his two epic voyages, Bering produced detailed geographic maps of the Kamchatka Peninsula and western shores of Alaska, established the key port of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, and heralded the beginning of the Russian exploration of North America.

The medal was designed by the artist A. Leonova whose name appears on the obverse near the edge at approximately 7 to 6 o'clock segment. Interestingly, the model she used was a period portrait which at the time of the medal's creation was widely believed to be of Vitus Bering; later it was discovered that the person in the portrait was probably Bering's uncle. Struck at the Moscow Mint, the medal had the circulation of just 856 specimens - a very small number by Soviet standards.

/Commemorative [Table] Medal of the Soviet Period, 1919 - 1991, A. Shkurko, A. Salykov, fig. 440/

Please note, penny in our photo is for size reference.

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