

Prince Dimitri Romanov

# THE ORDERS, MEDALS AND HISTORY OF IMPERIAL RUSSIA



BALKAN HERITAGE

Prince Dimitri Romanov

THE ORDERS, MEDALS  
AND HISTORY OF  
IMPERIAL RUSSIA



CATHERINE

IMPERATRICE de toutes les RUSSIES.

*d'après une pièce gravée à St. Petersbourg en 1789  
par Son Altesse Impériale MARIE FÉDOROWNA  
Grande Duchesse de toutes les Russies.*



BY THE SAME AUTHOR

*The Orders, Medals and History of Montenegro, 1980*

*The Orders, Medals and History of the Kingdom  
of Bulgaria, 1982*

*The Orders, Medals and History of Greece, 1987*

*The Orders, Medals and History of Montenegro, 1988*  
*Second revised and enlarged edition*

*The Orders, Medals and History of the Kingdoms  
of Serbia and Yugoslavia, 1996*

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## PREFACE

During my childhood in France I collected the strangest things. I will not bore the reader describing my many peculiar collections but I can say that at a certain point of my childhood I finally graduated to a more serious occupation, which was collecting stamps. My parents were very happy that philately had become my main hobby, especially because my geography, the names of the past and present rulers of the World and some basic knowledge of recent history improved substantially.

When we were living in Italy and I was becoming a teen-ager, my brother, several cousins and I were allowed to make some excavation on a site of a Roman villa not far from Rome. We found some ancient artefacts and also a few bronze coins that were encrusted with earth or sand. With a hard brush, water and soap I managed to clean some of them enough to be able to read and sometimes guess the name of the Roman Emperor inscribed on them. A new hobby was born when a generous uncle gave me a box full of coins and a book listing the Roman Emperors as well as detailed information about their reigns and coinage.

During the years I continued collecting coins adding later to my Roman collection also a Russian one which included several Montenegrin and Russian medals. About thirty years ago while window-shopping in Copenhagen I saw a very beautiful silver star with a golden inscription on its medallion.

Looking closer I was able to read the inscription which was in Serbo-Croat and I became aware that it was a Star of some Montenegrin order. I purchased it on the spot as it was quite inexpensive. Later I was told by a Danish collector that it was the Star First Class of the Order of Danilo, which was manufactured in Vienna during the reign of my great-grandfather, King Nicholas I of Montenegro.

I was really delighted by this acquisition also because I already owned and sometimes wore the Montenegrin House Order of Saint Peter, which was bestowed upon me in 1938 by Crown Prince Danilo, the son of King Nicholas. I immediately wrote a letter to my father about my incredible luck and satisfaction of owning such a very beautifully made star which also had an interesting historical background. Some weeks later I received an answer to my letter in which I was told by my father that I should not have purchased the star as he had three of them, two First Class ones with Badge and Sash as well as a Second Class Star; he also had several Russian Imperial orders bestowed upon him in Russia at his coming of age. He added that one day he would give all of them to me.

Thus this chance acquisition long ago of a beautifully made Montenegrin star had a profound and growing effect on my life as with the passing of years I devoted more and more of my free time in studying the intricacies of the historical past of the orders and medals I had in my own collection, of the items I was hoping one day to acquire and of the decorations of other countries.

Although I have thoroughly enjoyed researching and writing books about the histories and decorations of four Balkan nations, I always hoped that one day I might do the same about the medals and decorations of the Russian Empire. With the unexpected and dramatic change of the political situation in Russia, the doors were suddenly open for me to visit their

magnificent museums and be able to talk, correspond and learn so much about the Russian decorations.

By securing the assistance of several of the best informed persons on Russian Imperial awards both in Denmark and in Russia, I was able to complete my research work and to obtain photographs of the medals of the early period of the Empire.

The co-operation of the State Hermitage Museum of St Petersburg and its director, Dr M B Piotrovski and its Deputy Director G V Vilinbachov has been of the greatest importance for my work.

Many years ago I made the acquaintance of M. Vilinbachov at the beautiful Louisiana Museum north of Copenhagen. This meeting led to a long and warm friendship. Many times he kindly clarified some of the more complex details regarding decorations, flags or the coat of arms of the Russian Empire.

I am very much indebted to my good friend Hans Sode for his support and for the many good pieces of advice he gave me during the years and for allowing me to photograph some of the many Russian orders of his collection.

I have also had great help from my brother Nicholas who was always ready to provide me with many specific details relating to the History of Russia, for which I am very indebted.

Once again, my gratitude to my wife Dorrit for being so helpful and patient...

A warning to the collector of Russian Imperial decorations: already early in the nineties it was possible to buy replicas of Imperial awards in some Russian museum shops, which was perfectly acceptable as they were sold as such and looked as such. Later more and more forgeries have appeared on the Russian free market, sold by dishonest persons to collectors visiting Russia and looking for a bargain. These decorations are usually extremely well made, which means that only an expert with a magnifying glass can identify them as forgeries.

I also wish to stress that three decorations, the Order of Saint Nicholas the Miracle Worker, the Order of the Compassionate Heart and the Order of Archangel Saint Michael are spurious items as they were instituted outside Russia, privately awarded or even sold to emigré Russians. Thus they have no historical or collectible value.

I am aware that I have not described all the Russian Imperial medals. The simple reason is that many of them were issued in a very limited number as some of them were specifically awarded by the Sovereign to just one individual or perhaps only to half a dozen persons. Neither have I described the historical background dealing with the Badges of the Orders of St Anne and St George worn on the Award Swords, this particular subject being fully dealt in Eugene Mollo's excellent book: "Russian Military Swords, 1801-1917" printed in 1969 and in V A Durov's "The Russian Orders" printed in 1993.

Finally, I wish to mention that all dates regarding the creation of the awards described in my book follow the Russian Old Style, or Julian Calendar.

I do not doubt that future publications will add further information and correct any errors I may have made or include details I may have omitted in preparing this book.

*Prince Dimitri Romanov*

Rungsted Kyst, November 1999





## THE ROMANOV DYNASTY



MICHAEL FEODOROVICH  
1596-1645



TSAR OF MOSCOW  
1613-1645

The founder of the Romanov dynasty was elected in Moscow on 7 February 1613 by the Assembly of the Land which had convened to decide the fate of Russia and choose a new Tsar. The *Smútnoe Vrémiá* or "The Times of Troubles" began with the death in April 1605 of Tsar Boris Godunov, a cruel but able statesman. The following years due to famine, lawlessness, the appearance of pretenders to the throne and the threat of invasion by the Poles from the west and the inroads by the Swedes in the north, the Muscovite state was on the brink of a total collapse. In 1611 Moscow was occupied by the Polish army, and Swedish forces captured Novgorod. In 1612 an army led by Kuzma Minin and Dmitri Pozharski evicted the Poles from Moscow and could re-establish order, to a certain degree, but the urgent need of a uniting symbol in the semblance of a Tsar was predominant. The son of the revered Metropolitan Philaret of Rostov, the sixteen-years old Michael, first rejected the offer, but his mother the nun Marfa convinced him that it was his duty to accept the crown for the good of the nation. The coronation took place in July 1613 in Moscow at the Assumption Cathedral. The rule of Tsar Michael was principally marked by stability, consolidation, reforms in the field of taxation and the fomenting of foreign Trade.

ALEXIS MIKHAILOVICH  
1629-1676



TSAR OF MOSCOW  
1645-1676

Alexis Mikhailovich, the son and successor of Tsar Michael Feodorovich, already from his youth had a reputation for piety and great interest in matters spiritual. He lived spartanly never indulging in excessive drinking and eating which were so common at the Kremlin banquets. He keenly followed all clerical and secular matters constantly issuing orders and was always ready to listen to the advice of his ministers. When the security of the State or the threat to the Orthodox faith were involved, his action was swift; punishment of convicted brigands and murderers or leaders of mutinies was just as swift but also merciless and cruel. Many of his actions were crucial for the future of Russia: the alliance with Bohdan Khmelnytsky, *hetman* of the Zaporozhe Cossacks, which led to war against Poland and the annexation of part of the Ukraine, ten years later to be followed by the provinces of Smolensk and Seversk; the promulgation of a new Code of Laws; his insistence of organising expeditions into Siberia in search of silver; his encouragement in inviting the assistance of foreign technicians to lead industrial projects.



**FEODOR III ALEKSEEVICH**

1656 -1682

**TSAR OF MOSCOW**

1676 -1682

Tsarevich Feodor Alekseevich succeeded his father Alexis at the age of twenty. He was frequently ill and was often bed-ridden, but managed to rule the country with dedication and caution often being prepared to listen to the advice of his elder sister Sophia. In his brief reign Tsar Feodor strived, not always successfully, to quell the interminable intrigues and jealousies between his mother's Miloslavsky relations and those of his step-mother, the Naryshkin family. The Tsar did carry out some reforms and in spite of violent opposition he succeeded to abolish the traditional system of aristocratic precedence among the powerful boyar families of Russia. Early in 1682 Tsar Feodor married Marfa Apraxina but within a few months his health worsened and he died leaving the throne without an appointed heir. Russia was again faced with a dangerous situation that could have involved prolonged quarrels between the nearest relations concerning the succession and weaken the nation in case of sudden warfare.

**PETER I ALEKSEEVICH**

Peter the Great

1672-1725

**TSAR OF MOSCOW 1682-1721      EMPEROR OF RUSSIA 1721-1725**

After the death of Feodor III Alekseevich in 1682 followed a sanguinary rebellion by the elite Streltzy guardsmen who demanded that Tsar Feodor's younger brother Ivan and his half-brother Peter should jointly succeed to the Russian throne under the regency of Sophia, the elder sister of Ivan. Ivan was a feeble-minded youth, while Peter was just ten years old. On the other hand Sophia was well educated and a very ambitious young woman. This situation lasted until 1689 when Peter learnt from rumours that Sophia was plotting against him which made him act immediately by overthrowing her as regent. When his half-brother died in 1696 he became sole Tsar. What Peter the Great accomplished during his reign is truly outstanding as he made Russia a mighty military power on land and at sea and also opened up trade to the Western markets. Not only was the Russian people forced to abandon its cherished conservatism but also to accept a new *modus vivendi*, which spread into many fields such as education and more efficient productivity. Tsar Peter had great visions and he achieved them forcefully, without compromises and regardless human sufferings or his own well-being.



CATHERINE I ALEKSEEVNA  
1684-1727



EMPRESS OF RUSSIA  
1725-1727

When Peter the Great died at the age of 53, his only male heir was his nine year old grandson Peter. Uncharacteristically he had left the succession issue unresolved. Upon his death the choice of the highly influential Prince Alexander Menshikov supported by the imperial guards fell on Peter's widow, Tsaritsa Catherine. Catherine I heralded the era of Empresses; the reign of the young male successors who followed her in the eighteenth century had a short life either due to their feeble health or for being removed by force from the right of accession to the throne. Catherine was well liked as she had been devoted and loyal to her husband, which she had dramatically shown also in wartime during the desperate days on the shores of the river Pruth. During her short reign she ruled shrewdly under the guidance of Alexander Menshikov and the Supreme Privy Council; she also followed the advice of her Vice-Chancellor, Count Andrei Osterman, particularly in the domain of foreign policy. She was succeeded by Peter II, the grandson of Peter I and son of the murdered Tsarevich Alexis.

PETER II ALEKSEEVICH  
1715-1730



EMPEROR OF RUSSIA  
1727-1730

Following the unexpected death of Empress Catherine I Prince Alexander Menshikov acted swiftly to reaffirm his dominant position in the affairs of state. He was eagerly supported by Count Osterman and most of the members of the Supreme Privy Council. The young and inexperienced Peter II let himself at first willingly advise in all matters by his intriguing and overconfident counsellors. He soon became irritated by their arrogant behaviour and when half a year later Menshikov fell ill he made it quite clear to his entourage that his tutorial duties had ceased to be indispensable. This resulted in the fall of the once all-powerful Menshikov and his enemies made certain that he was to be disgraced and exiled. The reign of Peter II was short, and very little positive was achieved for the good of the nation. He was still patiently learning about the intricacies of state craft and seemed to possess the will to prove himself a fair and firm ruler. In January 1730 he was to wed Princess Catherine Dolgorukaya, but this happy event did not materialise as he died of smallpox on his wedding day. Once again Russia was left without a designated successor to the Imperial throne.



ANNA IOANNOVNA  
1694-1740



EMPRESS OF RUSSIA  
1730-1740

When the fifteen years old Emperor Peter II died of smallpox in January 1730 without leaving a successor, the Supreme Privy Council urgently convened to put forward a candidate to the throne of Russia. Following a lengthy and acrimonious debate it was finally decided to nominate Anna Ioannovna, the widowed Duchess of Curland, daughter of Ivan V and niece of Peter the Great. Before departing from Curland Anna Ioannovna had to sign a document of acceptance which contained a series of clauses that greatly limited her power. The Empress distrusted her new entourage and soon repudiated the clauses contained in the document she had signed. During the ten years of her reign she surrounded herself with Baltic Germans, persecuted and sent thousands upon thousands of people who dared to oppose her or her German advisers into exile. The foreign policy was uncoordinated and the military campaign against Turkey in the Crimea was costly and resulted only in the recapture in 1736 of the fortress of Azov which Russia was forced in 1739 by the Treaty of Belgrade to dismantle. Decline in commerce, higher taxation and widespread misery caused the Russians to despise and hate the German-led government and the Empress who was responsible for such conditions.

ELIZABETH PETROVNA  
1709-1761



EMPRESS OF RUSSIA  
1741-1761

The forty-seven year old Empress Anna Ioannovna died suddenly in 1740; at her deathbed, counselled by her favourite, the all-powerful Duke Biron of Curland, she named her two-month-old great-nephew Ivan as successor to the Russian throne with Biron as regent during his minority. Barely a month later a *coup d'état* caused the hated Biron to be exiled and the mother of the infant Tsar Ivan VI to become regent with Count Osterman as her counsellor. Discontent continued to increase in the capital, in Moscow and in the country and another *coup d'état* soon followed. Elizabeth, the second daughter of Peter the Great and Catherine I, backed by the Guards regiment, overthrew the infant Tsar and its regent proclaiming herself Empress of Russia. Ivan VI was exiled and remained imprisoned the rest of his short life. The reign of Elizabeth I was remarkable primarily due to her firm trust and respect in her grand chancellor Count Bestuzhev-Ryumin, whose advice she followed closely. During the Seven Years War Russia sided with Austria against Frederick II, King of Prussia, defeating his army at the battle of Kunersdorf in August 1759. Empress Elizabeth founded the University of Moscow, the Academy of Fine Arts in St Petersburg and established government banks in the country.



**PETER III FEODOROVICH**  
1728-1762



**EMPEROR OF RUSSIA**  
1761-1762

The only child of Empress Elizabeth's beloved sister Anna, Carl-Peter-Ulrich Duke of Holstein-Gottorp succeeded to the Russian throne upon the death of his aunt. As a thirteen-year-old boy he had left the dukedom for St Petersburg, where he was created Grand Duke, entered the Orthodox Church and was named heir to the Imperial throne. He gave little attention to his studies, preferring to play with his toy soldiers and dream about glory on the battlefields. In 1745 Empress Elizabeth made him marry the sixteen-year-old Sophia Princess of Anhalt-Zerbst, who took the name of Catherine upon embracing the Orthodox faith. The marriage was a failure. The attention of Peter was increasingly focused on military matters and Prussian-style discipline. Nine years after Catherine's marriage she gave birth to a son, Paul. When in December 1761 Empress Elizabeth suddenly died, one of the first acts of the new sovereign Peter III was his announcement that Russia was concluding an alliance with Frederick the Great of Prussia, returning all the territories conquered by Russia to his country. During his short and erratic reign Peter III provoked the enmity of the military and the Church; later he even threatened to send Catherine to a convent. In June 1762 the supporters of Catherine arrested the Tsar and forced him to abdicate. Catherine was proclaimed Empress of Russia and a few days later Peter was assassinated under mysterious circumstances.

**CATHERINE II ALEKSEEVNA**  
Catherine the Great  
1729-1796



**EMPRESS OF RUSSIA**  
1762-1796

Soon after she had married her half-cousin Peter, Grand Duke of Russia and heir to the Imperial throne, Catherine became aware that her young husband showed clear signs of mental unbalance, hatred for all things Russian and a lack of interest in all matters except for military ones. Emerging from the provincial obscurity of a German lesser princely house, Catherine became rapidly adapted to her new status and the richness and extravagance of the Russian court; she read widely, learned about state matters and cunningly showed her deep interest in Russian past and present and her devout feelings towards the Orthodox faith. When in 1762 she became Empress and Autocrat of all Russias she had won the full support of the court, the ministers and the army. While Peter the Great had the vision of expanding Russia westwards and to make her a modern European power to be reckoned with, Catherine the Great and her able advisers achieved this vision and much more during her remarkable reign. Following the three partitions of Poland, the victories in the south against the Ottoman Empire, Russia expanded enormously. European architects, artists, merchants and militarists streamed to Russia attracted by its prodigious wealth and the expansion in all the sectors of its economy and culture.



**PAUL I PETROVICH**

1754 -1801

**EMPEROR OF RUSSIA**

1796-1801

The only son and successor of Empress Catherine the Great, Paul I, opened his reign with the firm resolve to reverse or belittle all the accomplishments that his mother had made during her nearly 35 years of rule. The dislike and mistrust between mother and son was intense and reciprocal. Catherine was well aware that her son was prone to erratic behaviour, violent outburst of temper and rapidly changing moods. She had long realised that her son was not fit to reign and had on several occasions openly discussed how to prevent him from being her successor to the throne. The expansionist foreign policy of Catherine II was abandoned by Paul I, who withdrew Russia from the coalition against France as he greatly admired the military prowess of Napoleon Bonaparte. He did encourage trade and industry but discontent was rampant with the ministers of the court, the nobility and the higher echelons of the army due to the Emperor's constant and erratic promulgation of new laws and petty regulations. He also rescinded many privileges accorded to the nobility by his late mother and attempted to stop their exploitation of the serfs. This was the last straw for the Russian élite and a conspiracy to dethrone the Emperor was formed and on 24 March 1801 Paul I was murdered at the Michael Palace in St Petersburg.

**ALEXANDER I PAVLOVICH**

1777 -1825



© GMZ "Tsarskoye Selo" Museum

**EMPEROR OF RUSSIA**

1801-1825

Alexander, the eldest son of Tsar Paul I succeeded his father to the throne of Russia and was greeted by widespread relief and eager expectation by members of the government, the court and the nobility. It was his grandmother, Catherine II that made certain that he should have the best possible education; Alexander had a keen intelligence and was eager to learn about many subjects and was influenced by the liberal teachings of his Swiss tutor. Handsome and admired, he had the best possible qualifications to succeed, although his reign was immediately confronted with failure as a result of having joined the Third Coalition against Napoleon I. After the uninterrupted military victories gained by Catherine II, the Russian army sustained humiliating defeats in 1805 at Austerlitz and in 1807 at Friedland and after the indecisive battle at Preussisch-Eylau Alexander I was forced to abandon the Coalition and form an alliance with France. Before Napoleon's invasion of Russia in 1812, the Emperor strived to improve the educational system of the nation and the deplorable condition of the serfs; the Russian army had also brought the campaigns against Sweden, Persia and Turkey to a victorious conclusion. The defeat of Napoleon in Russia and at Leipzig and the taking of Paris made Alexander I one of the most powerful rulers of Europe.



**NICHOLAS I PAVLOVICH**

1796-1855

**EMPEROR OF RUSSIA**

1825-1855

The death of Emperor Alexander I in December 1825 created several weeks of confusion and contradicting rumours before it was learned that Grand Duke Constantine had renounced to the right of succession in favour of his younger brother Nicholas. In turn this situation brought about the Decembrist Conspiracy which the new Tsar was forced to put firmly down on his first day of reign. It was a time of crisis and disappointments for Nicholas I, who soon realised that the liberal ideas that commenced to appear in many Russian circles would endanger the existing power structure of the Empire. The European social revolutions of 1830 and 1848 convinced him that any sign of liberal thoughts or political reforms in Russia should be quelled immediately; the Polish uprising of 1830-31 and the revolutionary movements and armed mutinies in neighbouring Hungary in 1850 were thus confronted and suppressed. Before the disastrous outcome of the Crimean war, the Russian army did achieve several successful campaigns against Turkey, Persia and in the Caucasian region. Emperor Nicholas I implemented the codification of the existing Russian Law and improved the condition of the serfs while trade and industry prospered and the first Russian railroad was completed.

**ALEXANDER II NICHOLAIEVICH**

The Liberator

1818-1881

**EMPEROR OF RUSSIA**

1855-1881

Alexander II succeeded his father Nicholas I in 1855 while Sebastopol was experiencing its fifth month of desperate siege. After the fall of the naval base peace negotiations were initiated in France and the Treaty of Paris was signed in March 1856. The new Emperor did not waste any time to start the gigantic and long overdue reforms he wished to undertake. Special committees were established to prepare drafts for the emancipation of the serfs, who were finally freed in 1861; during his reign, the *zemstvo*, the limited local self-government was introduced, great changes were made to the judicial system, the length of military service was greatly reduced and many of the privileges the nobility and landowners had enjoyed for centuries were abolished. The army regained its tarnished image by bringing the campaigns in the central and Western Caucasus to a victorious conclusion in 1864; the Polish rebellion was quelled in 1865 and vast territories in central Asia were incorporated into the Russian Empire. But the greatest military triumph was achieved in the 1877-1878 war against Turkey in which Bulgaria was liberated from the Ottoman yoke and the Crimean defeat avenged. Tragically, the Tsar of Russia who accomplished so much for his people died of wounds in 1881 inflicted by a bomb thrown at him by a terrorist.



**ALEXANDER III ALEXANDROVICH**

The Peacemaker  
1845 -1894

**EMPEROR OF RUSSIA**

1881-1894

The assassination of Alexander II was a great tragedy for the Tsarevich and for his family and in the years ahead it would become a further tragedy for the Russian people as any attempt to implement liberal reforms and to modernise the government and Society were thwarted. Two months after his accession to the throne Tsar Alexander III issued an Imperial Manifesto in which he proclaimed his unbending faith in the Power of autocracy and in the trust of Divine Providence. A whole series of restrictions were introduced which limited the freedom of the press, sanctioned repressive powers to the police and permitted persecution of various non-Orthodox minorities. On the other hand the negative impact of the abolishment of the University Statute of 1863 was followed by a very successful programme of parish schools throughout the Russian Empire. The economic policies were also successful as they greatly stimulated the modernisation and development of the industry opening the doors to foreign capital and technical assistance. The harsh realities of war experienced by Alexander III during the 1877-1878 Bulgarian campaign may have influenced his endeavour to preserve peace at all costs for the Russian people. When the Reinsurance Treaty with Germany lapsed in 1890, Russia opted for a Franco-Russian alliance. Peace during his reign was his greatest achievement.

**NICHOLAS II ALEXANDROVICH**

1868-1918

**EMPEROR OF RUSSIA**

1894-1917

Much has been written about the last Tsar of Russia. Historians may be in agreement that Nicholas II was unprepared to carry on the duties of autocratic rule; that he let many ministers of his domineering father continue to be his advisers in all matters of state; that he often refused to discuss any proposals put forward by his ministers that would even slightly change or liberalise the existing structure of the governmental institutions; that this resulted in growing discontent and revolutionary movements in the country. On the other hand there are no doubts that Tsar Nicholas tried hard to serve his country and people with dedication and in the best possible way. The humiliation of the outcome of the Russo-Japanese war and the outbreak of internal conflicts were a clear sign that the Tsar of Russia and his ministers had to act rapidly introducing sweeping reforms. Too little was done too late to change the trend towards a national tragedy. The Emperor was also struck by a personal tragedy: the incurable sickness of the Tsarevich which brought so much suffering to his family. In August 1914 started a series of calamities that befell the many millions of Russians and the Monarchy: the war against the Central Powers, the revolution, the civil war and for Nicholas II and his whole family a gruesome end in the cellar of the Ipatiev House at Ekaterinburg. On 17 July 1998 they were finally buried in St Petersburg in the Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral in the presence of over 50 members of the Romanov family and their close relatives. At the time of writing the remains of Tsarevich Alexis and Grand Duchess Maria had not been found.



