

State Prize Medal, #17537, circa early to mid-1980s.

The medallion is in solid 14 K gold with 23 K gold plating; measures 29.5 mm in height incl. eyelet, 26.1 mm in width; weighs 14.4 g not including the suspension and connecting link. Overall weight with suspension is 21.6 g. The serial number is stamped on the reverse in standard manner. The suspension device is in gold-plated silver.

In excellent, near mint condition. Both sides of the medallion are free of detectable wear. The stippling and raised details are pristine. The suspension device is original and complete. The ribbon is probably original to the medal and although showing age, still perfectly preserved and immaculately clean. The golden connecting link appears to be original and its ends are still joined with solder. Overall, a superb example of the State Prize medal - literally impossible to upgrade condition-wise.

The Soviet State Prize was originally introduced in 1967 to replace the "politically incorrect" Stalin Prize. Although somewhat less important than the Lenin Prize, it remained a very prestigious award until the last days of the Soviet Union. Since 1975 the State Prize was most often issued for top results in labor and for improvements leading to increased productivity although some - a small share of the overall total - were still awarded to artists, poets etc. During the 70s and later, three hundred State Prizes were awarded annually.

/See Avers 8, p. 222, fig. 1087/.

Item# 42792

\$1,450.00

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