



Germany, House Order of Saxe-Ernestine, Civil Division, 1st cl., Commander Breast Star, Type 2, 1864-1918.

In silver, gold, and enamels, 84.6 mm in height, 81.3 mm in width, weighs 39.2 g. The golden center medallion features a green-enameled Saxon royal crown in gold, encircled by a blue-enameled ring with the Order's motto FIDELITER ET CONSTANTER (faithful and steadfast). The outer green-enameled oak leaf wreath with gold lacing signifies that this order could be awarded only to the members and citizens of the three duchies which founded the order: Coburg-Gotha, Altenburg, and Saxony-Meiningen. The order designated for foreigners did not have this wreath.

In very fine condition. Looking at x10 magnification reveals a few microscopic flakes and chips to the enamels, barely visible to the naked eye. The reverse has a few tiny scuffs, nothing too obvious or detractive.

The House Order of Saxe-Ernestine was founded on 25 December 1833 jointly by the dukes of Coburg-Gotha, Altenburg, and Saxony-Meiningen. It was awarded to the founders' families, civil servants and citizens of these three Saxon duchies. The awards bestowed upon citizens of the three duchies featured an oak wreath surrounding the center medallion while the awards conferred upon foreigners did not. Additionally, the Type 1 awards featured a letter on the obverse on the upper cross arm, associated with the particular awarding Duchy: "F" for Altenburg, "B" for Saxony-Meiningen, and "E" for Coburg-Gotha. The Type 2 was amended in several aspects, including the 1864 abolition of the letter identifying the awarding Duchy.

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