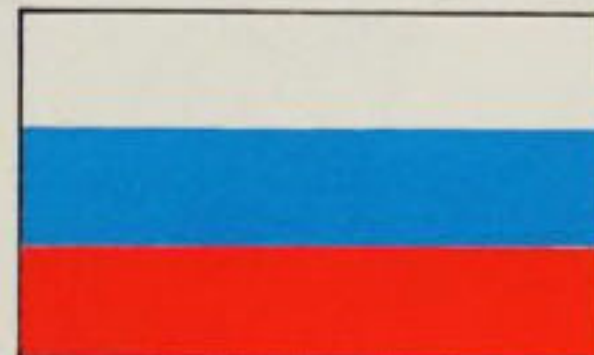
## CHRONOLOGY OF THE ROMANOV RULERS

**Michael**  
 1613-1645  
**Alexis**  
 1645-1676  
**Feodor III**  
 1676-1682  
**Ivan V**  
 1682-1696  
**Peter I**  
 1682-1725  
**Catherine I**  
 1725-1727  
**Peter II**  
 1727-1730  
**Anne**  
 1730-1740  
**Ivan VI**  
 1740-1741  
**Elizabeth**  
 1741-1761  
**Peter III**  
 1761-1762  
**Catherine II**  
 1762-1796  
**Paul I**  
 1796-1801  
**Alexander I**  
 1801-1825  
**Nicholas I**  
 1825-1855  
**Alexander II**  
 1855-1881  
**Alexander III**  
 1881-1894  
**Nicholas II**  
 1894-1917



Information about present-day activities of the Romanov Family can be obtained via the website at:  
[www.RomanovFamilyAndFund.org](http://www.RomanovFamilyAndFund.org)

## FLAGS AND COAT OF ARMS



NATIONAL AND CIVIL FLAG  
(approx. 1690 to 1917\*)



IMPERIAL NAVY  
(end of XVII century to 1917\*)



ARMORIAL FLAG  
(1858, From 1864 to 1883 it was renamed State Flag. From 1884 to 1917 it became the flag of Monarchist organisations)



NATIONAL FLAG FOR PRIVATE USE  
(1914 to 1917)



SMALLER IMPERIAL EMBLEM (1883) \*\*

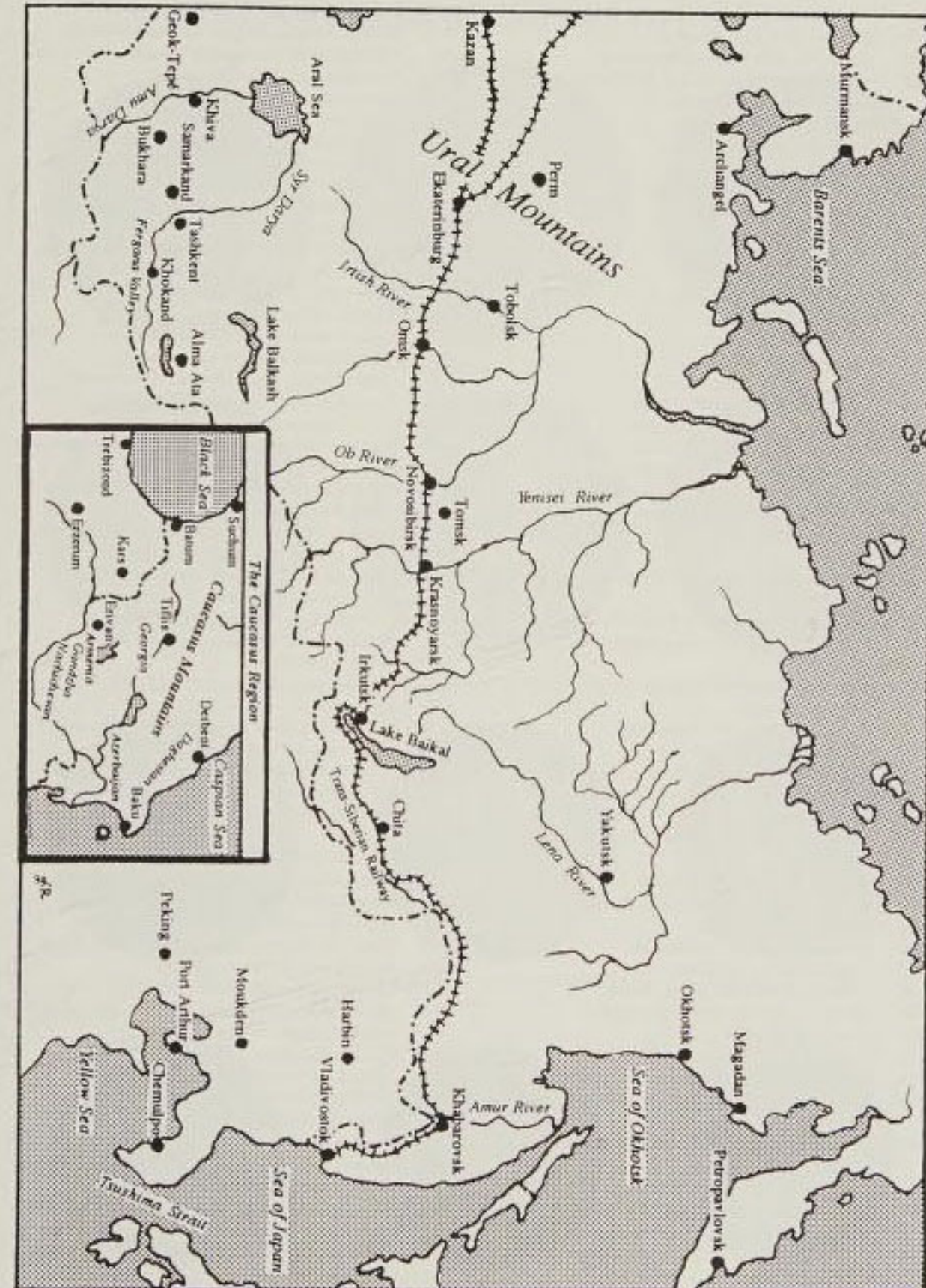


COAT OF ARMS OF THE ROMANOV HOUSE (1857)

\* During the Russian civil war of 1918-1920 the flag continued to be used by the "white" movement

\*\* © The State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg







1613 Tsar **Michael I Romanov**  
 1645 Michael I dies, Tsar **Alexis** succeeds  
 1676 Alexis dies, Tsar **Feodor III** succeeds  
 1682 Feodor III dies, Tsars **Ivan V** and **Peter I** succeed under the regency of Sophia  
 1689 Regent Sophia overthrown  
 1696 Ivan V dies, **Peter I** sole Tsar  
 1698 Streltsy revolt  
 1698 Order of St Andrew established  
 1700 Outbreak of the Northern War  
 1700 Peter I defeated at Narva  
 1702 Storming of Schlisselburg  
 1703 Founding of St Petersburg  
 1703 First Russian naval victory  
 1704 Narva captured  
 1706 Russian victory at Kalisz  
 1708 Russian victory at Lesnaya  
 1709 Russian victory at Poltava  
 1711 Russian defeat on the river Pruth  
 1713 Order of St Catherine established  
 1714 Russian naval victory at Gangut  
 1720 Russian naval victory at Grengam  
 1721 Treaty of Nystad, end of the Northern War  
 1721 Peter I assumes title of Emperor  
 1725 Peter the Great dies, Empress **Catherine I** succeeds  
 1725 Catherine I starts awarding Alexander Nevsky Order  
 1727 Catherine I dies, Emperor **Peter II** succeeds  
 1730 Peter II dies, Empress **Anna Ioannovna** succeeds  
 1740 Anna Ioannovna dies, Empress **Elizabeth Petrovna** succeeds  
 1756 Outbreak of the Seven Years War  
 1759 Russian victory at Kunersdorf  
 1761 Elizabeth Petrovna dies, Emperor **Peter III** succeeds  
 1761 Peter III starts awarding St Anne Order  
 1762 Peter III assassinated, Empress **Catherine II** succeeds  
 1769 Order of St George established  
 1770 Russian victories at Kagul and Chesma  
 1774 Peace treaty with Turkey  
 1782 Order of St Vladimir established  
 1787 Russian victory at Kinburn  
 1788 Outbreak of the war against Sweden  
 1789 Russians storm the fortress of Ochakov  
 1790 Peace with Sweden  
 1790 Russians storm the fortress of Izmail  
 1791 Peace treaty of Jassy between Turkey and Russia  
 1794 Polish campaign, the fortress of Praga (Warsaw) captured  
 1796 Catherine the Great dies, Emperor **Paul I** succeeds  
 1796 Paul I creates the Medal of St Anne  
 1801 Paul I assassinated, Emperor **Alexander I** succeeds  
 1804 Russians storm Gandzha in Azerbaijan  
 1806 Outbreak of the war against Turkey

1807 Alexander I creates the St George Cross  
 1807 Battle at Preussisch-Eylau against Napoleon  
 1808 Outbreak of the war against Sweden  
 1809 Peace treaty with Sweden  
 1812 Peace treaty of Bucharest with Turkey  
 1812 Napoleonic forces invade Russia in June  
 1812 French enter Moscow in September  
 1812 Retreat from Moscow in October  
 1812 Crossing of the Beresina in November  
 1813 Allied armies defeat the French at Leipzig  
 1814 Allied armies enter Paris  
 1825 Alexander I dies, Emperor **Nicholas I** succeeds  
 1826 Outbreak of the War against Persia  
 1828 Peace treaty of Turkamanchai with Persia  
 1828 Outbreak of the war against Turkey  
 1829 Peace treaty of Adrianople with Turkey  
 1831 Polish insurrection, Warsaw stormed  
 1831 Order of White Eagle becomes Russian order  
 1831 Order of St Stanislaw becomes Russian order  
 1839 Storming of Akhulgo in the Caucasus  
 1849 Russian intervention in Hungary and Transylvania  
 1853 Outbreak of the war against Turkey  
 1854 England and France declare war on Russia  
 1855 Fall of Sebastopol  
 1855 Nicholas I dies, Emperor **Alexander II** succeeds  
 1856 Treaty of Paris, Crimean war ends  
 1859 Chechnya and Daghestan conquered  
 1861 Emancipation of the serfs  
 1864 Subjugation of the Western Caucasus  
 1864 Pacification of the Polish rebellion  
 1873 Khiva campaign  
 1876 Subjugation of the Khokand Khanate  
 1877 Russia declares war on Turkey  
 1878 End of war against Turkey, Bulgaria liberated  
 1881 Geok-Tepé stormed by Russian forces  
 1881 Alexander II assassinated, Emperor **Alexander III** succeeds  
 1894 Alexander III dies, Emperor **Nicholas II** succeeds  
 1892 Franco-Russian alliance  
 1896 First general census of the Russian population  
 1901 Great Powers' expeditionary forces into China  
 1904 Japanese surprise attack on Port Arthur  
 1905 Fall of Port Arthur, Russian defeat at Tsushima  
 1905 Peace treaty of Portsmouth, NH  
 1913 Tercentenary of the Romanov dynasty  
 1914 Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife assassinated at Sarajevo  
 1914 Russian general mobilisation  
 1914 Central Powers declare war on Russia  
 1915 The Emperor becomes Commander-in-Chief  
 1917 Emperor Nicholas II abdicates  
 1917 October revolution  
 1918 Nicholas II, his family, Dr Botkin and three retainers murdered at Ekaterinburg  
 1998 The victims of the Ekaterinburg massacre are buried in St Petersburg. At the time of writing the remains of Tsarevich Alexis and Grand Duchess Maria had not been found.

## SILVER RUBLES OF IMPERIAL RUSSIA



PETER I, 1723



CATHERINE I, 1726



PETER II, 1729



ANNA IOANNOVNA, 1733



ELIZABETH PETROVNA, 1751



CATHERINE II, 1774



PAUL I, 1796

ALEXANDER I, "Borodino Ruble"  
of Nicholas I, 1839

NICHOLAS I, 1829



ALEXANDER II, 1876



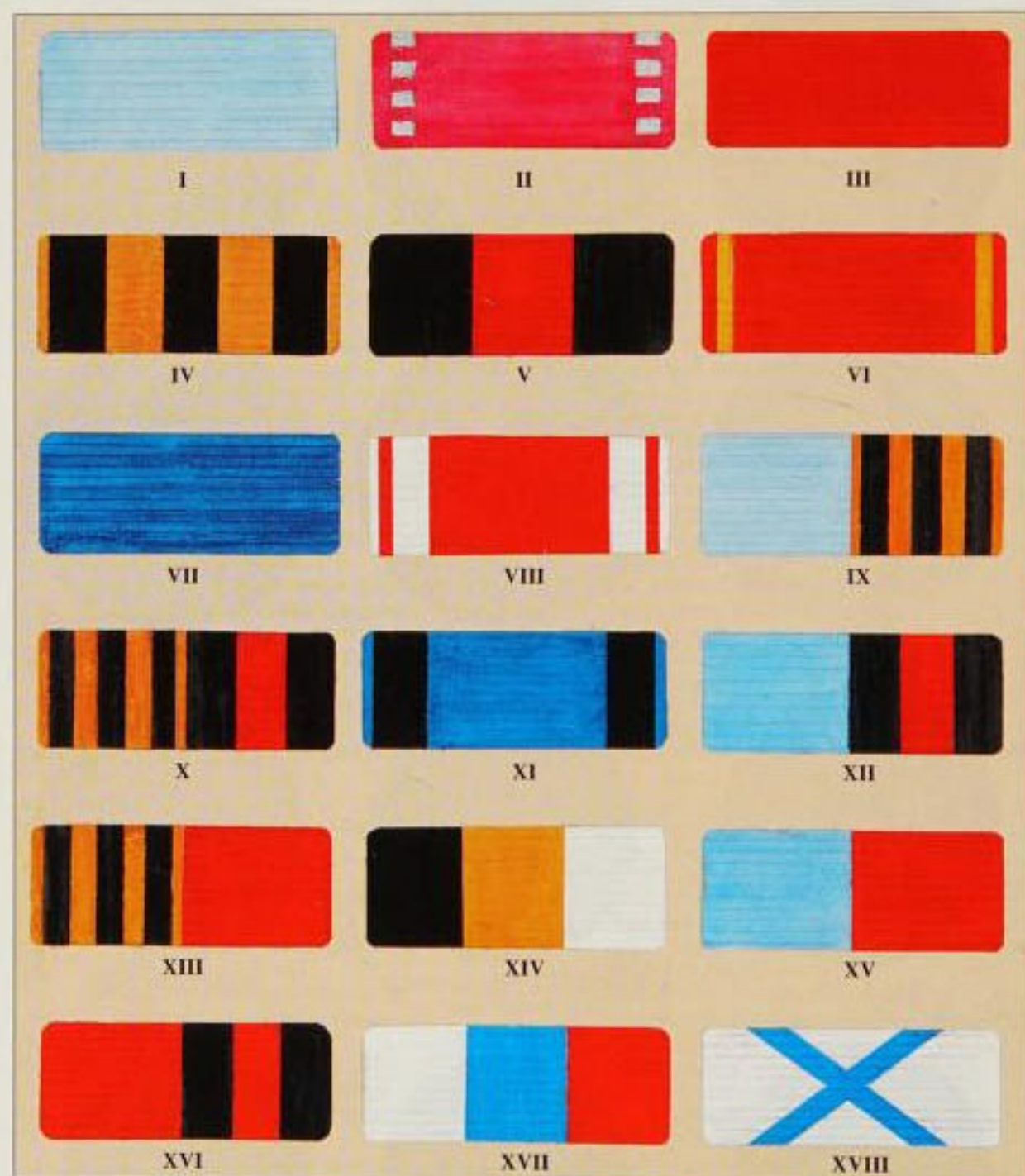
ALEXANDER III, 1891



NICHOLAS II, 1902



## RIBBONS



## THE IMPERIAL ORDERS





## ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW

Tsar Peter I was the founder of the Order of Saint Andrew the First-Called. It remained the highest Imperial Russian order until the fall of the Empire.

All Russian historians are in agreement that the Tsar established it towards the last years of the XVII century, although the first known document fully describing the Order and the articles of its statute was first published in 1720; this document however was never approved by Tsar Peter, thus permitting modifications to take place during the coming years to both the Order and the awarding procedures, many of which were introduced by the Sovereign himself.

Tsar Peter declared that there was quite simply no need for a statute of the Order as it was up to him alone to decide all matters related to the award. At the time it was even allowed that a bearer of the Order of Saint Andrew with diamonds could request that more precious stones should be added to the original ones, provided that he paid for them himself.

During his visit to Western Europe from spring 1697 to his return to Moscow in September 1698 Tsar Peter had experienced during his lengthy voyage the pomp and splendour of the European courts, and saw sovereigns and courtiers wearing gleaming decorations and medals in gold or silver.

It is well established that the Tsar was already contemplating the creation of the Order of Saint Andrew while he was residing in England. Upon his return to the capital he resolved that it was time to change the ancient practice of the Russian rulers in bestowing large estates or gold medals for bravery in the form of coins of different weight and value. Instead he decided to introduce Russian decorations and medals which would resemble the Western European ones and at the same time follow their awarding system.

During his reign he only managed to establish the Order of Saint Andrew and the Order of Rescue, later renamed Order of the Great Martyr Saint Catherine. He had advanced plans to create a specifically military order, the Order of Saint Alexander Nevsky, but he died in 1725 before it could be realised. On the other hand he was instrumental in the creation of a dozen well designed and engraved medals for bravery or for commemorative purposes.

The first recipient of the newly created Order of Saint Andrew became Count Feodor Alekseevich Golovin, who was awarded with it on 10 March 1699. In all, about forty persons became Knights of the Order during the reign of Tsar Peter I. It was the Tsar's sole privilege to decide to whom the Order was to be bestowed.

It is interesting to mention the existence of a large Russian commemorative bronze medal which shows the badge of the Order of Saint Andrew placed upon a crowned double-headed eagle, its motto and at the bottom bearing the inscription: "In the Year 1698, 30 November" which indicates the date of establishment of the Order.

During most of the XIX century the appearance of the Order of Saint Andrew was often modified, especially as far as the Badge and the Star were concerned.

It was not until 1797 that Tsar Paul I issued the first official decree defining the statute of





1, 2



3

the Order of Saint Andrew the First-Called. Several changes were made as far as awarding regulations were concerned. He also forbade the until then accepted practice by the bearers of the Order to embellish the Badge and the Star with diamonds at their leisure.

From then on the Order of Saint Andrew had a new, higher class added in which the insignia were decorated with diamonds.

#### 1-COLLAR

The golden Collar is composed of 17 polychrome medallions joined to each other with small decorative rings. The medallions are alternatively the Russian Imperial eagle charged on the breast with the mounted figure of St George slaying the dragon, a second bearing the Saint Andrew Cross and the letters: "S.A.P.R."\*, and the third a trophy of arms bearing the crowned cipher of Tsar Peter I. The Collar of the Order was to be worn only on state occasions together with the Badge Appendant (2, 2A, 2B).

Since the creation of the Order by Peter the Great, the Collar has undergone many variations in basic design, type of metal and shades of the colour of the enamel.

#### 2-2A-2B BADGE

The obverse of the golden and enamelled Badge of the Order consists of an Imperial Russian eagle on which is applied the Saint Andrew cross with the Saint crucified upon it. The letters: "S.A.P.R."\* appear on the tips of the arms of the cross.

The reverse of the Badge consists of the reverse side of the Imperial eagle with a small centrally placed scroll bearing the inscription signifying: "For Faith and Loyalty". The suspension of the Badge consists of a polychrome Imperial Russian crown with azure-enamelled flowing pendelia. The Order could be awarded "With Swords", in which case crossed swords were placed between the flowing pendelia (2A).

The Badge was embellished with diamonds, when the Sovereign bestowed the Order of Saint Andrew the First-Called "With Diamonds" (2B).

Since the creation of the Order by Peter I, the Badge has undergone many variations in basic design and size.

When not attached to the Collar as Badge Appendant, it was worn on the left hip suspended from the prescribed sash (type I), which was worn over the right shoulder.

The average size of the Badge is 67 x 83 mm.

#### 3-3A-3B-3C STAR

The eight-pointed silver Star with flat rays has a medallion which has a blue-enamelled outer circle bearing the inscription signifying: "For Faith and Loyalty" and at the bottom are two green-enamelled crossed laurel twigs tied with a ribbon.

The centre medallion bears the Imperial Russian eagle on which rests the Saint Andrew Cross. Crossed swords were placed under the medallion when awarded "With Swords" (3A). The Star was embellished with diamonds, when the Sovereign bestowed the Order of Saint Andrew the First-Called "With Diamonds" (3B).

Since the creation of the Order by Peter I, the Star has undergone many variations in basic design and size.

The earliest Stars were silver embroidered (3C).

The Star was worn on the left side of the chest.

The diameter of the Star varies between 76 and 90 mm (3,3A, 3B).

\* The letters stand for: *Sanctus Andreas Patronus Russiae* (Saint Andrew Patron of Russia)





## ORDER OF SAINT CATHERINE

The Order was founded by Tsar Peter the First soon after the termination of the campaign he had initiated in 1711 against Ottoman Sultan Ahmed III, which ended dramatically with his defeat in the battle on the shores of the river Pruth in central Moldavia. The Order was to be awarded exclusively to ladies.

Initially he named it "Order of Rescue", to commemorate the courage and the great support he was given by his wife Catherine during the desperately critical days they had endured during the battle. The statute was first published in 1713 and the Order was personally bestowed by Tsar Peter I upon his wife Catherine on 24 November 1714 during a solemn ceremony. By then Tsar Peter had decided to rename the decoration "Order of the Great Martyr Saint Catherine". After the death of Empress Catherine I in 1727, the Order became obsolete, but it was re-established in 1797 under the reign of Emperor Paul I and the original statute of the Order was confirmed and updated.

While visiting his great friend Alexander Menshikov in Moscow in 1703, Peter I had met a young peasant of Livonian origin, Martha Skavronskaya. The young woman had become member of his friend's household and had converted to Orthodoxy and taken the name of Catherine. It appears that shortly after this encounter Peter and Catherine became lovers. Several children were born from this union and in November 1707 the Tsar decided to marry his mistress in a private ceremony in St Petersburg, the town he had ordered to be built in 1703 in the marshy delta of the river Neva.

In November 1710 the Ottoman Sultan Ahmed III declared war on Russia and instructed his newly appointed Grand Vizier, Mehmet Baltadji, to lead a powerful army from Adrianople towards northern Walachia and attack Russia from the south. By June 1711 the Grand Vizier had assembled his army on the shores of the lower Danube, while the Crimean Tartars had already started a series of diversionary incursions into southern Ukraina.

After his great victory at Poltava over the Swedish army commanded by Charles XII, Tsar Peter was fully confident that after invading the Turkish provinces of Moldavia and Walachia their Christian populations would immediately rise and join forces with him against the common enemy. He was also convinced that it would trigger a whole series of rebellions in the Balkans against the Turkish oppressor. With this overoptimistic perspective Tsar Peter led his forces and invaded northern Moldavia where he was joined by the army of Field Marshal Boris Sheremetev. Tsaritsa Catherine and some of her ladies-in-waiting were accompanying the Tsar. After the initial skirmishes the two armies collided on the shores of the river Pruth, the Turks inflicting heavy losses on the outnumbered Russian forces that had not received the promised support from any of the Danubian vassal states.

