

Award Jetton, 1st class, of the Imperial Philanthropic Society for Vocational Education of Poor Children, circa 1898-99 issue.

In silver, measures 40.2mm in height not including the jump ring; 21.4 mm in width. The double-headed eagle is a separate superimposed part. The reverse shows the St. Petersburg assay inspection silver hallmark "84" with the anchor and scepter emblem, the style used until 1899. Near the silver hallmark, there is a poorly struck and illegible maker mark.

In the central part of the reverse there is the name of the original recipient which has been carefully hidden by masterfully applying a pattern of dashes over and around it. Nevertheless, the name has not been erased and many Cyrillic characters are still discernible, so it seems likely that a very careful examination, perhaps with the help of AI, may "decipher" the name in its entirety. It is not clear why the name was concealed in the first place - one possibility that comes to mind is that the original owner may have been prosecuted by the communist regime and the heirs consequently tried to hide a compromising connection - but it was clearly done by a professional jeweler.

Beside the "camouflaged" name, the jetton is in excellent condition. There is only a very light wear to the raised points of the crown and double-headed eagle, but the details are overall very well-preserved and crisp. There are no dents, significant dings or edge knocks. The silver jump ring is original and shows a matching St. Petersburg hallmark of the anchor and scepter.

/Aleksandr Ivanov, Jettions of the Russian Empire, Page 245, Fig. 117/.

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

Item# 46695

**\$195.00**

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