Surrounded by the enemy, Tsar Peter was helpless and had to choose between surrendering or asking for terms of peace. The Grand Vizier astonishingly enough accepted to let Tsar Peter and the encircled army to leave the battlefield and return safely to Russia. The condition was the payment of a large sum of money and the return to Turkey of the territories conquered by Russia including the harbours of Azov and Taganrog that gave them access to the southern sea routes. Tsar Peter had to accept the terms imposed upon him.





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Obverse 6

Since the creation of the Order by Tsar Peter the First, the Order of Saint Catherine had undergone many variations in basic design. It was not until 1797 that Emperor Paul I issued the definitive statute of this Order.

#### 4 GRAND CROSS BADGE

The obverse of the Badge is formed by a gold cross with arms that have seven rays richly adorned with diamonds and a central polychrome oval medallion edged with diamonds. In the centre of the medallion is the crowned likeness of St Catherine, seated and holding a large white cross with her hands, her left hand holding also a palm branch. The halo around the Saint's head bears the letters: "SEV"\* in Cyrillic. A small Greek cross adorned with diamonds is placed upon the larger cross. At her feet is a wheel bearing the letter: "S", while in the lower right side of the medallion appears the letter "F". A small red circle bearing the letter "R" is placed in the upper right side of the medallion. The letter "D" may be seen in the right upper side of the medallion, thus forming the letters: "DSFR"\*\*.

The suspension is oblong and adorned with diamonds.

The reverse of the Badge shows on the polychrome oval medallion two towers with eagle's nests on top of them and four eaglets holding snakes in their beaks with above the motto: "Æquat: Munia: Comparis"\*\*\*.

The Badge was worn attached to the bow of the prescribed sash (type II) which was worn over the right shoulder. Originally the colour of the ribbon was white moiré edged gold. Embroidered on the bow with silver thread is the motto signifying: "For Love and Fatherland".

The average size of the Badge varies between 55 x 61 and 60 x 65 mm and the size of the suspension is 10 x 29 mm.

#### 5-5A GRAND CROSS STAR

The eight-pointed golden Star is entirely set with diamonds and has a red-enamelled medallion bearing in the centre a cross placed upon a half-wheel and a circumscription signifying: "For Love and Fatherland". A Russian Imperial crown is placed on top of the medallion. The rays of the Star are flexible as they are hinged to the medallion.

A second type of the Star (5A) is in silver, lacks the diamond embellishment and has rigid rays. The red-enamelled medallion is similar in most details to the preceding type, except that it lacks the superimposed crown and that the letters: "DSFR" are placed between the arms of the cross of the centre medallion.

The Star was worn on the left side of the chest.

The diameter of the Stars varies between 87 and 90 mm.

#### 6 LESSER CROSS BADGE

The Badge is similar in appearance and many details to the Grand Cross Badge (4), except that it is embellished with only half as many diamonds that are replaced with golden filigree. It was awarded without Star or Sash. The Badge was to be worn "close to the heart" on a bow similar to the one of the Grand Cross Badge (4), although smaller in size.

\* The letters stand for: Saint Catherine the Great Martyr.

\*\* The letters stand for: Domine Salvum Fac Regem (O Lord Save the Sovereign).

\*\*\* The motto signifies: Equals the Deeds of the Consort, which is a direct reference to Catherine's courageous support during the critical situation on the shores of the river Pruth.





## ORDER OF SAINT ALEXANDER NEVSKY

Not many years before his death Tsar Peter the Great intended to create a third decoration, the Order of Saint Alexander Nevsky. It was meant to be a purely military order to be solely awarded for deeds of bravery on the field of battle. No official date of its establishment is available but it is reasonable to assume that his resolve of creating a specifically military order was made around 1724 or perhaps even before.

About ten years earlier Tsar Peter had ordered the construction of the Alexander Nevsky Monastery on the left bank of the Neva river on the site of the victorious battle in the summer of 1240 between Alexander, prince of Novgorod, and the invading Swedish forces. It is after this battle that Prince Alexander received the surname of Nevsky; he was canonised by the Russian Orthodox church in 1380. By order of Tsar Peter the remains of the Saint were transferred during summer of 1724 from the town of Vladimir to rest in the new built monastery bearing his name.

The health of the Emperor was rapidly deteriorating and in February 1722 he decided that it was time to let the Russian people know who would be his successor. He signed a decree announcing that it was upon the reigning sovereign to designate who would be the successor to the Russian throne. The next step was his proclamation in November 1723 that he intended to crown his consort Catherine Empress and joint ruler.

The solemn ceremony took place in Moscow in May 1724 but no official announcement was then made concerning the chosen successor. In January 1725 Peter the Great died still without announcing his successor thus creating a highly dangerous situation which could have ended in a potential conflict between the Tsar's entourage, the members of the senate and the nobility. The impasse was rapidly and forcibly settled by the Emperor's closest companion, Alexander Menshikov. Catherine was proclaimed Empress and Autocrat of all Russias.

The Order of Saint Alexander Nevsky was never awarded during the Tsar's reign possibly because Russia was not involved in hostilities during his last years of his life. The 21-years-long Northern War against Sweden had been concluded in 1721 with the signing of the Treaty of Nystad and Tsar Peter's Caspian campaign had also come to an end.

It was in May 1725 that Empress Catherine I first started awarding the Order, although it was not in the spirit intended by Peter the Great as it was given to a wide range of persons that had little or no connection at all with deeds of bravery on the field of battle.

Since the Order was first awarded by Empress Catherine I, the Badge and the Star have undergone many variations in basic design. It was not until 1797 that Emperor Paul I issued the definitive statute and definition of the Order of Saint Alexander Nevsky.

### 7-7A-7B-7C BADGE

The obverse of the Badge is formed by a red-enamelled, gold-edged cross. Placed between the arms of the cross and extending over them are golden or silver faceted





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Russian Imperial eagles charged on their breasts with the mounted figure of St George. The central medallion is surrounded by a golden ring and bears a polychrome likeness of a cuirassed Alexander Nevsky riding towards right on a white horse. He is wearing a flowing red coat.

In the background are one or several towers and buildings; over the rider's head is a cloud from which protrudes a blessing arm. There are versions of the Order that have the likeness of Alexander Nevsky riding towards left.

The obverse of the earliest type of the Badge resembles closely the above described one, except for having longer and narrower arms of the cross which are covered with polished red glass; the golden Imperial eagles are placed within the arms of the cross (7A).

Non Christians were awarded with a Badge that had a central medallion bearing the likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle instead of that of Saint Alexander Nevsky (7C).

The reverse of the Badge is similar to the obverse of the two above described types, except that the central medallion is white and bears the Saint's entwined cipher: "SA" surmounted either by a small crown or a larger red or golden one with flowing pendelia (7A,7C).

The Badge was embellished with diamonds, when the Sovereign bestowed the Order of Saint Alexander Nevsky "With Diamonds" (7B).

The Badge was worn on the left hip suspended from the prescribed sash (type III), which was worn over the right shoulder.

The average size of the Badge is 54 x 54 mm.

#### 8-8A BADGE WITH SWORDS

The Badge is similar in size and details to the Badge of the Order (7,7A,7C), except for having two golden crossed swords placed between the arms of the cross.

#### 9-9A-9B-9C-9D STAR

The eight-pointed silver Star with faceted, flat or round-pointed rays has an outer red-enamelled medallion bearing the inscription meaning: "For Labour and Fatherland" ending with two green-enamelled crossed laurel twigs topped by a small golden crown. The centre medallion bears the crowned cipher: "SA" on white background. A silver Russian Imperial crown is sometimes placed on top of the medallion (9A). Non-Christians were awarded with a Star that had a central medallion bearing the likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle instead of that of Saint Alexander Nevsky (9D). The Star was embellished with diamonds, when the Sovereign bestowed the Order of Saint Alexander Nevsky "With Diamonds" (9B).

The earliest Stars were silver embroidered (9C).

The Star was worn on the left side of the chest.

The average diameter of the Star varies between 76 and 90 mm.

#### 10-10A-10B STAR WITH SWORDS

The Star is similar in size and details to the preceding type (9,9A,9B,9D), except for having two golden crossed swords placed under the medallion.





Awarded on 9 March 1915 to Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevich the Younger for the taking of the fortified town of Peremyshl (Przemysl).

## ORDER OF SAINT GEORGE

The Order was founded by Empress Catherine II on 26 November 1769 as a military award to officers for outstanding gallantry on the field of battle. As Grand Master and founder of the new award, Empress Catherine bestowed on the same date the Order of Saint George First Class upon herself.

The full name of the Order was: The Imperial Military Order of the Holy Great Martyr George the Victorious.

The Empress had long wished to establish a purely military order, just as Emperor Peter the Great had had the intention of creating the Order of Alexander Nevsky, which was to be solely awarded for deeds of bravery. From 1725 Empress Catherine I did start bestowing the Order but it was not according to the wishes of her late husband, as the recipients were several Russian and foreign noblemen that had no connection at all with military deeds of bravery.

The statute of the newly created Order of Saint George stated in great detail that it was to be awarded exclusively to officers only if they had achieved well specified deeds of bravery on the field of battle. These regulations were strictly adhered to and remained in force up to the fall of the Empire.

In 1745 the future Empress Catherine II, daughter of Christian Augustus, prince of Anhalt-Zerbst married Grand Duke Peter of Russia. Her marriage was a failure from the start as she was a resolute, domineering and widely read woman while her husband was weak and dissolute and often unbalanced in his actions. Upon the death in January 1762 of his aunt, Empress Elizabeth I, Peter succeeded her as the new ruler of the Russian Empire.

By summer of that same year Peter III took a decision that was instrumental in his downfall. After the victorious battle in 1759 at Kunersdorf against Prussian King Frederick II Empress Elizabeth's participation in the Seven Years War had shown to the Great Powers that the Russian soldier was now a highly disciplined and well equipped warrior.

As an admirer of Frederick the Great, Peter III decided not only to end the participation of Russia in the alliance against Prussia but concluded a treaty with the former enemy. In the summer of 1762 a conspiracy headed by the brothers Orlov, instigated by Catherine, forced Tsar Peter to abdicate naming her as his successor. A few days later the Tsar was assassinated.

During her nearly 35 years of reign Empress Catherine the Great succeeded to extend dramatically the boundaries of the Russian Empire, to the west following the partition of Poland, to the south with the many victories on land and at sea over the Ottoman Empire and to the East with the consolidation of the immense territories of Siberia.

During the short reign of Emperor Paul I the Order of Saint George was discontinued, but it was revived by his successor Alexander I who in 1816 also introduced the Long Service Cross of Saint George Fourth Class.

The Statute of the Order was revised in 1833 by Tsar Nicholas I and in 1855 by Tsar Alexander II who also decided to discontinue the awarding of the Long Service Cross.





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Awarded in 1878 to Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevich the  
Junior for the crossing of the Danube near Zimniza (Zimmicea)

Obverse 15

#### 11-11A BADGE FIRST CLASS

The obverse of the Badge is formed by a gold-rimmed white-enamelled cross. The gold-rimmed medallion bears a polychrome likeness of a cuirassed and helmeted Saint George riding towards right, slaying the dragon\*.

Non-Christians were awarded with a Badge that had a central medallion bearing the likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle instead of that of Saint George (11A).

The reverse of the Badge is similar to its obverse, except that the medallion is white and bears the Saint's cipher: "S G" (11, 11A).

The Badge was worn on the left hip suspended from the prescribed sash (type IV), which was worn over the right shoulder.

The average size of the Badge is 55 x 55 mm.

#### 12-12A STARS FIRST AND SECOND CLASS

The four-pointed golden First and Second Class Stars have in the centre a pink, or red-enamelled medallion bearing the Saint's cipher: "S G" and a circumscription on a black background signifying: "For Service and Bravery"†.

The Stars were awarded with the related Badges (11, 11A or 13, 13A).

The earliest Stars were silver embroidered (12A).

The Stars were worn on the left side of the chest.

The average diameter of the Stars is 87 mm.

#### 13-13A BADGE SECOND CLASS

The Badge Second Class is similar to the Badge First Class (11, 11A) except for its size. It was awarded with the Star (12, 12A).

The Badge was worn at the neck suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The average size of the Badge is 47 x 47 mm.

#### 14-14A BADGE THIRD CLASS

The Badge Third Class is similar to the Badge Second Class (13, 13A) except for its size and for being awarded without a Star.

The Badge was worn at the neck suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The average size of the Badge is 40 x 40 mm.

#### 15-15A BADGE FOURTH CLASS

The Badge Fourth Class is similar to the Badge Third Class (14, 14A) except for its size.

The Badge was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The average size of the Badge is 35 x 35 mm.

#### 16-16A BADGES FOR LONG SERVICE

The Badges for Long Service are similar in size and details to the Badge Fourth Class (15, 15A), except for an inscription on the horizontal arms of the cross indicating: "18 Campaigns" (16) or "25 Years" (16A). The former was awarded to officers that had served in the Navy, the latter to those that had served in the Army.

\* The mythical dragon is described in Russia as a serpent.





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Obverse 21

## ORDER OF SAINT VLADIMIR

The Order was founded on 22 September 1782 on the twentieth anniversary of the coronation of Empress Catherine II. Its full name was: The Order of the Saint Apostolic Prince Vladimir.

As Grand Master and founder of the new award, Empress Catherine bestowed on the same date the Order of Saint Vladimir First Class upon herself.

Similarly to the Order of Saint George, the new Order had four classes but was initially created as a purely civilian decoration. It was to be conferred on persons who had served the state loyally and faithfully for a period of thirty-five years, to those who had enriched the State with their work and to persons that had achieved cultural prominence for the good of the Nation. It was also bestowed upon persons who had saved others from mortal danger or rendered assistance in time of famine or epidemics, to the clergy and in general to persons who had achieved great distinction in their professions.

On 26 November 1789 Empress Catherine II issued an *ukase* by which it was stipulated that those who were given the Order for exceptional accomplishments while serving in the army or in the navy, were to wear a bow on the ribbon of the Order.

During the short reign of Emperor Paul I the Order of Saint Vladimir as well as the Order of Saint George were discontinued, but they were revived on 12 December 1801 by his successor Alexander I.

The statute of the Order was revised by Tsar Alexander II on 5 August 1855 and the Order of Saint Vladimir Fourth Class could hence be awarded "With Swords" for military deeds of bravery; those recipients who later were awarded with the Third or higher Class of the Order had the crossed swords placed on top of the cross and of the Star of the Order. This practice was discontinued after 1870.

Vladimir I, Prince of Novgorod was the first Christian Grand Duke of Kiev and founder of the Kievan State. His baptism followed his marriage to Princess Anne, sister of the Byzantine Emperor Basil II.

He made Greek Orthodox Christianity his and his people's religion, often using force to eradicate paganism. He promoted the establishment of schools, libraries and built many churches. He was later canonised by the Russian Orthodox Church.

Since the Order was created by Empress Catherine I, the Badges and the Stars of the Order have undergone some variations in size and basic design.

### 17-17A BADGES FIRST AND SECOND CLASS

The obverse of the Badges has a red, dark red or black-enamelled cross with a black border edged gold having a thin gold line between the colours. The black-enamelled gold-rimmed medallion bears the crowned Imperial mantle of ermine with the Saint's initials: "S V" in its centre.

Non-Christians were awarded with a Badge that had the obverse medallion bearing the likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle instead of the Imperial mantle (17A).





The reverse of the Badge is similar to its obverse, except that the medallion bears the date of foundation of the Order: "22 September 1782" (17,17A).

The Badge First Class was worn on the left hip suspended from the prescribed sash (type V), which was worn over the right shoulder. The Badge Second Class was worn at the neck suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type V).

The average size of the Badge is 50 x 50 mm.

#### 18-18A BADGES FIRST AND SECOND CLASS WITH SWORDS

The Badges are similar in size and details to the preceding types (17,17A), except for the crossed swords added between the arms of the cross. Non-Christians had the obverse medallion bearing the likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle instead of the Imperial mantle (18A).

The crossed swords could also be placed at the top of the cross (18B).

#### 19-19A-19B STARS FIRST AND SECOND CLASS

The eight-pointed First and Second Class Stars have the diagonal rays gilded and the horizontal and vertical ones in silver. The centre of the dark blue-enamelled golden-edged medallions bears a golden cross with the letters: "S R K V"\* between its limbs.

The circumscription signifies: "Utility Honour and Glory"; the small cross is often replaced by two green-enamelled crossed laurel twigs topped by a small golden crown. Non-Christians had a central medallion bearing the likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle (19A). Since the creation of the Order, the Badge has undergone many variations in basic design and size. The earliest Stars were silver embroidered (19B).

The Stars were awarded with the related Badges (17,17A).

The Star was worn on the left side of the chest.

The average diameter of the Stars is 90 mm.

#### 20-20A-20B STARS FIRST AND SECOND CLASS WITH SWORDS

The Stars are similar in size and details to the preceding types (19,19A), except for having two golden crossed swords placed under the medallion. The crossed swords could also be placed at the top of the cross (20A). Non-Christians had a central medallion bearing the likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle (20B).

Since the creation of the Order, the Star with Swords has undergone many variations in basic design and size.

#### 21-21A BADGE THIRD CLASS

The Badge Third Class is similar to the Badge First and Second Class (17,17A) except for its size. The Badge was worn at the neck suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type V). Non-Christians had the obverse medallion bearing the likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle instead of the Imperial mantle (21A).

The average size of the Badge is 45 x 45 mm.

\* The letters stand for: Saint Apostolic Prince Vladimir.





Obverse 24



Obverse 25

#### 22-22A-22B BADGE THIRD CLASS WITH SWORDS

The Badge Third Class With Swords is similar in size and details to the Badge First and Second Class with Swords (18/18B), but was awarded without a Star.

Non-Christians had the obverse medallion bearing the likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle instead of the Imperial mantle (22A).

The crossed swords could also be placed at the top of the cross (22B).

The Badge was worn at the neck suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type V).

#### 23-23A BADGE FOURTH CLASS

The Badge Fourth Class is similar in details to the Badge Third Class (21,21A) except for its size.

Non-Christians had the obverse medallion bearing the likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle instead of the Imperial mantle (23A).

The Badge was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type V).

The average size of the Badge is 35 x 35 mm.

#### 24-24A-24B BADGE FOURTH CLASS WITH SWORDS

The Badge Fourth Class With Swords is similar in size and details to the preceding type (23,23A), except for having crossed swords added between the arms of the cross.

Non-Christians had the obverse medallion bearing the likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle instead of the Imperial mantle (24A).

The crossed swords could also be placed at the top of the cross (24B).

#### 25-25A-25B-25C BADGE FOR LONG SERVICE

The Badges for Long Service for civilians are similar in size and details to the Badge Fourth Class (23,23A), except for an inscription on the obverse and the reverse of the horizontal arms of the cross indicating: "25 Years" (25) or "35 Years" (25A) of service.

Non-Christians had the obverse medallion bearing the likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle instead of the Imperial mantle and had similar inscriptions: "25 Years" (25B) or "35 Years" (25C) of service.

#### 26-26A-26B-26C BADGE FOR LONG SERVICE WITH SWORDS

The Badges for Long Service With Swords for military personnel are similar in size and details to the preceding ones (25/25C), except for having crossed swords being placed between the arms of the cross. Similar inscriptions are placed on the horizontal arms of the cross indicating: "25 Years" (26) or "35 Years" (26A) of service in the army or in the navy.

Non-Christians had the obverse medallion bearing the likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle instead of the Imperial mantle. The inscriptions for: "25 Years" (26B) or "35 Years" (26C) of service were similar to the preceding type.





Obverse 31C



Awarded in 1865 to Gen. A.T. von Kauffmann in his capacity of Adj. Gen. to Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark.

29A

## ORDER OF SAINT ANNE

In 1735 Karl-Friedrich, Duke of Holstein-Gottorp, founded the Order of Saint Anne in commemoration of his deceased wife Anne, daughter of Tsar Peter I.

In 1741 Karl Ulrich Peter, son of the late Duke of Holstein-Gottorp was named successor to the throne of Russia by his aunt, Empress Elizabeth I. In 1742 the fourteen-year boy left the ancestral home in Kiel and took residence in St Petersburg, changing his Christian name to Peter Feodorovich, with the title of Grand Duke of Russia.

After the death of his father the young Peter had become Grand Master of the Order of Saint Anne which had been established by his father. As such, he initially awarded the Order only to half a dozen noblemen, the award being still considered a foreign one. In 1761, upon the death of Empress Elizabeth I, Peter III, the new Emperor of Russia continued to bestow the Order, although no Russian statute of the award had been seemingly drafted during his short reign. Only six months after his succession to the throne, the supporters of his wife Catherine, born Sophie of Anhalt-Zerbst, deposed and murdered him, the throne passing thus into the hands of Catherine.

During the long reign of Catherine the Great the awarding of the Order of Saint Anne continued, but it was Emperor Paul I, who succeeded his mother in 1796 who the following year drafted the official Statute of the Order and introduced it to the Russian award system. It became a three-class decoration, the first two classes being awarded to deserving noblemen and members of the civil Administration and a third class badge to officers, to be worn on the hilt of the sword. Tsar Alexander I created a fourth class badge to be worn on the sword hilt instead of the third class.

Several additions were made during the following years, as for instance the Order "With Swords", "With Diamonds", "With Crown" and finally "To non-Christians".

### 27-27A-27B-27C-27D BADGE FIRST CLASS

The obverse of the Badge is formed by a gold-edged red, dark red or black-enamelled cross with a polychrome medallion representing Saint Anne standing on a field with some trees in the background. Between the arms of the cross are gold filigree work. Earlier types of the Badge resemble somewhat the above described one, except for having the arms of the cross covered with polished red glass. Placed around the cross are several diamond-like stones (27A).

The Badge was embellished with diamonds, when the Sovereign bestowed the Order of Saint Anne "With Diamonds" (27B). Between 1828 and 1874 instead of being embellished with diamonds the Badge was bestowed with a golden polychrome Russian Imperial crown hinged to the top of the cross (27C).

Non-Christians were awarded with a Badge that had a central medallion bearing the likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle instead of that of the Saint (27D).

The reverse of the Badge is similar to its obverse, except that the medallion bears the crowned, entwined initials: "A J P F" \*.

\* The initials stand for: *Amantibus Iustitiam Pietatem Fidem* (To lovers of Justice, Piety and Faith).





31



Obverse 32C

The Badge First Class was worn on the right hip suspended from the prescribed sash (type VI), which was worn over the left shoulder.

The average size of the Badge is 58 x 58 mm.

#### 28-28A-28B-28C-28D BADGE FIRST CLASS WITH SWORDS

The Badge is similar in size and details to the Badge First Class (27), except for the crossed swords added between the arms of the cross. The Badge is also found in the early type (28A), "With Diamonds" (28B), "With Crown" (28C) and "For non-Christians" (28D).

#### 29-29A-29B-29C-29D STARS FIRST AND SECOND CLASS

The eight-pointed silver Star has a centre medallion bearing a red-enamelled cross on a golden background and a circumscription on a red-enamelled background with the abbreviated motto: "Aman. Just. Piet. Fid."\* ending with two small angels holding an Imperial crown. The Star could be awarded embellished with diamonds (29A) or with an enamelled polychrome crown placed at the top of the medallion (29B). Non-Christians were awarded with a Star that had a central medallion bearing the likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle instead of that of the Saint (29C). Since the creation of the Order, the Badge has undergone some variations in basic design and size. The earliest Stars were silver embroidered (29D).

The Star was awarded with the Badge First or Second Class and was worn on the left side of the chest. The average diameter of the Star is 90 mm.

#### 30-30A-30B-30C STARS FIRST AND SECOND CLASS WITH SWORDS

The Star is similar in size and details to the preceding type, except for having two golden crossed swords placed under the medallion. The Star is also found "With Diamonds" (30A), "With Crown" (30B) and "For non-Christians" (30C).

#### 31-31A-31B-31C-31D-31E BADGE SECOND CLASS

The Badge Second Class is similar to the Badge First Class (27), except for its size. The Badge is also found in the early type (31A), "With Diamonds" (31B), "With Crown" (31C), "With Swords" (31D) and "For non-Christians" (31E).

The Badge was worn at the neck suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type VI).

The average size of the Badge is 50 x 50 mm.

#### 32-32A-32B-32C-32D-32E BADGE THIRD CLASS

The Badge is similar to the preceding type, except for its size. The Badge is also found in the early type (32A), "With diamonds" (32B), "With Crown" (32C), "With Swords" (32D) and "For non-Christians" (32E).

The Badge was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type VI) and awarded without the Star. The average size of the Badge is 36 x 36 mm.

A **Badge Fourth Class** was introduced by Tsar Alexander I which was worn on the hilt of the sword instead of the Badge Third Class. Previously Tsar Paul I had divided the Order of Saint Anne into three classes of which the lowest was to be worn on the sword hilt.

\* The motto stands for: *Amantibus Justitiam Pietatem Fidem* (To lovers of Justice, Piety and Faith).





33



34

## ORDER OF THE WHITE EAGLE

The Order of the White Eagle was founded in 1705 by Augustus II King of Poland and Elector of Saxony as Frederick Augustus I. One of the first recipients of the Order was Tsar Peter I of Russia, his ally with Frederick IV of Denmark in the war against Swedish King Charles XII. Since its creation the Order was primarily awarded to Polish nationals; during the following years considerable variations occurred to its basic design and it was several times discontinued to be revived at a later date.

The Order continued to be awarded to Polish nationals until the conclusion in 1831 of the Polish rebellion, when Tsar Nicholas I decided to issue new statutes for the Polish orders of the White Eagle, Saint Stanislas and Virtuti Militari, and include them among the Russian Orders. This action was one more deliberate move to deprive the Polish ruling classes of the privilege of granting their own national awards upon their citizens, as any decision-making would hence be steered directly from St Petersburg.

### 33-33A BADGE

The obverse of the golden Badge of the Order consists of a gold-edged, black-enamelled Imperial Russian eagle on which is applied a red-enamelled, white-edged cross tipped with golden ball finials bearing a crowned, white-enamelled Polish eagle.

The reverse of the Badge consists of the reverse side of the Imperial eagle with a small centrally placed red and white-enamelled cross with rays between its arms and with the letter "M" placed in its centre.

The suspension of the Badge consists of a polychrome Imperial Russian crown with azure-enamelled flowing pendilia.

The Order could be awarded "With Swords", in which case crossed swords would be placed between the flowing pendilia (33A).

The Badge was worn on the right hip suspended from the prescribed sash (type VII), which was worn over the left shoulder.

The average size of the Badge is 70 x 78 mm.

### 34-34A-34B-34C-34D STAR

The eight-pointed silver Star with flat rays has a medallion which has a blue-enamelled outer circle bearing the inscription: "Pro Fide Rege Et Lege" \* . The gold rimmed centre medallion bears a red-enamelled, white-edged cross with a silver gilt rose with flaming green leaves in its centre. When the Order was awarded "With Swords", crossed swords were placed under the medallion (33A).

Non-Christians were awarded with a Star that had a central medallion bearing the likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle instead of the cross (34B) and with crossed swords placed under the medallion when awarded "With Swords" (34C).

The earliest Stars were silver embroidered (34D).

The Star was worn on the left side of the chest.

The Star has an average diameter of 90 mm.

\* The motto signifies: For Faith King and Law.





38



Obverse 40

## ORDER OF SAINT STANISLAS

The Order of Saint Stanislas was founded on 7 May 1765 by Stanislaus II, the last King of Poland. Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowsky thus wished to commemorate the Patron Saint of Poland, St Stanislas of Cracow. While between 1756-1758 he was Polish ambassador to St Petersburg Stanislaus managed to gain the favours of Empress Catherine II and with her influence and that of King Frederick II of Prussia secured his election to the Polish throne after the death in 1763 of King Augustus III. The new King sought in vain to bring to the Polish nation the reforms it so urgently required; the intrigues of Russia, Turkey and the great European powers were instrumental in creating widespread unrest in the country which led the Polish nobility declaring in 1770 King Stanislaus II deposed.

Russia, Austria and Prussia intervened, reinstated Stanislaus and in 1772 each country annexed large Polish territories; the first Polish partition had become a reality. The following years King Stanislaus was forced to preside over two further partitions of his country in 1793 and in 1795 and finally he had to abdicate and leave Poland into exile.

The Order of Saint Stanislas passed through several phases before becoming a Russian Order in 1831, after the Polish rebellion of 1830 had been suppressed by the Russian army.

### 35-35A-35B BADGE FIRST CLASS

The obverse of the Badge is formed by a gold-edged red, dark red or black-enamelled cross tipped with golden ball finials. Placed between the arms of the cross and extending over them are golden Russian Imperial eagles charged on their breast with the mounted figure of St George. The points of the cross are connected to each other by a gold-chased arc. The centre medallion is white and bears the entwined red or gold-edged red cipher of the Saint: "S S". The whole is encircled by a gold and green laurel wreath. The reverse of the Badge is entirely of gold, while the medallion is similar to the obverse one. Between 1831 and 1874 the Sovereign could bestow the Badge with a golden polychrome Russian Imperial crown which was hinged to the top of the cross (35A).

Non-Christians were awarded with a Badge that had a central medallion bearing the likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle instead of that of the cipher of the Saint (35B).

The Badge First Class was worn on the left hip suspended from the prescribed sash (type VIII), which was worn over the right shoulder.

Without an eventual suspension crown the size of the Badge is 62 x 62 mm.

### 36-36A-36B BADGE FIRST CLASS WITH SWORDS

The Badge is similar in size and details to the Badge First Class (35,35A), except for the crossed swords added between the arms of the cross. The Badge is also found "With Crown" (36A) and "For non-Christians" (36B).

### 37-37A-37B-37C STARS FIRST AND SECOND CLASS

The eight-pointed silver Star has a centre medallion bearing the red or gold-edged





red cipher of the Saint on a white background and a circumscription similarly on a white background bearing the motto: "Premiando Incitat" \*. Four golden laurel branches are placed on a green-enamelled outer ring. The Star could be embellished with an enamelled polychrome Imperial Russian crown placed at the top of the medallion (37A). Non-Christians were awarded with a Star that had a central medallion bearing the likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle instead of the cipher of the Saint (37B). The earliest Stars were silver-embroidered (37C).

The Star was awarded with the Badge and was worn on the left side of the chest.

The average diameter of the Star is 90 mm.

#### 38-38A-38B STARS FIRST AND SECOND CLASS WITH SWORDS

The Stars are similar in size and details to the preceding type, except for having two golden crossed swords placed under the medallion. The Stars are also found "With Crown", in which case the crossed swords are placed at the top of the medallion (38A) and "For non-Christians" (38B).

#### 39-39A-39B BADGE SECOND CLASS

The Badge Second Class is similar in details to the Badge First Class (35/35B), except for its size. The Badge is also found "With Crown" (39A) and "For non-Christians" (39B).

The Badge was worn at the neck suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type VIII).

Without a suspension crown the Badge's average size is 47 x 47 mm.

#### 40-40A-40B BADGE SECOND CLASS WITH SWORDS

The Badge is similar in size and details to the Badge First Class With Swords (36/36B), except for being smaller in size. The Badge is also found "With Crown" (40A) and "For non-Christians" (40B).

The Badge was worn at the neck suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type VIII).

#### 41-41A-41B BADGE THIRD CLASS

The Badge Third Class is similar to the Badge Second Class (39/39B), except for its size. The Badge is also found "With Crown" (41A) and "For non-Christians" (41B).

The Badge was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type VIII) and was awarded without a Star.

Without a suspension crown the Badge's average size is 36 x 36 mm.

#### 42-42A-42B BADGE THIRD CLASS WITH SWORDS

The Badge Third Class With Swords is similar in details and size to the Badge Second Class With Swords (40/40B), except for its size.

The Badge is also found "With Crown" (42A) and for "For non-Christians" (42B).

The Badge was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type VIII) and was awarded without a Star.

Without a suspension crown the Badge's average size is 36 x 36 mm.

\* The motto signifies: *Encourages by Rewarding.*



## THE IMPERIAL MEDALS





## MEDAL FOR THE STORMING OF SCHLISSELBURG

The Medal was created by Tsar Peter I to commemorate the storming of the Swedish fortress of Nöteborg on 12 October 1702 during the Northern War, which had started two years earlier.

The fortress was originally built in 1323 by the city of Novgorod the Great and named Oreshek. It was conquered by the Swedes in 1611 and renamed Nöteborg. It is located on a small island at the point, where Lake Ladoga empties into the Neva river, thus being of vital strategic importance for the Baltic-Ladoga-Onega maritime trade route.

The conquest of the fortress, which was renamed Schlisselburg (Schlüsselburg) and of the Swedish province of Ingria made it possible for Peter I to realise his grandiose dream of opening Russia to Western trade and culture by starting in 1703 the building of a new capital on the marshy delta of the river Neva.

Although often threatened by the Swedes, the Neva river region never reverted to its former occupants. King Charles XII of Sweden had defeated Tsar Peter at Narva in 1700, but his invasion of Russia in 1708 ended in his army being destroyed the following year by the Russians led by Peter I at the battle of Poltava. In the following two centuries the fortress was mainly used as a prison for politicians and even for members of the Imperial family that had fallen into disgrace.

During the Second World War the fortress of Schlisselburg held out seventeen months against the Nazi German invaders and was recaptured in 1943 by the Soviet Army. The encircled town of Leningrad endured a 880-day martyrdom, the cruel siege being lifted on 27 January 1944.

The Medal was awarded to the guardsmen of the Preobrazhensky and Semjonovsky regiments, who took part in the storming of the Swedish fortress. The award was presented without an eyelet.

### 43 GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal bears the laureate, cuirassed bust of Tsar Peter I facing right and a circumscription meaning: "Tsar Peter Alekseevich Sovereign of Russia".

The reverse of the Medal illustrates in great details the fortress of Nöteborg being bombarded, the storming boats, the guns and the soldiers positioned on the opposite shore. On the left side the inscription signifying: "Neva". At the bottom the legend meaning: "Taken 21\* October 1702". The circumscription signifies: "Held by the Enemy 90 Years".

The diameters of the Medal is 52 mm.

### 44 SILVER MEDAL

The Silver Medal is similar in size and details to the Gold Medal, except for being made of silver.

\* The date: "21" should have been "12".





## MEDAL FOR THE CAPTURE OF TWO SWEDISH WARSHIPS

The Medal was created by Tsar Peter I to commemorate the capture on 7 May 1703 of a Swedish brigantine and a galley.

A Swedish fleet commanded by Vice Admiral Gideon von Numers had appeared in early May 1703 off the mouth of the Neva river. Before venturing his whole fleet upriver the Admiral ordered two warships, the *Gäddan* and the *Astrild* armed respectively with ten and eight cannons to sail up the estuary, anchor and gain information about the whereabouts of the Russian forces in the region.

For Tsar Peter this was an occasion not to be missed, and he decided personally to lead elements of the Semjonovsky and Preobrazhensky Regiments embarked on thirty boats to attack the two vessels at dawn of 7 May 1703.

A fierce battle ensued, the two warships desperately defending themselves but to no avail, as they were soon boarded by the Russians and were forced to surrender to the enemy.

Peter I was elated by the victory especially as he was instrumental in the capture of the two vessels. Tsar Peter decided to bestow upon himself and on his able military Commander-in-Chief and adviser Alexander Menshikov the Order of Saint Andrew the First-Called, for having taken active part in the naval victory.

From his early childhood Peter had a passion for war games and at the age of fifteen he learned to sail a small boat on Lake Pereslavl. He became fascinated with building boats, which ten years later made him travel to Holland to study the technique of shipbuilding.

The Gold Medal was conferred to the officers, and the Silver Medal to the seamen and to the guardsmen of the Preobrazhensky and Semjonovsky Regiments, who took part in the battle and the boarding of the two ships.

### 45 GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal bears the laureate, cuirassed bust of Tsar Peter I facing right. The circumscription means: "Tsar Peter Alekseevich Sovereign of All Russia".

The reverse shows two warships surrounded by boats, and the whole scene is topped by a hand protruding from clouds holding two palm branches and a crown. The circumscription means: "The Unprecedented Becomes Reality" with the date: "1703" below.

The Medal was presented with an eyelet and was worn suspended from a golden chain around the shoulder.

The diameter of the Medal is 54 mm.

### 46 SILVER MEDAL

The Silver Medal is similar in most of its details to the Gold Medal, except for being made of silver.

The diameter of the Medal is 55 mm.





## MEDAL FOR THE TAKING OF NARVA

The Medal was instituted in 1704 by Tsar Peter I of Russia to commemorate the victory of the Russian forces upon the Swedish garrison, which was defending the fortress and town of Narva.

Narva is located in present-day Estonia on the left bank of the river bearing the same name, close to the Gulf of Finland. Facing it on the right bank of the river lies the considerably smaller town and fortress of Ivangorod. Both fortresses were of great strategic importance for the Swedes, as they were defending their Estonian and Livonian provinces from any Russian inroads.

It was in late September 1700 that the Northern War had begun, when Tsar Peter had personally led his army towards Narva, laying siege to the fortress, while King Charles XII of Sweden was fighting in far-away Denmark. The bulk of the Russian soldiers and cavalymen were still untrained and undisciplined and a two-months-long bombardment of the bastions of the fortress of Narva proved ineffective. Meanwhile the eighteen-year-old Swedish King had concluded the Danish campaign and upon his return to Sweden had decided to embark his troops and sail from Karlskrona for Livonia to confront the Russian army at Narva. His forces soon approached the besieged town and launched an immediate attack on the enemy. The outcome of the battle was a disastrous defeat for the Russian forces and a terrible humiliation for the Tsar of Russia.

While King Charles was still campaigning in Poland, Tsar Peter decided in 1704 that the right time had come to secure Ingria and the Western approaches to St Petersburg. The two fortresses to be captured were Narva on the Estonian border and Dorpat in Northern Livonia. Furthermore it was for him of paramount importance to gain a victory precisely at Narva, in this manner to erase any recollection of the shameful defeat of 1700.

The far better led and trained Russian soldier was now able to vindicate the previous defeat by first storming the fortified town of Dorpat and consequently in full force invest the fortress of Narva, capturing it after an intense and effective bombardment.

The Medal was presented to high-ranking personalities, who participated to the siege and capture of the fortress of Narva.

### 47 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal bears the laureate, cuirassed bust of Tsar Peter I facing right with a circumscription signifying: "Tsar Peter Alekseevich, Sovereign of Russia."

The reverse of the Medal shows the battle scene with the fortress of Narva being bombarded. On the left side the town of Ivangorod can be seen in the distance.

The circumscription means: "Conquered. Not With Trickery. But With Arms. With Help. From the Almighty." At the bottom the inscription: "Narva. 1704." The Medal was presented without an eyelet.

The diameter of the Medal is 50 mm.





## MEDAL FOR THE BATTLE AT KALISZ

The Medal was instituted late in 1706 by Tsar Peter I and was awarded for acts of valour and loyalty to the victorious Russian forces participating in the battle near Kalisz, which took place on 29 October 1706.

The town of Kalisz is located in west central Poland.

During the Northern War that lasted from 1700 to 1721, Augustus II, King of Poland and Elector of Saxony, an ally of Russia and Denmark, had been waging unsuccessful campaigns to defeat the Swedish forces under the command of Charles XII, the young Swedish King.

While Electoral Saxony was being overrun in September 1706 by the Swedish armies, King Augustus was preparing to attack a Swedish force in Poland under the command of Colonel Mardefelt; attached to the army of the Polish King was a strong contingent of Russian cavalry personally led by none others than Alexander Menshikov, chief adviser of Tsar Peter. Learning that in his absence the Saxon government had concluded a peace treaty with Charles XII, King Augustus abstained from engaging the former enemy, while Menshikov's cavalry vigorously attacked and routed the Swedish forces.

To Tsar Peter the news of this Russian victory seemed to confirm that the Russian fighter was now as efficient and experienced as the Swedish soldier, and that King Charles XII would abstain from further inroads against his country.

The Russian soldier was now better trained and armed, but would soon be fighting a desperate battle against the Swedes not in Poland, but deep inside Russia.

The Gold Medal was bestowed upon higher rank officers of the cavalry and the Silver Medal to non-commissioned cavalry officers and to cavalymen, who took part in the battle at Kalisz.

### 48 GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal bears the laureate, cuirassed bust of Tsar Peter I facing right with a circumscription either signifying: "Tsar. Peter. Alekseevich." or "Tsar. Peter. Alekseevich. Sovereign of All Russia."

The reverse shows Tsar Peter riding a charging horse surrounded by a battle scene and a circumscription meaning: "For Loyalty and Bravery". The whole scene is topped by clouds with a hand holding a laurel wreath protruding from the left side of the medal. Below is the date: "1706".

The Medal was worn suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type I).

The size of the Medal is 38 x 42 mm.

### 49 SILVER MEDAL

The Silver Medal is similar in most details to the Gold Medal, except for being made of silver.

The diameter of the Medal is 38 x 43 mm.





## MEDAL FOR THE BATTLE AT LESNAYA

The Medal was created by Tsar Peter I to commemorate the battle that took place on 28 September 1708 near the village of Lesnaya against units of the Swedish army.

The village of Lesnaya is located in the centre of the present-day Republic of Belarus.

Count Adam Ludwig Lewenhaupt, Swedish military governor of Curland, left Riga at the end of June 1708 in command of a 12,500 men strong army, whose sole aim was to escort a huge column of wagons carrying ammunition, food and military matériel, and join the main army of King Charles XII in Russia.

Bad weather, the dreadful condition of the roads as well as the harassing skirmishes by Cossack and Russian partisan units greatly slowed down the progress of Lewenhaupt's supply column. The immediate consequence for the Swedish King was two months of frustrating inactivity, while awaiting in vain for the arrival of the much needed supplies and reinforcements from Riga.

King Charles finally decided to break camp and try to confuse Tsar Peter and his generals by staging erratic movements of his army, while hopefully expecting the imminent arrival of the supply column of Lewenhaupt, which would have enabled him to resume the main thrust towards Moscow. These plans never materialised as the progress of Lewenhaupt was just as erratic as his King's, but for another reason: his scouts having encountered powerful Russian forces, his column was constantly forced to stop and regroup fearing a sudden attack by the enemy.

On 11 October 1708 the attack did come, and a day-long battle was fought near the village of Lesnaya, the Swedes suffering total defeat and the loss of all the supplies. It was the first omen for King Charles that his Russian campaign, so far from Sweden, would sooner or later encounter insurmountable difficulties in manpower and logistics.

The Gold Medal was awarded to officers of higher rank, the Silver Medal to lower ranks.

### 50 GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal bears the laureate, cuirassed bust of Tsar Peter I facing right. The circumscription means: "Tsar Peter, Alekseevich Sovereign, of All Russia." The engraver's name: "Gouin" \* is placed under the bust of the Sovereign. The reverse shows Tsar Peter riding a charging horse surrounded by a battle scene. Two angels are holding a crown over his head topped by a flowing ribbon bearing an inscription signifying: "To the Deserving the Merit". The circumscription signifies: "For the Lewenhaupt Battle", with below the date: "1708".

The Medal was worn suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type I).

The Medal was awarded in six different sizes.

### 51 SILVER MEDAL

The Silver Medal is similar in most of its details to the Gold Medal, except for being made of silver.

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.

\* (Salomon Gouin, French mint engraver)





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53A

## MEDAL FOR THE BATTLE AT POLTAVA

The Medal was created by Tsar Peter I to commemorate the battle, which took place on 27 June 1709 near the town of Poltava in eastern central Ukraine against the Swedish army commanded by King Charles XII.

In mid-summer 1706 the Swedish King and his army were stationed in Saxony. He had steadfastly refused any talks of peace with Tsar Peter, not even when he was promised the cession of Finnish, Livonian and Estonian territories. Charles XII had a driving compulsion, which was to destroy Tsar Peter's army and once and for all remove the Russian threat to the Baltic Sea region. It did not come as a surprise for Peter I to learn that on 27 August 1707, the Swedish King had left Saxony at the head of a powerful army in the direction of Poland. The inevitable and decisive clash between the two armies was now just a matter of time. The Tsar's soldiers were now better trained, better armed and most of all highly motivated to defend their fatherland.

In early 1708 Charles XII advanced through Poland and after a long pause in Poznan to allow his army to be provided with food, military and medical supplies crossed the river Vistula and slowly advanced towards Russia hindered by the effective scorched earth tactic applied by the enemy. Harassed by Cossack cavalry and partisans and never able to force the enemy into a full fledged battle, drawn further and further southwards away from Moscow, a much weaker Swedish army finally confronted the bulk of the Russian forces near Poltava.

Historians have described in great details how Charles XII was wounded the day before a battle that ended in the total defeat of the Swedish army and the King's flight to the south.

The Medal was awarded in gold to commissioned officers. The larger silver Medal was awarded to non-commissioned officers and the smaller one to enlisted men.

### 52 GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal bears the laureate, armour-clad figure of Tsar Peter I facing right. The circumscription signifies: "Tsar Peter Alekseevich Autocrat of All Russia".

The reverse of the Medal is embellished with the scene of the battle and the town of Poltava in the background. At the bottom the date: "1709 27 June". The circumscription means: "For the Battle of Poltava".

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from a ribbon (Type I).

The diameter of the Medal is 50 mm.

### 53-53A SILVER MEDAL

The larger Silver Medal (53) is similar in details to the Gold Medal, except for being made of silver and for having a diameter of 49 mm.

The smaller Silver Medal (53A) is similar in many details to the preceding Medal, except that the obverse circumscription has a shorter inscription signifying: "Tsar Peter, Autocrat, of All Russia," and that its diameter is 42 mm.





## MEDAL FOR THE NAVAL BATTLE OF GANGUT

The Medal was instituted by Tsar Peter I to commemorate the naval battle which took place on 27 July 1714 near Cape Gangut (Hangö), located in south-western Finland.

The victory at Poltava in 1709 against the Swedish army and the exile of King Charles XII in Turkey meant that the Russian army could now proceed with Tsar Peter's plans of securing the territories facing the Gulf of Finland from any further Swedish inroads, which could endanger the security of the future capital of the Empire. In 1710 General-Admiral Feodor Apraxin and Field Marshal Boris Sheremetev successfully initiated the military operations respectively in Finland and in the Livonian province.

One obstacle remained, and it was a formidable one: the mighty Swedish Navy, which consisted of modern, powerful ships-of-the-line and of a variety of smaller vessels sailing still unopposed in the northern waters of the Baltic Sea.

After the success of the campaigns on land, shipbuilding became of the highest priority. By the end of 1713 an incredible achievement had taken place: the Russian Baltic Fleet was able to muster several ships-of-the-line, well over two hundred galleys and a variety of large boats.

On 7 August 1714 ninety-five Russian galleys with Feodor Apraxin in command and Tsar Peter as Rear Admiral and deputy attacked a division of the Swedish fleet commanded by Admiral Ehrenskjöld, which had anchored in a fjord near the Hangö peninsula. The battle lasted over three hours ending in the first major sea-going victory by the new-born Russian Navy. Admiral Ehrenskjöld and his flagship *Elephant*, nine other warships, nearly a thousand officers and sailors were captured. For Peter I it was not just a day of triumph, but also a day of vindication for his commitment in creating a powerful Russian Navy.

The Gold Medal was awarded to higher ranking officers, the Silver Medal to sailors as well as to infantry soldiers who were on board the attacking galleys during the sea battle.

### 54 GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal shows the laureate, cuirassed bust of Tsar Peter I facing right with the circumscription signifying: "Tsar Peter Alekseevich Sovereign of All Russia".

The reverse shows the scene of the naval battle and is surrounded by a circumscription meaning: "Dedication, and Fidelity. Excel. Force". Below is the date: "27 July 1714".

The Medal was worn suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type I).

The Medal was issued in many different sizes.

### 55 SILVER MEDAL

The silver Medal is similar in most details to the Gold Medal, except for being of silver.

The diameter of the Medal varies between 40 and 43 mm.





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57

## MEDAL FOR THE CAPTURE OF THREE SWEDISH WARSHIPS

The Medal was created by Tsar Peter I to commemorate the capture on 24 May 1719 of three Swedish warships.

King Frederick I of Sweden, successor to King Charles XII, had seemingly no intention to negotiate peace with the Tsar of Russia, while Russia was continuing to wage war against his country. The Swedish King was temporising, hoping that the mediation and strong diplomatic pressure by the government of King George I of England would have an advantageous effect on future peace negotiations with Russia.

Tsar Peter was aware of the scheming manoeuvres of King Frederick, but as he wanted to put an end to the Northern War, which had begun in 1700, he decided to act by escalating military activity on land and at sea.

Plans for a vigorous campaign in the summer of 1719 were prepared, by which Russian troops would be sailed from Finland to attack the Swedish coastline. The hero of Gangut, General-Admiral Feodor Apraxin, was given the command of the Russian Navy in the Baltic.

The campaign took the Swedes by surprise, and they could not stop the amphibious onslaught, the Russians having near-mastery of the seas. On 4 June 1719 a naval battle took place in the Baltic Sea between the islands of Ösel (Saaremaa) and Gotland, in which a Russian naval squadron commanded by Captain Naum Senjavin gave battle to the fifty-two-gun Swedish ship-of-the-line *Wachtmeister*, the thirty-two-gun *Carlskrona Vapen* and the twelve-gun brigantine *Bernhardus*\*. After a prolonged battle, all three enemy ships were captured, adding one more brilliant victory to the new-born navy of Tsar Peter.

The Gold Medal was awarded to officers and the Silver Medals to petty officers, who had participated in the naval battle and in the capture of the three Swedish warships.

### 56 GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal bears the laureate, cuirassed bust of Tsar Peter I facing right. The circumscription means: "*Petrus. Primus. Dei. Gratia. Imperator. Russiarum.*"

The reverse of the Medal shows several warships engaged in a battle on a choppy sea. The circumscription means: "*The Unprecedented Becomes Reality*" with below the date: "*24 May 1719*".

The three higher classes of Medal were presented suspended from a golden chain, the four lower classes suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type I).

The Medal was coined in seven different sizes.

### 57 SILVER MEDAL

The Medal is similar in most of its details to the Gold Medal, except for being made of silver.

The Medal was worn suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type I). The diameter of the Medal is 44 mm.

\* According to Swedish sources, a fourth warship, the Frigate *Roskenfeldt* took also part in the naval battle against the Russian fleet.





## MEDAL FOR THE NAVAL BATTLE NEAR GRENGAM

The Medal was created by Tsar Peter I in 1720 to commemorate the naval battle near the Swedish island of Grengam, which took place on 27 July 1720. A flotilla of Russian vessels commanded by Prince Michael Golitzine engaged, boarded and captured four Swedish frigates.

They were the thirty-four-gun flagship *Stora Fånix*, which was commanded by Vice Admiral Sjöblat, the *Vainkuer*, the *Kiskin* and the *Danska Örn*.

After the brilliant Russian naval victory of Gangut most of the Swedish fleet retired to its bases enabling the Russian ships in Reval (Tallinn) and Kronstadt to carry out a devastating campaign raiding unopposed the Swedish coast.

Thus the battles of Poltava on land and Gangut at sea were decisive in tipping the scales towards a final victory of Tsar Peter I.

Russian flotillas of galleys landed several thousands troops that were able to destroy a great number of Swedish coastal towns and villages and even succeeded in threatening Stockholm, the capital of the enemy.

Frederick I, who became King of Sweden after the abdication of his wife, Queen Ulrika Eleonora, decided that the country could not continue a war that had lasted over 20 years and brought death, privation and economic ruin to its people. He therefore decided to inform the Russian Tsar that he was ready to open negotiations for peace.

The Gold Medal was awarded to higher ranking naval officers and the Silver Medal to non-commissioned officers and sailors, who took part in the victorious naval engagement against the four Swedish frigates near Grengam.

### 58 GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal bears the laureate, cuirassed bust of Tsar Peter I facing right with a circumscription signifying: "By the Grace of God Peter the First Tsar and Autocrat of All Russia".

The reverse shows the scene of the naval battle with the date: "27 July 1720" at the bottom and it is surrounded by a circumscription meaning: "Dedication and Fidelity Excel Force".

The Medal was worn suspended from a golden chain.

The Medal was issued in three different sizes: 41, 37 and 27 mm.

### 59 SILVER MEDAL

The Medal is rather similar in details to the Gold Medal, except for being made of silver.

The Medal was worn suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type I).

The diameter of the award is 41 mm.





## MEDAL FOR THE PEACE OF NYSTAD

The Medal was created in 1721 during the reign of Tsar Peter I to commemorate the signing of the Treaty of Nystad, which finally put an end to the 21-years-long Northern War and marked the waning of Swedish power. The town of Nystad is located on the Finnish coast of the Gulf of Bothnia.

King Charles XII, the bitter antagonist of the Russian Tsar, was killed in 1716 while besieging the Norwegian fortress of Frederikssten. He was succeeded by his sister Ulrika Eleonora, who ruled jointly with her husband, Frederick I, prince of Hesse-Kassel, until she abdicated in favour of her husband.

The Treaty was signed on 30 August 1721 by representatives of the two countries, and as soon as the news reached Tsar Peter, he returned jubilant to St Petersburg, where festivities were initiated that lasted several weeks. The Senate resolved to grant the titles of Peter the Great, Emperor and Father of the Fatherland to the Tsar.

As far as the territorial articles of the Peace Treaty of Nystad were concerned, they stated that Ingria, Estonia and Livonia were to be ceded to Russia as well as part of south eastern Finland and southern Karelia. The remaining part of Finland was returned to Sweden and Frederick I was confirmed by Russia as the legal King of Sweden. Other articles concerned the exchange of prisoners and different agreements relating to monetary compensations.

The Gold Medal was awarded to officers and the Silver Medal to non-commissioned officers, who had taken active part in the Northern War against Sweden.

### 60 GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal shows an allegoric scene with a boat in the form of Noah's ark floating on a choppy sea with a dove flying over it, carrying a sprig. In the distance a rainbow unites the two capitals. Under them are the inscriptions meaning: "St Petersburg" and "Stockholm". The rainbow bears the inscription signifying: "Bound by the Peace Alliance". At the bottom an inscription meaning: "In Nystad at the Termination of the War of 1721".

The reverse of the Medal has a lengthy inscription with many abridged words. It means: "To the Great, Orthodox and Propitious Sovereign Peter I by Edict and Deeds the Great Russian Emperor and Father in Two Decades of Triumph Having Pacified the North this Silver Russian Medal is Fervently Presented".

The Medal was worn suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type I).

The diameter of the award varies from 25 mm to 38 mm.

### 61 SILVER MEDAL

The Medal is rather similar in details to the Gold Medal, except of being made of silver.

The Medal was worn suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type I).

The diameter of the award is 41 mm.





## MEDAL FOR THE BATTLE AT KUNERSDORF

The Medal was created during the reign of Empress Elizabeth I of Russia to commemorate the victory of the Russian and Austrian forces upon the army of Frederick II, King of Prussia.

The battle took place on 1 August 1759 near the village of Kunersdorf in the Prussian province of Brandenburg not far from the town of Frankfurt on the Oder. The Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army was Count Peter Saltikov.

The following year the Russian and Austrian armies entered Berlin, but were forced to abandon the city only a few days later.

The Seven Years Wars of 1756-1763 was a major confrontation between the European Great Powers and the first venture of the Russian Empire in a war of such amplitude.

It also showed to the same Great Powers that the Russian officer and soldier was now becoming a disciplined, well armed and effective warrior.

For Frederick the Great the defeat of Kunersdorf meant that the end had come and all was lost. It was then that the news reached him early in January 1762 that Empress Elizabeth I had suddenly died.

The death of the Empress and the accession to the throne of Russia of her nephew Peter III, an admirer of the Prussian King, brought an immediate change of policy, whereby Russia not only ended its participation in the Seven Years War, but the new Emperor entered into an alliance with the former enemy.

The Medal was bestowed upon officers, non-commissioned officers and enlisted men of the regular troops, who had taken active part in the battle.

### 62 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal shows the bust of Empress Elizabeth I facing right with the circumscription signifying: "By the Grace of God Elizabeth I Empress and Autocrat of All Russias".

The signature of the engraver is placed under the bust of the Empress: "Timofei I.R."\*

The reverse shows an allegoric scene of the battlefield with the figure of a warrior holding the Russian Imperial flag. At the feet of the standing figure lies a vase from which water is streaming and the words: "River Oder". The battlefield is covered with abandoned flags, rifles, canons, slain enemy soldiers and enemy warriors in flight. In the distance the silhouette of the town of Frankfurt on the Oder. Above there is an inscription meaning: "To the Victor", and at the bottom the inscription signifying: "Over the Prussians 1 August 1759".

The Medal was worn suspended from a ribbon (type I). Enlisted men received the Medal without the eyelet.

The diameter of the Medal is 39 mm.

\* (Timofei Ivanov engraved)





## MEDAL FOR THE BATTLE ON THE RIVER KAGUL

The Medal was instituted on 23 September 1770 by Empress Catherine II of Russia to commemorate the victory of the Russian forces upon the Turkish army on the shores of the river Kagul, which took place on 21 July 1770. The river is a tributary of the Danube and only 15 km from the river Pruth. It was on the Pruth that in the summer of 1711 the army of Tsar Peter was surrounded by superior Turkish forces suffering a major defeat, which forced him to accept a humiliating Peace Treaty.

General Rumiantzev was in command of the First Russian Army that in the 1770 campaign confronted the numerically superior Ottoman armies. Invading Bessarabia, Moldavia and Walachia he drove the enemy back in panic across the Danube.

His forces played havoc with the enemy in a series of rapid engagements winning on 17 June 1770 the battle of Riabaja Mogila, on 7 July the battle by the river Larga and on 21 July 1770 the brilliant victory on the shores of the river Kagul against the far superior forces of Vizier Halil Pasha.

On 27 July 1770 Empress Catherine II bestowed the title of Field Marshal General and that of Knight of the Order of Saint George, First Class upon General, Count Peter Alexandrovich Rumiantzev. Part of the citation reads: *during the Turkish War as commander of the First Russian Army for having achieved a brilliant victory over the enemy on 21 July 1770 at Kagul*. Rumiantzev thus became the second holder of the Saint Gorge Order after the Empress on 26 November 1769 had established and bestowed upon herself the award. For the victorious campaigns of the War of 1768-1774 Rumiantzev was also bestowed with the title of *Zadunaysky* (Transdanubian).

The great battles of Kagul on land and of Chesma at sea against the Ottoman Empire were fought and won by the Russians only a few days apart but at a great distance from each other, thus having an even greater effect on the continuation of the conflict.

The Medal for the Battle at Kagul was bestowed upon Russian and Danish enlisted men as well as upon Cossacks, who had actively participated in the battle, while the larger Medal was awarded to non-commissioned officers.

### 63-63A SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal shows the bust of Empress Catherine II facing right with the circumscription signifying: *"By the Grace of God Catherine II Empress and Autocrat of All Russias"*. The signature of the engraver: *"T. Ivanov"*\* is placed under the bust of the Empress.

The reverse of the Medal is plain except for an inscription signifying: *"Kagul 21 July 1770."*

The obverse and reverse of the larger Silver Medal (63A) have rifled edges.

The award was worn suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type I).

The diameter of the Medal is either 39 mm (63) or 44 mm (63A).





## MEDAL FOR THE NAVAL BATTLE OF CHESMA

The Medal was established on 23 September 1770 by Empress Catherine II to commemorate the naval battle of Chesma, which took place in the straits of the Aegean island of Chios. The numerically superior Turkish fleet was forced to take refuge in the narrow inlet of Chesma (Cheshme).

In 1769 war was raging between Russia and the Ottoman Empire, from Moldavia in the west to the Caucasus in the east. Empress Catherine II had long wished to liberate Orthodox Greece from Turkish oppression by direct Russian military intervention. Secret plans had already been prepared for such a contingency, and a Baltic Sea fleet was given order to sail immediately for the Mediterranean. The naval force was commanded by Count Orlov, assisted by the experienced Admiral Spiridov. After reaching the Eastern Mediterranean in the beginning of 1770 the Russian ships successfully fought minor battles against Turkish vessels. Land operations on Greek soil did not achieve the expected results due to strong opposition of the enemy and of an all-out Greek rebellion which failed to materialise.

On 24 July 1770 the Russian Fleet finally succeeded in forcing the bulk of the Turkish Fleet to give battle near the island of Chios soon compelling the enemy to flee into the bay of Chesma in which it believed to be in safety.

As the many Turkish vessels were anchored side by side, the Russians sent fire ships against them closely followed by the flagship *St. Eustathius* and several other vessels that initiated a deadly bombardment. Many Turkish ships started to burn and explode igniting other vessels until the whole enemy fleet became a sea of fire. The Russian flagship that had boarded the Turkish flagship *Real Mustafa* also caught fire, exploded and sank. The battle of Chesma has remained the most celebrated and spectacular Russian naval victory.

The Medal was bestowed upon sailors and soldiers, who participated in the naval battle, while the larger Medal was awarded to petty officers.

### 64-64A SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal shows the bust of Empress Catherine facing right with the circumscription signifying: "By the Grace of God Catherine II Empress and Autocrat of All Russias". The signature of the engraver: "T. Ivanov" \* is placed under the bust of the Empress.

The reverse shows in great details the final scene of the battle in the bay of Chesma with four Russian warships confronting the fiercely burning Turkish fleet.

At the top there is an inscription meaning: "I Was (there)" and at the bottom another one signifying: "In Chesma 24 July 1770".

The obverse and reverse of the larger Silver Medal (64A) have rifled edges.

The award was worn suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type I).

The diameter of the Medal is either 39 mm (64) or 44 mm (64A).





## MEDAL FOR THE 1774 PEACE WITH TURKEY

The Medal was created in 1774 during the reign of Empress Catherine II to commemorate the signing of the Peace Treaty between Imperial Russia and the Ottoman Empire on 10 July 1774. The official ceremony took place in the village of Kuchuk-Kainardji (Kainardzha) located in present-day north-eastern Bulgaria, close to the Rumanian border.

The great victory of Kagul in 1771 did not conclude the hostilities with the Ottoman Empire as Empress Catherine hoped for. The Turks were well aware that the Russians were not getting either new reinforcements nor sufficient military supplies needed to continue an aggressive offensive, while they themselves could muster a great number of fresh troops and had no problems of logistics. Thus Military operations continued unhindered with Field Marshal Rumiantzev avoiding any major confrontation while instructing his commanders to only engage the enemy with hit and run tactics. The Empress tried in vain to influence Rumiantzev to change his strategy, while he attempted to make his Sovereign aware of the necessity of concluding a lasting peace with the Ottoman Empire due to the growing threat from central European nations as well as from Nordic Sweden.

After the Second Russian Army under command of Prince Vasili Dolgorukov conquered the Crimea, the Turks initiated negotiations with Russia that lasted the whole of 1772. Met with conditions they could not accept, they decided to continue the conflict. Under renewed press from the Empress, Field Marshal Rumiantzev first crossed the Danube laying siege to the important fortified town of Silistra then recrossed the river at the news of the imminent arrival of Turkish reinforcements. After three months' inactivity, the Russian Army crossed the Danube lying once more siege to Silistra. Rumiantzev gave orders to Generals Kamensky and Suvorov to make a faint towards Varna and Constantinople.

The strategy met with an unexpected and overwhelming success as both generals achieved brilliant victories throwing the Turks into a rout. The Grand Vizier, with the assent of Sultan Mustafa III was this time ready to sign a peace treaty with Russia. The negotiations with the Turkish envoy took seven hours to conclude and were personally carried out by Field Marshal Rumiantzev in his field tent at Kuchuk-Kainardji.

The Medal was bestowed upon enlisted men of the Army of the South on active duty on the day the Peace Treaty with the Ottoman Empire was signed.

### 65 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the rhombic silver Medal shows the bust of Empress Catherine II facing right. The initial of the engraver: "S" is placed under the bust of the Empress.

The reverse of the Medal has an upper inscription surrounded by a laurel wreath meaning: "To the Victor" and a lower one signifying: "Peace Concluded with the Porte 10 July 1774". Both sides of the Medal have raised edges.

The Medal was worn suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The size of the Medal is 31 x 37 mm.





## MEDAL FOR THE BATTLE AT KINBURN

The Medal was created in 1787 during the reign of Empress Catherine II of Russia to commemorate the battle which took place in the immediate vicinity of the fortress of Kinburn on 1 October 1787.

The former Turkish fortress, captured by the Russians in 1771, is located in Southern Ukraine on the Eastern side of the mouths of the Bug and Dnieper rivers and is faced on the opposite side of the estuary by the Turkish-held fortress of Ochakov.

Alexander Suvorov, the newly promoted Commander-in-Chief of the Southern Russian Army based at Kremenchug learned that a Turkish fleet under the command of Algerian-born admiral Hassan had arrived at Ochakov clearly planning to retake the fortress of Kinburn and perhaps even to attack and destroy the relatively weak Russian fleet anchored upriver at Kherson.

Suvorov rapidly deployed a small force to bolster the defenders of Kinburn and was ready when on 1 October 1787 a large detachment of Turkish marine troops landed on a sandy point of land facing the fortress, which was heavily bombarded by the ships before the landing operations had taken place.

The battle lasted the whole day, attacks and counterattacks following each other, and by the time the darkness fell the Turkish forces had been annihilated. Also the Turkish fleet was severely mauled as it was pounded by Russian artillery positioned on both sides of the estuary.

The Commander-in-Chief was seriously wounded during the battle and at a time he was also in danger of being taken prisoner. He was decorated by the Empress with the Order of Saint Andrew for his courage, for the successful defence of the fortress and for the sinking of many enemy vessels that had initiated the landing operations.

When the Medal for the Battle of Kinburn was to be awarded, the Commander-in-Chief ordered that he wished that the soldiers themselves should name by unanimous vote those to be decorated with the award for outstanding courage. The remaining soldiers were given a monetary prize. Only 19 soldiers were decorated with the Medal.

Thus the award became the first and only Imperial Russian medal to be specifically awarded to and by the soldiers for bravery on the field of battle.

### 66 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal shows the laureate bust of Empress Catherine II facing right with the circumscription signifying: "By the Grace of God Catherine II Empress and Autocrat of All Russias". The signature of the engraver: "T. Ivanov" \* is placed under the bust of the Empress.

The reverse of the Medal is plain, except for an inscription signifying: "Kinburn 1 October 1787".

The award was worn suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The diameter of the Medal is 39 mm.

\* (Timofei Ivanov)





## MEDAL FOR THE NAVAL BATTLES IN OCHAKOV WATERS

The Medal was established in 1788 during the reign of Empress Catherine II of Russia to commemorate several victorious naval battles, which took place in the summer of 1788 in the lagoons surrounding the Turkish fortress of Ochakov situated on the Western side of the estuaries of the rivers Bug and Dnieper.

After the successful defence in 1787 of the fortress of Kinburn the Russian military activity against the Turks diminished considerably.

One of the reasons was that King Gustavus III had been elected the new ruler of Sweden in 1771 and had started rapidly reinforcing his navy with powerful new ships, a certain sign that he was preparing a new confrontation with Russia, which was fully engaged since 1787 in a war against the Ottoman Empire. Therefore acceleration of Russian defensive preparations in the north, both on land and at sea, had also to be considered.

Empress Catherine was constantly urging Field Marshal Grigori Potemkin to initiate the storming of the fortress of Ochakov to open up the river Dnieper to unhindered fluvial military and trade activities. Potemkin was forced to postpone any such plans due to the presence of a Turkish naval squadron in the waters of the Bug-Dnieper estuaries consisting of four men-of-war and ten frigates, which was making preparatory arrangements for a siege of Ochakov strategically impossible.

It was first on 18 June 1788 that a Russian flotilla of galleys led by Counter Admiral Prince Karl of Nassau-Siegen engaged the Turkish fleet sinking several enemy vessels and forcing them to retreat towards the lagoons, where they were under the protection of the guns of the fortress of Ochakov. On 29 June the Turkish fleet sailed from their anchorage with the intention of reaching the protection of a more secure harbour to the south. They were immediately targeted by the artillery from the fortress of Kinburn and consequently attacked by the Russian flotilla. Most of the Turkish vessels were destroyed finally leaving the Ochakov fortress undefended from the seaside.

For his leadership in the naval victory Admiral Nassau-Siegen was awarded the Order of Saint George, Second Class.

The Medal was bestowed upon sailors who took part in the victorious naval battles in the lagoons near the Ochakov fortress between 7 and 18 June 1788.

### 67 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal shows the laureate bust of Empress Catherine facing right with the circumscription signifying: "By the Grace of God Catherine II Empress and Autocrat of All Russias".

The reverse of the Medal is plain except for an inscription signifying: "For Bravery in Ochakov Waters June 1788".

The Medal was worn suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The diameter of the Medal is 39 mm.





## CROSS AND MEDAL FOR THE STORMING OF THE FORTRESS OF OCHAKOV

The Medal was created on 14 April 1789 during the reign of Empress Catherine II to commemorate the storming of the Turkish fortress of Ochakov.

The Russian forces that were laying siege since the fall of 1788 to the fortress were under the command of Field Marshal Prince Grigori Potemkin, a favourite of the Empress and a man who liked comfort and luxury even when on a military campaign. He was slow in his decisions thus unnecessarily prolonging many of the military operations.

Major-General Alexander Suvorov was also taking part in the siege in command of the Phanagoreia Grenadier Regiment that already in July had initiated a successful attack on the fortress encouraged by the near-destruction of the enemy fleet. He believed Potemkin would follow immediately suite with the remaining forces, but no such orders were issued. Instead the severely wounded Suvorov was reprimanded for the action.

It was not before 17 December 1788 that Potemkin finally gave orders to storm the fortress, which was successfully accomplished. Empress Catherine awarded the Field Marshal with the Order of Saint George, 1st Class.

The fall of the fortress of Ochakov meant that the Russian Navy could now unhindered use the mighty river Dnieper as an outlet towards the Black Sea, and the harbour and shipbuilding facilities at Kherson would not be threatened by inroads of the Turkish Navy.

The Gold Cross was awarded to officers who had not been decorated with the Orders of Saint George or Saint Vladimir. The Silver Medal was bestowed upon non-commissioned officers and enlisted men, who had participated in the storming of the fortress of Ochakov.

### 68 GOLD CROSS

In its centre the obverse of the gold Cross with rounded ends has an oval medallion containing an inscription signifying: "For Service and Bravery".

The reverse of the Cross has a similar central medallion with an inscription meaning: "Ochakov Taken on 6 December 1788".

Both sides of the Cross have raised edges.

The award was worn suspended on the left breast from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The size of the Cross is 47 x 47 mm.

### 69 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the narrow, oval silver Medal shows the crowned cipher of Empress Catherine II resting on a palm and an olive branch.

The obverse of the Medal is plain, except for an inscription signifying: "For Bravery Shown in the Taking of Ochakov on 6 December 1788".

The award was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The size of the Medal is 28 x 41 mm.





## MEDAL FOR BRAVERY IN FINNISH WATERS

The Medal was established during the reign of Empress Catherine II to commemorate the naval battle against the Swedes outside Svenskssund (Ruotsinsalmi) in the Gulf of Finland, which took place on 13 August 1789. It was immediately followed by a second battle at the estuary of the river Kumen (Kummene Älv), which is located not far from the present-day town of Kotka.

When King Gustavus III ascended the throne of Sweden in 1771, he was faced with a multitude of problems the gravest being the one of civil strife. He imposed a new constitution by *coup d'état*, a rigid financial reform and ruled his impoverished country with a firm hand. On the other hand money was of no concern for him, when it related to one of his priorities, which was to recreate a mighty new modern Swedish Fleet.

The aim of the King was to regain control of the Baltic starting by an all-out naval attack on the Russian fleet, on Kronstadt and on St Petersburg, which was to be followed by the retaking of the Finnish provinces under Russian control. After the Ottoman Empire had again declared war on Russia in 1787, King Gustavus decided to follow suit, and in 1788 his country also declared war on Russia.

Admiral Karl Nassau-Siegen, the victor of the naval battles near the Turkish fortress of Ochakov was put in command of a large Russian fleet of galleys in the Baltic Sea. On 13 August 1789 he intercepted off the town of Svenskssund a Swedish invasion fleet commanded by Admiral Ehrensvärd comprising many warships and transport vessels.

Close to a dozen enemy ships including the flagship were either sunk or captured, the remaining warships escaped towards the estuary of the river Kumen in Swedish-held Finland where they again were successfully attacked.

During the 1788-1790 war with Sweden pitched naval battles took also place off Reval (Tallinn) and in the bay of Vyborg. In overall command of the Baltic Fleet was Admiral Vasili Chichagov, who was decorated by Empress Catherine with the Order of Saint George, 1st Class, for the naval battle of Vyborg Bay.

The Medal was awarded to petty officers and sailors, who had participated in the naval battles off Svenskssund and at the estuary of the river Kumen.

### 70 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal shows the bust of Empress Catherine facing right with the circumscription signifying: "By the Grace of God Catherine II Empress and Autocrat of All Russias". The signature of the engraver: "T. Ivanov" \* is placed under the bust of the Empress. The reverse is blank except for an inscription meaning: "For Bravery in Finnish Waters 13 August 1789".

The award was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The diameter of the Medal is 39 mm.

\* (Timofei Ivanov)





## MEDAL FOR THE PEACE WITH SWEDEN

The Medal was established in 1790 during the reign of Empress Catherine II to commemorate the Peace Treaty with Sweden, which was signed at Varena on 3 August 1790.

King Gustavus III had ascended the throne of Sweden in 1771 convinced that sooner or later he could regain possession of the vast Swedish provinces lost to Russia and once again have mastery on the waters of the Baltic Sea.

When in 1787 the Ottoman Empire resumed military operation against Russia, the Swedish King believed that the proper time had come to launch an all-out naval and land attack against Empress Catherine's Empire with the pretext of a treaty of alliance with Turkey.

Sweden declared war on Russia in 1788 and its outcome could have been decided in 1790 when a great Swedish amphibious assault took place against Vyborg. The naval battles were inconclusive, but the Swedes having lost many vessels decided to abandon their landing operations and to sail away. Peace negotiations were initiated, and the articles of the 1721 Peace Treaty of Nystad and the 1743 Peace Treaty of Åbo were reconfirmed.

No Russian medals were created to commemorate the naval battle of Vyborg Bay, a decision clearly influenced by the bitterness of the Russian Admirals against their Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Chichagov, whom they accused of having acted with excessive timidity, thus losing the chance of a complete destruction of the enemy fleet.

The Medal for the Peace with Sweden was the first Russian Medal or Cross to be awarded suspended from the ribbon of the Order of Saint Vladimir, an order that had been created on 22 September 1782 to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the enthronement of Empress Catherine II.

The Medal was awarded upon all warriors, who had actively participated against the Swedish enemy during the 1788-1790 War.

### 71 SILVER MEDAL

In its centre of field the obverse of the octagonal, oblong silver Medal has an oval medallion containing the laureate, truncated bust of Empress Catherine II. The medallion rests on an olive and oak branch. The signature of the engraver: "Leberecht" \* is placed under the bust of the Empress.

The reverse of the Medal has an upper inscription surrounded by a laurel wreath signifying: "For Service and Bravery". The lower inscription means: "Peace with Sweden Concluded 3 August 1790".

Both sides of the Medal have raised edges.

The Medal was worn suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type V).

The size of the Medal is either 27 x 39 or 30 x 42 mm.

\* (Carl Leberecht)





## CROSS AND MEDAL FOR THE STORMING OF THE FORTRESS OF IZMAIL

The Awards were created on 25 March 1791 during the reign of Empress Catherine II to commemorate the storming of the Turkish fortress of Izmil. The fortress and the citadel are located on the northern arm of the Danube delta, in present-day Bessarabia.

After the conclusion of the Peace Treaty with Sweden in September 1790 and nearly two years after the storming of the fortress of Ochakov, the Russian Army led by Field Marshal Potemkin moved in the fall of 1790 toward the Danube and laid siege to Izmil.

Since it had been captured in 1770 by the Russians its defences had been thoroughly redesigned by the Turks, enlarged and reinforced by Western European specialists in fortifications. It now held a garrison of 35 thousand men and was defended by over 250 guns strategically placed around its walls. Potemkin's army was far smaller in number and his generals were aware that the defensive capability of the fortress was much stronger than expected. They tried in vain to influence their commander to lift the siege and to resume the attack the following spring, but Potemkin was adamant: the fortress had to be taken before winter. He ordered that Field Marshal Suvorov be given immediate command of all preparations for the storm.

Only a week after his arrival the victor of the 1789 battle at the river Rimnik had prepared detailed plans for the coming action. In the early hours of 9 December 1790 the fortress was attacked from all sides and after three days of gruelling combat, one of the greatest feat of arms of the Russian soldier during the XVIII century had become a fact.

The Gold Cross was awarded to officers and the Silver Medal to non-commissioned officers and enlisted men, who had participated in the storming of the fortress of Izmil.

### 72 GOLD CROSS

In its centre the obverse of the gold Cross with rounded ends has an oval medallion containing an inscription meaning: "For Conspicuous Bravery".

The reverse of the Cross has a similar central medallion with an inscription signifying: "Izmil Taken 11 December 1790.". Both sides of the Cross have raised edges.

The award was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The size of the Cross is 47 x 47 mm.

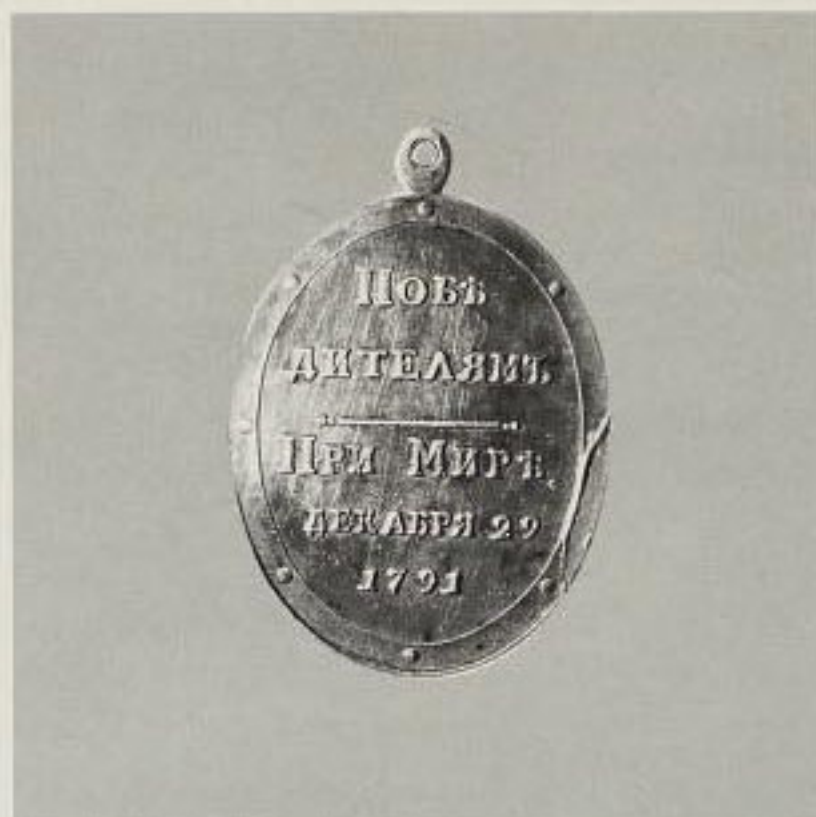
### 73 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the oval silver Medal shows the crowned cipher of Empress Catherine II.

The reverse of the Medal is plain, except for an inscription signifying: "For Extraordinary Bravery Shown in the Taking of Izmil 11 December 1790.". Both sides of the Medal have raised edges.

The award was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV). The size of the Medal is 30 x 35 mm.





## MEDAL FOR THE 1791 PEACE WITH TURKEY

The Medal was established on 2 September 1793 during the reign of Empress Catherine II to commemorate the signing on 29 December 1791 of the Peace Treaty of Jassy between the Russian and the Ottoman Empires. The town of Jassy is located in upper Moldavia, not far from the river Pruth.

Vast territories were ceded by Turkey to the victorious enemy, the Dniester River thus becoming the new frontier with Russia, while all claims to Azov and the Crimean region were abandoned.

It was the unexpected fall in December 1791 of the mighty Turkish fortress of Izmail, the key to the Danubian region, that forced the Porte to ask immediately for peace negotiations.

Continuing war with the Russians would only worsen the precarious military situation and endanger the stability of the northern vassal states.

The decline of the Ottoman Empire was in full progress, her European allies had lost confidence in the once powerful Turkish military establishment, whose leadership could not now be compared to their Russian counterparts in the semblance of Field Marshal Suvorov, or Admirals Orlov and Ushakov.

Russian shipbuilding in the Black Sea was increasing at full speed, and the army was being trained and equipped with more and more efficient armament.

Having lost the war against Russia and shown unexpected military weakness, the Ottoman Empire was now forced to concentrate on other urgent priorities. By far the most important one was to defend its Balkan borders towards the west.

The Porte was also greatly concerned that some of its Balkan provinces having predominantly Christian populations were beginning to show troubling signs of civil disobedience and nascent irredentism.

The Medal was bestowed upon non-commissioned officers, petty officers, enlisted men and seamen, who had actively participated between 1787 and 1791 in the just terminated war against Turkey.

### 74 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the oval silver Medal bears the crowned cypher of Empress Catherine II.

The reverse of the Medal is plain, except for an upper inscription signifying: "To the Victors . . . (of) the Peace (of) 29 December 1791".

Both sides of the Medal have an encircling outer line decorated with eight beads.

The award was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type I).

I).

The size of the Medal is 32 x 41 mm.





## CROSS AND MEDAL FOR THE CAPTURE OF PRAGA

The Awards were instituted on 1 January 1795 during the reign of Empress Catherine II to commemorate the capture of the fortress of Praga during the Polish Campaign of 1794.

The fortress was located on the eastern bank of the river Vistula facing directly the Polish capital of Warsaw. As Catherine II died the following year this award was the last to be created under her reign.

The successor to Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, who had masterminded the first partition of Poland in 1772 was his nephew Frederick William II who was in turn instrumental in the 1793 second partition of Poland. After his return to Poland from North America General Kosciuszko became a champion of the independence of his country and fought for it, although unsuccessfully, before the second partition of 1793. In 1794 he urged his countrymen to rebel and fight against the Russians and the Prussians.

The defence of the capital was based on the fortress of Praga, and when it was captured by the Russian Army on 24 October 1794, the Polish insurgents had no other choice than to surrender, and General Kosciuszko was imprisoned.

For the capture of Praga Major-General Alexander Tormasov was conferred the Gold Saint George's Sword "For Bravery, With Diamonds".

The Gold Cross was awarded to officers of higher rank who had not been decorated with the Orders of Saint George or Saint Vladimir. The Silver Medal was bestowed upon non-commissioned officers and enlisted men, who had participated in the taking of the fortress of Praga.

### 75 GOLD CROSS

In its centre the obverse of the gold Cross with slightly rounded ends has an oval medallion which has an inscription meaning: "For Efforts and Bravery".

The reverse of the Cross has a similar central medallion with an inscription signifying: "Praga Captured 24 October 1794".

Both sides of the Cross have raised edges.

The Cross was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The size of the Cross is 46 x 46 mm.

### 76 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the diamond-shaped silver Medal shows the crowned cipher of Empress Catherine II.

The reverse of the Medal is plain, except for an inscription signifying: "For Efforts and Bravery Shown in the Capture of Praga 24 October 1794".

Both sides of the Medal have raised edges.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribe ribbon (type I).

The size of the Medal is 35 x 35 mm.





## MEDAL OF SAINT ANNE

The Medal was instituted on 12 November 1796 during the reign of Emperor Paul I. Half a year later the statute of the Medal was modified as the award was incorporated into the Order of Saint Anne and its full name became: Badge of Distinction of the Order of Saint Anne. Under Tsar Paul I it was bestowed upon non-commissioned officers and soldiers for 20 exemplary years of service in the military. During the reign of Tsar Alexander I the statute of the award was changed as the Medal was now bestowed for valour upon non-commissioned officers and soldiers who had participated to the 1799 Italian campaign of Field Marshal Alexander Suvorov. It continued to be awarded at the beginning of the XIX century to the lower ranks of the army for valour during the Persian and Turkish wars.

The awarding of the Saint Anne Medal for valour was discontinued in 1807 following the introduction of the Saint George Cross, consequently the Medal reverted again to be an award for 20 exemplary years of service to be bestowed upon non-commissioned officers, soldiers and sailors. From 1829 the Medal was awarded unnumbered to foreigners. On 19 August 1844 Emperor Nicholas I amended the statute of the award by introducing the Saint Anne Medal for non-Christians. On 11 July 1864 Emperor Alexander II amended the statute of the Medal by which it could now also be awarded to individuals performing outstanding deeds not connected to military duties. Furthermore, holders of the award receiving a second citation were to attach a bow to the ribbon of their Medal. The same applied to awards to non-Christians. On 3 December 1887 Emperor Alexander III amended the statute of the Medal by which an even wider group of military, paramilitary and civilian personnel could hence be awarded with it for outstanding feats. The same applied for awards to non-Christians. From 1916 the Medal was made of substitute metal and the enamel was replaced with red paint.

### 77-77A-77B SILVER GILT MEDAL

The obverse of the silver gilt Medal is embellished with a large crowned cross encircled with a wide band, both being red-enamelled. Non-Christians were awarded with the Medal bearing the black-enamelled likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle instead of the crowned cross (77A).

The reverse of the Medal bears the serial number stamped in its centre and it is similarly encircled by a wide red-enamelled band. The Medal was awarded unnumbered to foreigners (77B).

The top of the Medal is prolonged to form its suspension.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type VI) with or without a bow. The size of the Medal is 24 x 31 mm.

### 78-78A-78B LIGHT BRONZE MEDAL

The Medal is similar in size and most details to the preceding type, except for the red-enamelled surfaces being replaced by red paint and for being made of light bronze. Non-Christians were awarded with the Medal bearing the likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle instead of the crowned cross (78A) and was awarded unnumbered to foreigners (78B).





## MEDAL FOR ZEALOUS SERVICE Tsar Alexander I

The Medal was instituted on 30 August 1801 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I and was awarded to prominent citizens for long and zealous service which was of benefit to the State.

### 79-79A-79B GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal shows the truncated bust of a "young" Tsar Alexander I facing right with a circumscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Alexander I Emperor of All Russias", and it is signed: "C. Leberecht" (79), or an "older" Tsar with a circumscription meaning: "Alexander the First By the Grace of God Emperor of All Russias", and without signature of the engraver (79A), or a bust of the Tsar in uniform with a circumscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Alexander I Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias", and is signed: "C.L.F." \* (79B).

The reverse of the Medals has an inscription signifying: "For Zealous Service" encircled by several concentric lines" (79/79B).

The Medals were worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon, the type of ribbon denoting the specific reason for the awarding (ribbon types III, V or VI).

The diameter of the Medals varies between 42 and 50 mm.

### 80-80A-80B SILVER MEDAL

The Silver Medals are similar in all details to the corresponding Gold Medals, except for being made of silver.

## MEDAL FOR ZEAL Tsar Alexander I

The Medal was instituted in December 1801 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I and was primarily awarded to citizens having shown exceptional zeal in the trade and production fields.

### 81-81A GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal shows the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander I facing right with a circumscription meaning: "Alexander the First By the Grace of God Emperor of All Russias" (81), or a bust of the Tsar in uniform with a circumscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Alexander I Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias", and it is signed: "C.L.F." \* (81A).

The reverse of the Medals has a circumscription signifying: "For Zeal" encircled by several concentric lines and an inner broken line (81, 81A).

The Medals were worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon, the type of ribbon denoting the specific reason for the awarding (ribbon types III, V or VI).

The diameter of the Medals is 50 mm.

### 82-82A SILVER MEDAL

The Silver Medals are similar in all details to the corresponding Gold Medals, except for being made of silver.

\* (Carl Leberecht fecit)





## MEDAL FOR USEFULNESS Tsar Alexander I

The Medal was instituted in December 1801 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I and was awarded to citizens primarily for their useful support to the State in the fields of trade, production, agriculture and apiculture.

### 83-83A-83B-83C-83D GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal bears the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander I facing right with a circumscription meaning: "Alexander the First By the Grace of God Emperor of All Russias" (83), or a bust of the Tsar in uniform with a circumscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Alexander I Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias" and it is signed by the engraver: "C.L.F." \* (83A).

The reverse of the above described Medals has a circumscription signifying: "For Usefulness" which is encircled by several concentric lines and an inner broken line. Three more variants of the Medal exist: their reverse sides depict respectively a beehive (83B), agricultural utensils (83C) or an allegory about commercial activities (83D). The Medal was worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon, the type of ribbon denoting the specific reason for the awarding (ribbon types I, III or VI) or presented without an eyelet.

The diameter of the Medals is either 50 or 65 mm.

### 84-84A-84B-84C-84D SILVER MEDAL

The Silver Medals are similar in size and details to the corresponding Gold Medals, except for being made of silver.

## MEDAL FOR LOYALTY AND ZEAL Tsar Alexander I

The Medal was established on 2 July 1802 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I and was primarily awarded to citizens living close to the national frontiers, who had shown loyalty and zeal toward the State in peacetime or wartime.

### 85 GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal shows the truncated bust of a "young" Tsar Alexander I facing right with a circumscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Alexander I Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias", and it is signed by the engraver: "C. Leberecht" \*.

The reverse of the Medal has an inscription encircled by several concentric lines meaning: "For Loyalty and Zeal".

The Medal was worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon (type VI) or presented without an eyelet. The diameter of the Medal is 50 mm.

### 86 SILVER MEDAL

The Silver Medal is similar in size and details to the Gold Medal (85), except for being made of silver.

\* (Carl Leberecht fecit)





## MEDAL FOR THE STORMING OF GANDZHA

The Medal was established on 16 July 1804 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I, and it commemorated the storming of the town of Gandzha (Gāncā) on 3 January 1804. The Medal was first awarded during 1806.

The town is located in Western Azerbaijan on a river also bearing the name of Gandzha, and it straddles the main road between the Caspian and the Black Seas, for centuries it was an important centre of textile manufacturing and a region rich in vineyards. It was also the seat of the Khanate but was under Persian suzerainty. After its capture it was renamed Elizavetpol, in honour of Elizabeth Alexeevna, wife of Tsar Alexander I.

In the beginning of the XVI century fierce fighting erupted between the Ottoman Empire and Persia, whose ruler, Shah Abbas wanted to restore Azerbaijan to his fatherland. He succeeded to recapture Tabriz, the capital of the country, and conquered most of the southern Caucasian region as well. Khanates under the sovereignty of Persia were established and a peace settlement was concluded with Turkey.

During the XVIII century the relentless Russian military pressure towards the south had been principally targeted against the Ottoman Empire, but soon the Trans-Caucasian region with its many Khanates became also the aim of Russian expansion.

War started between Russia and Persia in 1804, and it lasted nine long years before the Russians slowly gained control of northern Azerbaijan. Fath Ali Shah, the Quajar ruler of Persia was forced in 1813 to ask for a peace settlement.

For the Russians it was a long war against a weak enemy, but military priority was elsewhere. During those years the Russian Army was fighting between 1805 and 1814 a desperate war in the west against the French and their allies, in the south between 1806 and 1812 against the Ottoman Empire, and finally in the north between 1808 and 1809 against the Swedes.

Persia was forced to cede northern Azerbaijan and Gandzha to Russia according to the terms of the 1813 Gulistan treaty.

The Medal was bestowed upon non-commissioned officers and enlisted men, who had taken active part in the storming of the town of Gandzha.

### 87 SILVER MEDAL

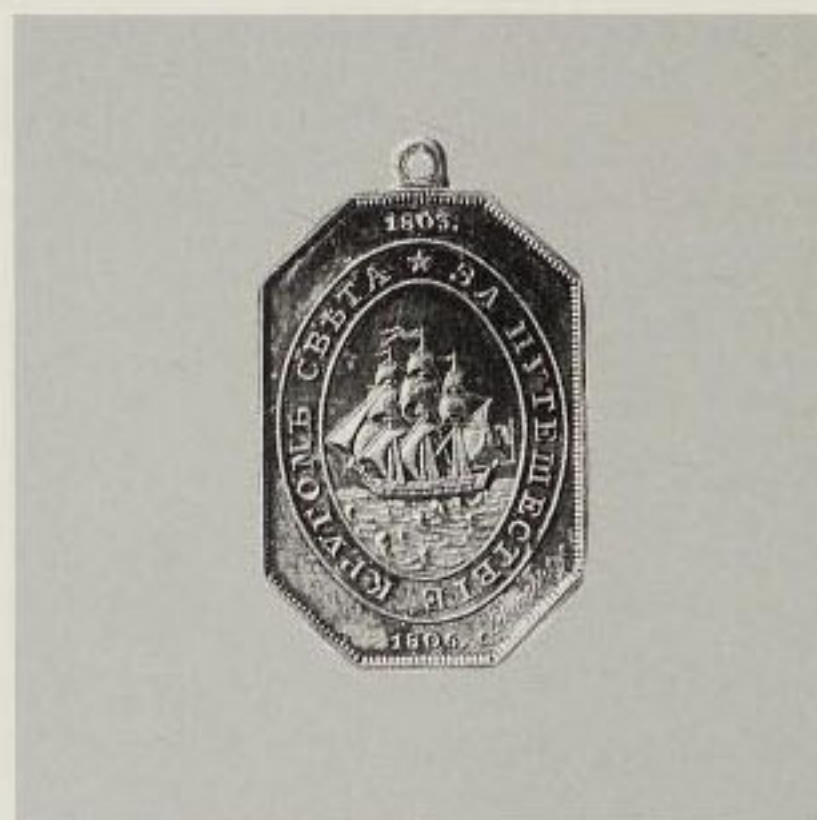
The obverse of the silver Medal shows an elaborate, crowned cypher of Emperor Alexander I.

The reverse of the Medal is plain except for an inscription meaning: "For Efforts and for Bravery in the Capture of Gandzha 3 January 1804".

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type III).

The diameter of the Medal is 33 mm.





## MEDAL FOR THE CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF THE EARTH

The Medal was created on 15 August 1806 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I.

On 26 July 1803 two Russian frigates, the *Neva* and the *Nadejda* raised anchor and sailed from Kronstadt, the island fortress and naval base in the Gulf of Finland commanding the sea approach to St Petersburg.

The ships were under command of Ivan Feodorovich (Johann Adam von) Krusenstern a Russian naval officer, who had graduated from the St Petersburg Naval Academy, taken part in the Russo-Swedish War of 1788-90 and was sent in 1793 for further studies to England. He later sailed to the Gulf of Bengal to assess the prospects for Russian trade with the East Indies and conduct hydrographic measurements and mapping. After his return to St Petersburg, Krusenstern prepared a detailed plan for a further exploratory scientific, hydrographic and trade expedition, its main objective being to stimulate the fur trade by sea from north-eastern Siberia towards Japan and China. In 1802 Tsar Alexander I gave his assent to such an enterprise, which was to become the first Russian circumnavigatory expedition.

The long journey of *Neva* and the *Nadejda* to the northern Russian possessions of the Pacific Ocean took them first through the Baltic, the North and Atlantic Seas to Cape Horn. From there the two frigates reached the shores of Sitka, chartered the island of Kodiak, thence sailed towards Kamchatka, the Kurile islands and Sakhalin. Captain Lisianski, who was in command of the second vessel of the expedition, at times sailed detached from the leading ship. Detailed descriptions and drawings were made by both captains of the encountered indigenous populations, and oceanographic measurements were recorded and charts drawn, all of which was later published in Russia and translated into many languages.

In 1811 Krusenstern was named Inspector of Classes at the St Petersburg Naval Academy and was instrumental in the detailed planning of the second expedition of the circumnavigation of the earth. Russian Naval Officer Otto von Kotzebue who had accompanied Krusenstern in his voyage around the world became the successful leader of the 1815-1818 and 1823-1826 expeditions.

The Medal was awarded to non-commissioned officers of the two Russian frigates.

### 88 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the elongated octagonal silver Medal shows the uniformed bust of Tsar Alexander I facing right. It is signed: "V. bezrodni. r." \*. In the centre of field the reverse of the Medal has a medallion showing a fully rigged ship sailing on choppy waters encircled by an inscription signifying: "For the Circumnavigation of the Earth ★" and the dates: "1803" and "1806" respectively over and under the central medallion. It is signed: "c. Leberecht. f." \*\*.

Both sides of the Medal have raised edges.

The award was worn suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type I).

The size of the Medal is 30 x 40 mm.

\* (V. Bezrodni engraved)

\*\* (Carl Leberecht fecit)





## SAINT GEORGE CROSS Tsar Alexander I

The Cross was instituted on 13 February 1807 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I as a subclass of the Military Order instituted in 1769 by Empress Catherine the Great.

The full name of the award was: Insignia of Distinction of the Military Order. It was also commonly known as the Saint George Cross for non-commissioned officers, soldiers and sailors.

Several minor administrative changes were made to the statute of the award in the following years; the one of 23 January 1809 decreed that a record should be made of all the recipients of the award and a consecutive number should be engraved on the reverse side of each Cross; this was done in the case of several thousands, after which the Crosses started to be prenumbered.

The great prestige already attached to the award and the incentive to earn it increased after 1809, as the recipients of the Saint George Cross could now benefit of a series of well described prerogatives, especially because they could earn an additional pay and also become eligible to a pension.

It was also resolved that should the recipient of the award be promoted to the rank of officer, he was to continue bearing the Cross.

Over forty thousand Crosses were awarded during the reign of Emperor Alexander I. For nearly fifty years the Saint George Cross remained a one class award. To provide a more efficient and fair system of awarding when the recipients of the Cross received a new citation for bravery, or were wounded in battle, Emperor Alexander II decided in 1856 to divide the award into four classes.

The Saint George Cross was awarded to non-commissioned officers, soldiers and sailors for exceptional bravery in the face of the enemy while serving in the Imperial Russian army or navy.

### 89 SILVER CROSS

The obverse of the silver Cross has a medallion bearing in relief the likeness of a cuirassed and helmeted Saint George riding towards right, slaying the dragon\* with a spear.

The reverse of the Cross is similar to its obverse, except that the medallion bears the Saint's cipher: "SG" in relief.

The reverse of the Cross has the number of the award placed upon its horizontal arms.

Both sides of the Cross have raised edges.

The Cross was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The size of the Cross is 34 x 34 mm.

\* The mythical dragon is traditionally described in Russia as being a serpent





## MEDAL FOR THE TERRITORIAL ARMY

The Medal was instituted on 9 March 1807 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I and was awarded to militiamen that had seen active service in at least one battle or campaign.

In 1805 Tsar Alexander joined the coalition against Napoleon Bonaparte, who the previous year had proclaimed himself Emperor of the French. On 2 December 1805 the combined Russian and Austrian armies fought Napoleon near the town of Austerlitz and suffered a crushing defeat.

In 1807 followed the battles of Preussisch-Eylau and Friedland, which led to the meeting near Tilsit of the French and Russian Emperors which took place on a raft on the river Niemen, where the general terms of a peace treaty were agreed upon.

The Russian Empire was also fighting a war with Persia from 1804 to 1813 and with the Ottoman Empire from 1806 to 1812.

The Territorial Army had thus become an important part of the military structure of the nation and would play an even more important role under the Napoleonic invasion of Russia.

### 90 GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal shows the truncated bust of a "young" Tsar Alexander I with a circumscription signifying: "Alexander I Emperor of All Russias 1807". The Medal is signed by the engraver: "C. Leberecht".

In its centre of field the reverse of the Medal bears an inscription meaning: "For Faith and Fatherland — to the Territorial Army" surrounded by a laurel wreath.

Both sides of the Medal have raised edges.

The Gold Medal was awarded to officers of the Militia, who during the war served against the French. The Medal was awarded to officers suspended from a Saint George ribbon (IV) for having taken active part in a battle. To officers of the Militia who had taken active part in a campaign but not taken direct part in a battle the Medal was awarded suspended from a Saint Vladimir ribbon (V).

The award was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon.

The diameter of the Medal is 29 mm.

### 91 SILVER MEDAL

The Silver Medal is similar in size and details to the Gold Medal, except for being made of silver.

The Medal was awarded to the lower ranks of the Militia who had taken active part in a battle.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

\* (Carl Leberecht)





## CROSS FOR THE BATTLE AT PREUSSISCH-EYLAU

The Medal was instituted on 31 August 1807 during the reign of Emperor Alexander I to commemorate the battle at Preussisch-Eylau.

The town of Eylau is located in former Eastern Prussia, where on 27 January 1807 the French army fought a bloody and indecisive battle against the allied Russian and Prussian forces.

After Napoleon I, Emperor of the French, in 1805 had defeated the Austrian and Russian armies at Austerlitz, warfare continued against Russia and her new ally King Frederick William III of Prussia. The Prussians were defeated by the French on 14 October 1806 at Jena and Napoleon entered triumphantly Berlin.

On land nothing seemed to stop the French Emperor. The borders of Europe were being redrawn according to his wishes and before confronting England and her powerful and victorious navy, Emperor Alexander I of Russia had to be forced to abandon the Third Coalition against France.

It did not come as a surprise that in early 1807 the French army invaded Eastern Prussia and gave battle to the Russians and their Prussian allies at Preussisch-Eylau. The outcome of the fierce battle was considered a victory by both the French and the Russians, but was in reality a Pyrrhic victory for Napoleon as it took him many months to reorganise and reinforce his battered forces.

On 14 June 1807 he once again engaged in combat against the Russian army this time winning a clear victory at the battle near the eastern Prussian town of Friedland.

On 25 June 1807 the Emperors of France and Russia met on a raft on the river Niemen, where general peace terms were agreed upon.

For his leadership and valour during the battle at Preussisch-Eylau Lieutenant-General Prince Peter Bagration was conferred the Gold Saint George's Sword "For Bravery" "With Diamonds". In 1812 he was mortally wounded at the battle of Borodino.

The Cross was conferred upon higher ranking officers, who had not been previously decorated with the orders of Saint George or Saint Vladimir of Fourth Class, for having distinguished themselves during the battle at Preussisch-Eylau.

### 92 GOLD CROSS

In its centre of field the obverse of the gold Cross has an oval medallion containing an inscription meaning: "For Efforts and Bravery ———".

The reverse of the Cross has a similar central medallion with an inscription signifying: "Victory at Preussisch-Eylau • 27 January 1807".

Both sides of the Cross have slightly raised edges.

The award was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The size of the Cross is 37 x 37 mm.





## MEDAL FOR THE CROSSING TO THE SWEDISH COAST

The Medal was established on 14 April 1809 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I to commemorate the crossing of Russian forces from Finland to the Swedish coast. The military action took place between 10 and 19 March 1809.

The operation was made possible as large parts of the Gulf of Bothnia was still covered by thick ice.

In 1805 King Gustavus IV of Sweden had joined the Third Coalition against Napoleon I, but Swedish Pomerania was soon occupied by the French, and in 1808 Russia had taken possession of Western Finland. Russia had abandoned the Third Coalition in 1807 as a consequence of the Peace Treaty of Tilsit signed in July 1807 by the emperors of Russia and France.

In 1809 the Russian forces under command of Major-General Barclay de Tolly, of Scottish descent, crossed the Gulf of Bothnia from Vasa in Finland, and reaching the Swedish mainland successfully engaged the enemy near the town of Umeå.

From Åbo (Turku) units from General Peter Bagration's forces crossed the Baltic Sea by way of the Åland Islands reaching the Swedish mainland only 100 km from Stockholm.

In the north, Russian forces had crossed the Swedish border at Torneo and defeated the enemy in a battle near the town of Kalix.

King Gustavus IV was forced to abdicate in favour of his uncle Charles XIII, who initiated immediately peace negotiations with Russia. Peace treaties were also signed with Denmark and France, and Sweden was not only obliged to recognise Russian sovereignty over Finland, but had to cede the Åland Islands to the victor of the 1808-1809 Northern War.

The Medal was awarded to all enlisted men, who had taken active part in the operations leading to the crossing to the Swedish coast.

### 93 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal bears a large crowned cipher of Tsar Alexander I, and it has a raised edge.

The reverse of the Medal is plain except for an inscription signifying: "*For the Crossing to the Swedish Coast — 1809.*".

It has a raised edge, which is decorated with beeding.

The award was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type

D).

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.





## MEDAL FOR THE PASSAGE THROUGH TORNIO INTO SWEDEN

The Medal was established on 14 April 1809 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I to commemorate the crossing of Russian forces into Sweden in early March 1809 through the town of Tornio.

The Finnish town of Torneå (Tornio) is located close to the Swedish border in the northernmost part of the Gulf of Bothnia.

The Russian troops commanded by General Shuvalov had reached far-away Tornio in bitter cold weather, and having crossed the Swedish border attacked and defeated enemy forces defending the town of Kalix.

As by 13 March 1809 the Russian northern forces had not only achieved their diversionary goal but had won an important victory, they returned to their bases in Finland. This military operation was conceived as a backing to the main Russian thrust into Sweden through the Gulf of Bothnia towards Umeå, and through the Åland Islands in the direction of the Swedish capital.

The Medal was awarded upon non-commissioned officers and enlisted men for their active participation in the battle near Kalix.

### 94 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal bears a large crowned cypher of Tsar Alexander I, and it has a raised edge.

The reverse of the Medal is plain except for an inscription signifying: "*For Crossing into Sweden Through Tornio — 1809*".

It has a raised edge, which is decorated with beeding.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type I).

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.





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95



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96A

## CROSS AND MEDAL FOR THE STORMING OF BAZARGIK

The Medal was created on 13 June 1810 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I to commemorate the storming of the Turkish city of Bazargik (Dobrich or Tolbukhin).

The town is located in present-day north eastern Bulgaria and was an important strategic and commercial centre in Dobruja on the main road to the harbour of Varna.

When in 1806 Sultan Selim III recognised Napoleon as Emperor and deposed the Phanariot hospodars of the principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia, relations with Russia rapidly deteriorated. The Russian forces invaded the two principalities and swiftly advanced into Rumania and occupied Bucharest. Military operations against the Turks continued at a lower pace during some years, also due to the fact that war was still being waged against Sweden.

Although Russia in 1807 had signed the Treaty of Tilsit with Napoleon, it became more and more apparent that the French were preparing themselves to attack Russia. Thus it was imperative to force the Ottoman Empire to sign a peace treaty. In 1811 the Russian Army on the Danube was put under the command of General Kutuzov, who initiated a lightning attack against the Turks deep into Bulgaria forcing the enemy to ask for peace terms.

In 1812, only months before Napoleon invaded Russia, the Peace Treaty of Bucharest was signed allowing the Russian Empire to secure its southern borders and dispose of important reinforcements for the imminent clash against the French and their Allies.

The Gold Cross was awarded to higher rank officers and the Silver Medal to non-commissioned officers and enlisted men, who had participated in the storming of Bazargik.

### 95 GOLD CROSS

In its centre the obverse of the gold eight-pointed Cross has an oval medallion containing an inscription meaning: "For Distinguished Bravery".

The reverse of the Cross has a similar central medallion with an inscription signifying: "For the Storming of Bazargik 22 May 1810". Both sides of the Cross have slightly raised edges.

The award was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The size of the Cross is 39 x 39 mm.

### 96-96A SILVER MEDAL

The Silver Medal shows the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander I. The circumscription means: "Alexander I Emperor of All Russias". The signature of the engraver: "C. Leberecht" \* is placed under the truncated bust of the Tsar, but is omitted on a re-engraved bust of the Sovereign (96A).

The reverse of the Medal is plain, except for an inscription signifying: "For Distinction in the Storming of Bazargik 22 May 1810". It has a beaded edge.

The award was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV). The diameter of the Medal is 31 mm.

\* (Carl Leberecht)





## MEDAL FOR THE WAR OF 1812

The Silver Medal was instituted on 5 February 1813 and the Bronze Medal on 30 August 1814 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I to commemorate the end of the campaign on Russian soil against the Napoleonic forces.

The French *Grande Armée* numbered more than 500,000 men including units from allied and vassal countries. They marched into Russia in June 1812 meeting only light resistance, but soon experienced the dreaded Russian scorched earth tactic. They were constantly harassed by Russian partisan and territorial units but were able to capture the town of Smolensk after a pitched battle against the forces of Generals Kutuzov and Barclay de Tolly.

Although constantly criticised for retreating in front of the enemy, the two generals continued their strategy of gaining time and in negating the enemy access to food supplies and billeting. In the beginning of September the two armies clashed near the town of Borodino. The outcome of the great battle was inconclusive and very bloody. The Russian forces resumed their retreat towards Moscow drawing the enemy further and further inland and away from the supply routes. Shortly after entering Moscow, the town went up in flames, which made life even more difficult for the weary French soldier and his allies.

Napoleon waited five weeks expecting the Russians to send emissaries at any moment to discuss peace negotiations. Towards the end of October, due to shortage of supplies and lack of proper winter quarters, Napoleon decided to withdraw from Moscow the *Grande Armée*, which now had become a shadow of the former mighty invasion army. The retreat started in an organised fashion until early in November when the Russian winter set in.

Reaching the Beresina river the retreat became a rout, the French forces being constantly harassed by the Russian army and by territorial and partisan units. The defeat of Napoleon's invasion army was total.

The Silver Medal was awarded to military personnel of all ranks, and the Bronze Medal to noblemen and merchants for their active participation in the war of 1812.

### 97 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal shows the all-seeing eye placed upon radiating flaming rays with the year "1812" below. The reverse of the Medal is plain except for an inscription meaning: "Not Unto Us, Not Unto Us, But in Thy Name." \*.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type I). The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.

### 98 BRONZE MEDAL

The Bronze Medal is similar in size and details to the Silver Medal, except for being made of dark bronze.

The Medal was awarded suspended from a ribbon of the Order of Saint Vladimir (V) to noblemen and merchants for their active participation in the war; it was awarded suspended from a ribbon of the Order of Saint Anne (VI) to merchants for their contribution to the war effort.

\* Verse extracted from Psalm 115.





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99

## COMMEMORATIVE CROSS TO THE CLERGY FOR THE WAR OF 1812

The Cross was created on 30 August 1814 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I to commemorate the victorious conclusion of the campaign on Russian soil against the Napoleonic forces.

By the time the award was established, the victorious Russian troops were already returning to their homeland, after they had defeated the army of Napoleon in Russia and in Germany and had entered Paris with their Allies.

The Cross was specifically created to award the clergy for its great spiritual support during invasion of Russia by the French armies.

The Medal for the War of 1812 was awarded in great number to the military and to a wide cross-section of the national population that had participated directly or indirectly in the conflict.

It was therefore considered important to complement it by including the clergy, which had untiringly given its religious support to the Russian soldier and to the civilian population at or behind the front lines.

Just over forty years later the clergy was similarly shown the gratitude of the rulers of the Nation by the creation of the Commemorative Cross to the Clergy for the War of 1853-1856, officially known under the name of "Cross to the Clergy for the Eastern War".

A third and last commemorative cross for the clergy was created in 1913 to celebrate the three hundredth anniversary of the Romanov dynasty and awarded to those members of the clergy, who had officiated or assisted at divine services held on 21 February 1913.

Several versions of the Commemorative Cross are known to exist, many of them being unofficial strikings.

### 99 BRONZE CROSS

In its centre of field the obverse of the dark bronze Latin Cross has the all-seeing eye and the date: "1812" placed upon radiating flaming rays. More rays appear between the arms of the Cross.

In its centre the reverse of the Cross bears an inscription signifying: "Not Unto Us, Not Unto Us, But in Thy Name." \*.

Radiating flaming rays appear between the arms of the Cross.

The Cross was worn round the neck suspended from a very long and narrow ribbon (type V).

The size of the Cross varies between 32 x 76 and 45 x 75 mm.

\* Verse extracted from Psalm 115.





## MEDAL FOR THE TAKING OF PARIS

The Medal was created on 30 August 1814 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I to commemorate the 1814 campaign and the taking of Paris on 19 March 1814.

On 3 December 1812 Emperor Napoleon abandoned the remnants of the once mighty *Grande Armée*, which was slowly retreating out of Russia and sped back to Paris. Signs of rebellion against French domination was rampant all over Europe, which for Napoleon made the raising of a new French army his highest priority. In only a few months he did achieve this extraordinary feat, and already in May 1813 he defeated the Russo-Prussian forces near the East German towns of Lützen and Bautzen. In the summer of 1813 Napoleon gave battle near Dresden to the combined Armies of the North, of Silesia and of Bohemia, gaining a brilliant tactical victory, but due to the lack of cavalry support could not achieve a decisive triumph.

On 21 June 1813 the army of Wellington advanced through the Iberian Peninsula and defeated the French in the battle of Vitoria and drove their forces towards the Pyrenees and France. During spring and summer several minor engagements were fought and lost by Napoleon's lieutenants weakening even further the overall strength of the French forces.

On 10 August 1813 for the second time Austria joined Russia and Prussia in the Coalition against Napoleon to try to regain its national pride after the defeat at Wagram and the humiliating Peace of Schönbrunn. The Orthodox, Lutheran and Catholic monarchs were now ready to confront the forces of the French Emperor in a decisive campaign.

The Allied and the French armies clashed near Leipzig, a battle that involved nearly half-a-million men and lasted from 16 to 19 October 1813, later to be known under the name of "the Battle of the Nations". The armies of the Coalition won an overwhelming victory over the French. During the winter of 1813-14 the French Empire collapsed as the Confederation of the Rhine, the Dutch, Italian and several German states rose and threw off the French yoke. The defeat of the French Army in Russia, followed by the defeat at Leipzig and the taking of Paris made Emperor Alexander I one of the mightiest rulers of Europe. The Russian Empire had also become the dominant European military power, with its borders expanding relentlessly. The Medal was awarded to Russian officers, non-commissioned officers and enlisted men, who could establish claim of having taken active part in the 1814 campaign and in the taking of Paris.

### 100 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal shows the laureate, truncated bust of Tsar Alexander I facing right surmounted by the all-seeing eye emanating flaming rays.

In its centre of field the reverse of the Medal has an inscription signifying: "For the Taking of Paris 19 March 1814." surrounded by a laurel wreath tied at the bottom with a ribbon.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IX).

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.





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101A

## MEDAL FOR THE ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION OF 1819-1821

The Medal was instituted on 4 May 1819 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I to commemorate the planned Antarctic Expedition. The medals were coined and delivered on board of the two vessels chosen for the expedition before they sailed.

On 4 June 1819 two Russian sloops, the *East* and the *Peaceful* raised their anchors and sailed from the naval base of Kronstadt.

The sloop *East* was under the command of Thaddeus Bellingshausen, a Russian naval officer, who had graduated from the St Petersburg Naval Academy and taken part in the 1803-06 expedition led by Krusenstern.

Captain Bellingshausen was leading the expedition, while Captain Ivan Lazarev was in command of the sloop *Peaceful*.

The two sloops sailed directly towards the South Atlantic reaching Rio de Janeiro in mid-November of the same year. Later they sailed further to the south reaching Antarctica and circumnavigated the whole continent.

During his long and path finding voyage Bellingshausen discovered many new islands and coastal stretches naming them after Russian Emperors and giving his own name to an Antarctic expanse of sea. The two sloops returned to Kronstadt in 1821.

The Medals were primarily given as a gift to prominent personalities of the territories visited by the vessels during their expedition to the south sea islands and to the Antarctic regions, but it was reported that medals had also been awarded to some members of the crew.

### 101-101A SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal shows the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander I facing right encircled by an inscription meaning: "Alexander the First by the Grace of God Emperor of All Russia."

The reverse of the Medal is plain except for an inscription signifying: "Sloops *East* and *Peaceful*, — 1819."

Both sides of the Medal have raised edges.

The Medal is found with (101) or without an eyelet (101A).

The Medal could be worn round the neck suspended from a silver chain, a common ribbon (101) or given as a presentation medal without an eyelet (101A).

The diameter of the Medal is 41 mm.

### 102-102A BRONZE MEDAL

The Bronze Medal is similar in size and details to the Silver Medal, except for being made of dark bronze.

The Medal could be worn round the neck suspended from a copper chain, a common ribbon (102) or given as a presentation medal without an eyelet (102A).





104A

## MEDAL FOR THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION OF 1819-1822

The Medal was instituted on 4 May 1819 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I to commemorate the planned Arctic Expedition. The medals were coined and delivered on board the two vessels chosen for the expedition before they sailed.

In 1819 two Russian sloops, the *Discovery* and the *Well Intentioned* raised their anchors from the naval base of Kronstadt and sailed southwards, their destination being the Arctic regions of the Pacific Ocean.

The vessels reached the Alaskan coast in early 1820 after having rounded Cape Horn. The same year the sloops *East* and *Peaceful* had also left Kronstadt sailing to the south, but their destination was that of the south sea islands and the Antarctic region.

The sloop *Discovery* was under the command of Captain Mikhail Vasiliev and the sloop *Well Intentioned* was commanded by Captain G. Shishmarev.

The two vessels were given the specific instructions from the Admiralty to charter the Russian Alaskan coast and to discover an eventual northern Pacific shipping lane either westwards or eastwards, if the Arctic ice floe would permit it. The two sloops returned to Kronstadt in 1822.

The Medal was primarily given as a gift to prominent personalities of the territories visited by the two sloops during their expedition in the Arctic regions, but it was reported that medals had also been awarded to some members of the crew.

### 103-103A SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal shows the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander I facing right encircled by an inscription meaning: "Alexander the First by the Grace of God Emperor of All Russias."

The reverse of the Medal is plain except for an inscription signifying: "Sloops *Discovery* and *Well Intentioned*, ——— 1819."

Both sides of the Medal have raised edges.

The Medal is found with (103) or without an eyelet (103A).

The Medal could be worn round the neck suspended from a silver chain, or a common ribbon (103). It was also awarded as a presentation medal without an eyelet (103A).

The diameter of the Medal is 41 mm.

### 104-104A BRONZE MEDAL

The Bronze Medal is similar in size and details to the Silver Medal, except for being made of dark bronze.

The Medal could be worn round the neck suspended from a copper chain, or a common ribbon (104) or given as a presentation medal without an eyelet (104A).





106B

## MEDAL FOR ZEALOUS SERVICE Tsar Nicholas I

The Medal was first instituted in December 1801 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I.

After the death of Alexander I, the Medal was reissued in December 1825, as well as on 27 March 1828 and on 8 January 1848 wearing the semblance of the new Sovereign, Tsar Nicholas I.

The Medal were primarily awarded to prominent citizens for long and zealous service which was of benefit to the State.

Tsar Nicholas I was the brother of Tsar Alexander I.

### 105 GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the 1825 issue of the Gold Medal shows the truncated bust of Tsar Nicholas I facing right with a circumscription meaning: "*By the Grace of God Nicholas I Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias*".

The reverse of the Medal has an inscription encircled by several concentric lines signifying: "*For Zealous Service*".

The Medal was worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon, the type of ribbon denoting the specific reason for the awarding (ribbon types III, V or VI).

The diameter of the Medal is 50 mm.

### 106-106A-106B-106C SILVER MEDAL

The 1825 issue of the Silver Medal is similar in size and details to the Gold Medal, except for being made of silver (106).

The 1828 issue of the Silver Medal is similar to the 1825 issue but has a shorter obverse inscription, which means: "*By the Grace of God Nicholas I Emperor of All Russias*" (106A). The initials of the engraver: "A.L."\* appear on the raised neck cut of the bust.

The 1846 larger issue of the Silver Medal is very similar to both the 1825 and 1828 issues, except for a moustachioed bust of the Tsar. The name of the engraver: "A. Lialine"\* may appear on the raised neck cut of the bust (106B).

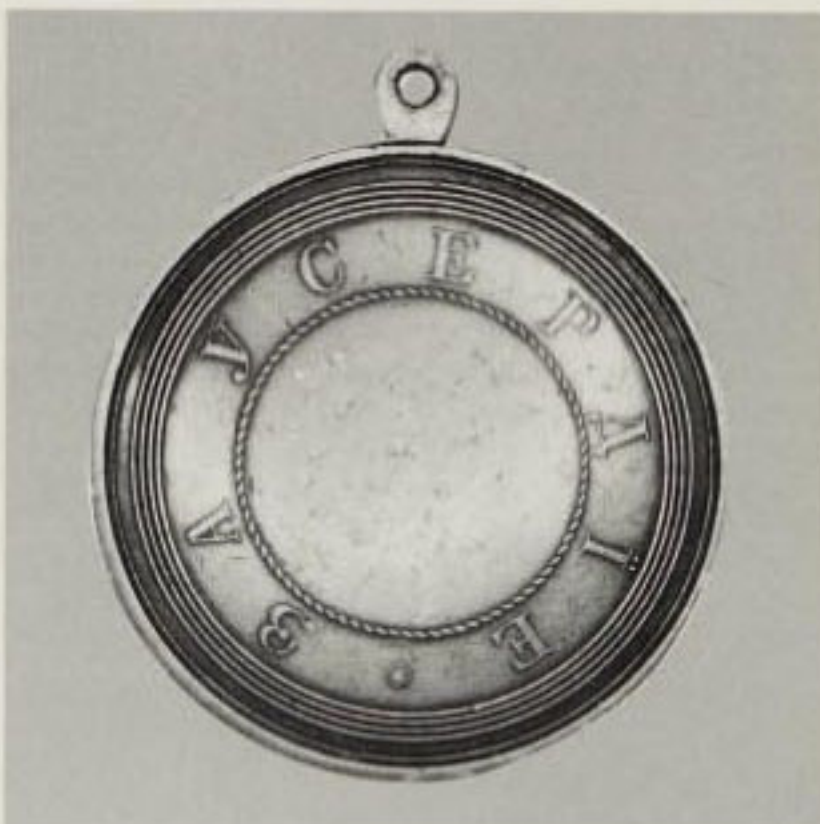
The smaller issue of the Medal is similar to the 1828 type (106A), except for a moustachioed bust of the Tsar (106C).

The larger Medals were worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon and the smaller ones were worn on the left breast, the type of ribbon denoting the specific reason for the awarding (ribbon types III, V or VI).

The diameters of the Medals are respectively 50 mm (106, 106B) and 29 mm (106A, 106C).

\* (Alexander Lialine)





## MEDAL FOR ZEAL Tsar Nicholas I

The Medal was first instituted in December 1801 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I.

After the death of Alexander I, the Medal was reissued in 1825, on 27 January 1841 and on 8 January 1848 wearing the semblance of the new Sovereign, Tsar Nicholas I. The Medal was primarily awarded to citizens that had shown exceptional zeal in the trade, production and social fields in peacetime as well as in wartime.

### 107-107A-107B-107C GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the 1825 issue of the Gold Medal shows the truncated bust of Tsar Nicholas I facing right with a circumscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Nicholas I Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias". The engraver's name: "V. Alekseev" \* may appear under the raised neck cut of the bust. The reverse of the Medal has a circular inscription signifying: "For Zeal", which is encircled by several concentric lines and an inner circular broken line (107). The 1841 issue is similar, but smaller in size than the 1825 issue and has a shorter obverse inscription which means: "By the Grace of God Nicholas I Emperor of All Russias" (107A). The 1846 issue is similar to both the 1825 and 1841 issues, except for the moustachioed bust of the Tsar and for being coined in two sizes (107B, 107C). The larger Medal was worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon and the smaller one was worn on the left breast, the type of ribbon denoting the specific reason for the awarding (ribbon types I, III, V or VI). The diameters of the Medals are respectively 50 mm (107, 107B) and 29 mm (107A, 107C).

### 108-108A-108B-108C SILVER MEDAL

The 1825 issue of the Silver Medal is similar in size and details to the Gold Medal, except for being made of silver (108).

The 1841 issue is similar to the preceding issue but has a shorter obverse inscription, which means: "By the Grace of God Nicholas I Emperor of All Russias" (108A). The 1846 issue is similar to both the 1825 and 1841 issues, except for the moustachioed bust of the Tsar and for being coined in two sizes (108B, 108C).

The larger Medal was worn at the neck suspended from a ribbon, and the smaller one was worn on the left breast, the type of ribbon denoting the specific reason for the awarding (ribbon types I, III, V or VI). The diameters of the Medals are respectively 50 mm (108, 108B) and 29 mm (108A, 108C).

### 109 SILVER MEDAL

A different type of this Medal was issued during the reign of Nicholas I. It was specifically awarded to zealous State farmers. The obverse of the octangular silver Medal has a large flourished crowned cipher of Tsar Nicholas I. In the centre of field the reverse has an inscription meaning: "For Zeal" — encircled by a laurel wreath. Both sides of the Medal have decorated edges. The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type VI).

The size of the Medal is 28 x 28 mm.

\* (Vasil Alekseev engraved)





Obverse 111



Reverse 111B

## MEDAL FOR USEFULNESS Tsar Nicholas I

The Medal was first instituted in December 1801 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I.

After the death of Alexander I, the Medal was reissued in 1825, in 1828 and 1846 wearing the semblance of the new Sovereign, Tsar Nicholas I. The Medal was awarded to civilians for their useful support to the State in the fields of trade, production and agriculture.

### 110-110A-110B-110C GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the 1825 issue of the Gold Medal shows the truncated bust of Tsar Nicholas I facing right with a circumscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Nicholas I Emperor and Autocrat of All Russia" (110). The engraver's name: "V. Alekseev" \* may appear under the raised neck cut of the bust. The 1828 issue is similar, but smaller in size than the 1825 issue and has a shorter obverse inscription which means: "By the Grace of God Nicholas I Emperor of All Russias" (110A).

The 1846 issue is similar in size and details to the 1825 issue, except for a moustachioed bust of the Tsar (110B). A smaller issue is similar to the preceding type, but has a shorter obverse circumscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Nicholas I Emperor of All Russias" (110C). The reverse sides of the above Medals have an inscription signifying: "For Usefulness" encircled by several concentric lines or decorated with a wavy pattern and an inner circular broken line.

The larger Medals were worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon and the smaller ones were worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (types III, V or VI). The diameters of the Medals are respectively 50 mm (110, 110B) and 29 mm (110A, 110C).

### 111-111A-111B-111C SILVER MEDAL

The 1825 issue of the Silver Medal (111) is similar to the corresponding 1825 Gold Medal, except for being made of silver. The 1828 issue of the Silver Medal (111A) is similar in size and details to the corresponding 1828 Gold Medal, except for being made of silver.

The 1846 larger issue of the Silver Medal (111B) is similar to the corresponding 1846 Gold Medal, except for a moustachioed bust of the Tsar and for being made of silver. The smaller issue of the Silver Medal (111C) is similar to the corresponding 1846 Gold Medal, except for being made of silver. The diameters of the Medals are respectively 50 mm (111, 111B) and 29 mm (111A, 111C).

### 112 SILVER MEDAL

A different type of this Medal was issued on 27 January 1841 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas I and was specifically awarded to zealous State farmers.

The obverse of the octangular silver Medal has a large crowned cipher of Tsar Nicholas I. In the centre of field the reverse has an inscription meaning: "For Usefulness" encircled by a laurel wreath. Both sides have beaded edges.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type VI). The size of the Medal is 28 x 28 mm.

\* (Vasilii Alekseev engraved)





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## MEDAL FOR THE PERSIAN WAR

The Medal was instituted on 15 March 1828 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas I to commemorate the 1826-1828 war against Persia.

The Russian conquest of the Caucasus had been initiated by Empress Catherine I in the eighteenth century, and military operations increased in intensity during the following century also due to Turkish and Persian military interventions to protect their southern Caucasian interests. The nomination in 1816 of General Mikhail Yermolov by Tsar Alexander I to Commander-in-Chief in the Caucasus resulted in a considerable increase of Russian military activity in the territories between the Black and the Caspian Seas.

Yermolov was the first to recognise the importance of securing Russian domination not only over the whole of the Caucasus, but also over the territories to the immediate south of the mountain range. Many of these states were Khanates under Persian suzerainty, while northern Azerbaijan and Gandzha had been ceded to Russia already in 1813 under the terms of the Gulistan Treaty.

Yermolov had subdued a great part of the Caucasus, but much fighting lay still ahead before the whole region could become part of the Russian Empire. It would take nearly forty years of incredibly bloody and bitter fighting before his successors could achieve this goal.

In 1825 Emperor Alexander I died and was succeeded by his brother Nicholas.

In the Caucasus there were rumours that General Yermolov would soon be relieved from his duties being unpopular with the new Emperor. Perhaps was it due to the unclear local situation and a possible Russian change of policy for the whole region that Fath Ali Shah, the Quajar ruler of Persia, decided that the time had come to reconquer the Caucasian territories ceded under the 1813 Gulistan Treaty. In 1826 Persia initiated military operations, a confrontation that lasted until 1828 ending with the victory of the Russian forces commanded by General Ivan Paskevich, the successor of General Yermolov.

In 1828 a new Peace Treaty between Russia and Persia was signed at the small village of Turkamanchai in north-western Persia. The Treaty of Gulistan was reaffirmed, the Khanates of Erivan and Nakhichevan were ceded to Russia and further territorial rights granted.

The Medal was awarded to officers of all ranks, non-commissioned officers and enlisted men, who had taken active part in the 1826-1828 war against Persia.

### 113 SILVER MEDAL

In its centre of field the obverse of the silver Medal bears the years: "1826, 1827, 1828," encircled by a laurel wreath tied at the bottom with a ribbon and topped by the all-seeing eye emanating flaming rays.

The reverse of the Medal is plain except for the inscription signifying: "For the Persian War . . . . .".

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type X).

The diameter of the Medal varies between 22 and 26 mm.





115C

## MEDAL FOR LIFE SAVING Tsar Nicholas I

The Medal was instituted on 17 April 1828 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas I and bestowed upon individuals, who had risked their own lives to save persons, whose lives were in great peril. A second, different issue was introduced in 1834, and a third one in 1846.

The Medal was established in replacement of the Medal for Rescue From Drowning and the Medal for Lifesaving During Natural Disasters, so that it could be used as an award for all deeds involving the saving of lives in peril. A bow was added to the ribbon of the Medal for Life Saving as a sign that the recipient had been decorated with it once before.

### 114-114A-114B-114C GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the Gold Medal, 1828 issue, bears the truncated bust of Tsar Nicholas I facing right encircled by an inscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Nicholas I Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias.". The initials of the engraver: "AK" \* appear on the raised neck cut of the bust. The reverse of the Medal has an inscription signifying: "For Life Saving ———" with below two crossed oak twigs (114).

The 1834 issue of the Medal is similar to the preceding Gold Medal, except for being smaller in size, and for having a different obverse circumscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Nicholas I Emperor of All Russias" and for the absence of the oak wreath on the reverse side of the Medal (114A).

The 1846 large issue of the Gold Medal is similar in size and details to the 1828 issue, except for a moustachioed bust of the Tsar (114B). The smaller Medal is similar in size and details to the 1834 issue, except for a moustachioed bust of the Tsar (114C).

The larger Medals were worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon (type V). The smaller Medals were worn on the left breast suspended from a similar ribbon. The diameters of the Medals are respectively 50 mm (114, 114B) and 28 mm (114A, 114C).

### 115-115A-115B-115C SILVER MEDAL

The 1828 issue of the Silver Medal is similar in size and details to the Gold Medal of the same year, except for being made of silver (115).

The 1834 issue of the Silver Medal is similar in size and details to the 1834 Gold Medal (114A), except for being made of silver (115A).

The 1846 large issue of the Medal is similar in size and details to the 1828 issue of the Silver Medal (115), except for a moustachioed bust of the Tsar (115B). The smaller issue is similar in size and details to the 1834 Gold Medal (114A), except for a moustachioed bust of the Tsar (115C).

The larger Medals were worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon, and the smaller ones were worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type V). The diameters of the Medals are respectively 50 mm (115, 115B) and 29 mm (115A, 115C).

\* (Aleksii Klepikov)





## MEDAL FOR THE TURKISH WAR OF 1828-1829

The Medal was instituted on 1 October 1829 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas I to commemorate the end of the 1828-1829 war against Turkey.

Sultan Mahmud II reigned over the Ottoman Empire from 1808 to 1839 and achieved remarkable and far-reaching results in his policies towards a new political and social framework for the Turkish state. On the other hand he blankly refused to compromise with England, France and Russia concerning the fate of the population of Greece, that had endured six years of bitter war and bloodshed. An act that Turkey would soon regret.

Russia sent a naval squadron to the Mediterranean, where it joined British and French warships with the task of stopping Egyptian troop reinforcements from landing in Greece.

In 1827 the Allied warships gave battle to the fleet of Ibrahim Pasha at the Morean harbour of Navarino (Pylos) and destroyed it. With the loss of the bulk of their warships at Navarino, the Turkish military commanders realised that Russia would soon assemble their armies, and backed by their Black Sea Fleet, attack their country. It was decided to strike first, and Turkey declared war on Russia in the winter of 1827.

Already in the spring of 1828 a mighty Russian Army under the command of the Tsar crossed the river Pruth and rapidly advanced towards the Danube. After crossing it in the summer, the Russians invaded northern Bulgaria but were slowed down by strongly defended enemy fortresses. On 23 October the Black Sea fortress and seaport of Varna was taken by storm. During winter operations grounded to a virtual halt, while the army was being reinforced. In the summer of 1829 General Ivan Dibich captured the fortress of Silistra, crossed the Balkan mountain range and entered Adrianople, capital of European Turkey. Scenes of panic took place in Istanbul, and the Sultan decided to ask for peace terms. Dibich was decorated by Tsar Nicholas I with the Order of Saint George 1st class, promoted to the rank of Field Marshal General and bestowed the title of *Zabalkansky* (Transbalkan).

The Treaty of Adrianople\* was signed on 2 September 1829 by which Turkey ceded additional territory to Russia and opened the Dardanelles to all commercial vessels.

The Silver Medal was awarded to all ranks of the Imperial Russian Army and Navy, who had actively participated in the Turkish War of 1828-29.

### 116 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal shows a Russian cross standing upon a Turkish crescent. The cross is placed upon radiating flaming rays surrounded by the dates: "1828." and "1829."

In the centre of field the reverse of the Medal has an inscription signifying: "For the Turkish War . ————", which is surrounded by an oak wreath.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The diameter of the Medal is 26 mm.

\* See pages 15 and 173 of: "The Orders, Medals and History of the Kingdom of Bulgaria", by the same author.





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## MEDAL FOR THE STORMING OF WARSAW

The Medal was established on 31 December 1831 during the reign of Emperor Nicholas I to commemorate the storming of Warsaw by the Russian army between 25 and 26 August 1831.

The Congress of Vienna of 1814-15 had redrawn the borders of Europe, initially bringing a sense of relief to its inhabitants after the enormous loss of lives and the terrible destruction caused by the Napoleonic wars. Soon political frictions were aroused between royalist and republicans and between patriotic, revolutionary societies and their new rulers.

Growing impatience was also mounting in newly created nations, where their citizens did not share the same culture or even language. The Congress of Vienna had established peace in Europe, but had also given birth to the mounting desire for national advancement or independence and had created social movements of discontent.

What sparked a chain reaction of popular insurrections in Europe was the 1830 revolution in France. Under the reign of Tsar Nicholas I the constitutional liberties that had been granted to Poland were being steadily curtailed and the country attempted to be russified.

The revolutionary movements in France and Belgium had an electrifying effect on Poland. A popular insurrection took place on 29 November 1830, which was soon to be joined by the army. During the spring of 1831 the Russian Army under command of Field Marshal General Ivan Paskevich confronted and defeated the Polish forces near Ostroleka, a town located to the Northeast of Warsaw.

Neither the military leadership nor the Polish government under Prince Adam Czartorysky could produce an effective and united front in the struggle against the overwhelmingly superior Russian Army. On 6 September 1831 Warsaw was besieged and the next day the Russian forces stormed the defences of the town and entered the capital bringing a six-month conflict to an end.

The termination of the Polish uprising of 1830-31 brought a new wave of enforced russification, driving thousands of Polish patriots into exile.

The Silver Medal was awarded to all non-commissioned officers and enlisted men, who had taken part in the storming of Warsaw.

### 117 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal shows the Russian double-headed eagle with a small coat-of-arms of Poland placed upon its breast.

In the centre of field the reverse of the Medal has an inscription meaning: "For the Storming of Warsaw 25 and 26 August 1831," surrounded by a laurel wreath, topped by a Russian Cross emanating flaming rays.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type XI).

The diameter of the Medal varies between 25 and 32 mm.





## VIRTUTI MILITARI CROSS

The Virtuti Militari Cross was created in 1792 by Stanislaus Augustus II, King of Poland.

On 31 December 1831 Emperor Nicholas I placed the award among the Russian orders following the Polish general insurrection in 1830, the defeat of the Polish forces and the taking of Warsaw by the Russian army. The Kingdom of Poland became virtually an integral part of the Russian Empire. The date: "1792" on the original Cross was substituted with that of: "1831". The awarding of the Virtuti Military Cross was discontinued already in 1835.

### 118 CROSS FIRST CLASS

The obverse of the golden Cross is gold-rimmed and black-enamelled and is tipped with golden ball finials. The centre of the medallion is golden and bears the single-headed Polish eagle and it is surrounded by an oak wreath with green-enamelled leaves. The horizontal arms of the cross have the golden inscription: "Virtuti" and the vertical ones: "Militari".

The reverse of the cross is golden and black-rimmed and has the letters: "A" and: "R" on its horizontal arms and: "S" and: "P" \*\* on its vertical arms. The centre of the medallion has the inscription: "Rex et Patria ——— 1831"\*\*\* surrounded by an oak wreath with green-enamelled leaves. The suspension is in the form of a Royal crown attached to a decorative suspension link.

The Cross was worn on the left hip suspended from the prescribed sash (type XI), which was worn over the right shoulder. The average size of the Cross is 42 x 75 mm.

### 119 STAR FIRST CLASS

The obverse of the Cross First Class, without its Royal crown suspension is superimposed upon the eight-pointed silver Star. It was awarded together with the Cross First Class (118) and was worn on the left side of the chest.

The diameter of the Star is 90 mm.

### 120 CROSS SECOND CLASS

The golden Cross Second Class is similar in all details to the Cross First Class except for the missing crown suspension and for being smaller in size. The Cross was worn at the neck suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type XI).

The average size of the Cross is 36 x 43 mm.

### 121 CROSS THIRD CLASS

The golden Cross Third Class is similar to the preceding type, except for its arms being golden and black-rimmed and for the missing decorative suspension link.

The average size of the Cross is 36 x 36 mm.

### 122 CROSS FOURTH CLASS

The Cross is similar in all details to the preceding type, except for being of silver.

It was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type XI).

### 123 CROSS FIFTH CLASS

The Cross is similar to the preceding one, except for being smaller, unenamelled and for lacking the ball finials. The size of the Cross is 28 x 28 mm.

\* The motto means: For Military Virtue

\*\* The letters stand for: Stanislaus Augustus Rex Poloniae

\*\*\* The motto means: King and Fatherland — 1831





## MEDAL FOR THE TURCO-EGYPTIAN WAR

The Commemorative Medal was instituted on 10 May 1833 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas I and awarded as a memento to Turkish officers and soldiers stationed near the Russian military camp at Scutari (Uskudar). After the signing of the Treaty of Adrianople in 1829, the Sultan resumed his labour to implement the long overdue policies towards a new political and social reform of the Turkish state. Once again his work was interrupted, this time not by enemies but by his own vassal, Mohammed Ali, governor of Egypt.

During 1832 the Pasha of Egypt used the unfulfilled promise of territorial rewards for his military intervention in the 1828-29 war to give order to his son Ibrahim to advance with a large army and invade the Ottoman vassal state of Syria. The campaign was highly successful, and Ibrahim led his forces deep into Anatolia reaching the town of Bursa close to the shores of the Sea of Marmara. Scenes of panic swept through Istanbul, and Sultan Mahmud II requested an immediate British military intervention, which was refused.

The Sultan then dispatched a similar plea to his former enemy, Emperor Nicholas I of Russia. It is hardly surprising that the response was not only positive, but was dealt with utmost haste.

General Nikolai Mouraviev was put in charge of leading a first contingent of over six thousand Russian soldiers, who were swiftly sailed from Sebastopol, landed and deployed at Scutari on the Asian shore of the Strait of Bosphorus. The Turkish capital was now being defended by its former enemy against the forces of its own vassal state of Egypt.

A month later more Russian troops were landed at Scutari, removing for good the military threat of the Egyptians, who instead decided to retreat and negotiate a truce with the Sultan. As the British and the French governments were greatly alarmed by the presence of a large Russian force camped on the shores of a strategically important waterway, the Sultan wisely decided to sign a truce and give important concessions to Mohammed Ali. Having signed a document, which granted free passage for Russian warships through the Straits, he asked the Russian government to withdraw their forces from Scutari.

The Medal was primarily presented to Turkish military personnel, who camped near Scutari while defending their capital jointly to the Russian forces. It is credible that some of the Medals also were given to Russian servicemen stationed near Scutari.

### 124 GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal bears the cipher of Tsar Nicholas I topped by a small Imperial crown. In its centre of field the reverse of the Medal shows the year: "1833" surrounded by a laurel wreath tied at the bottom with a bow.

The Medal was presented with a ribbon (type III).

The diameter of the Medal is 26 mm.

### 125 SILVER MEDAL

The Silver Medal is similar in size and details to the Gold Medal, except for being made of silver.





126



127

## SAINT GEORGE CROSS FOR THE PRUSSIAN ALLIES

The Saint George Cross for the Prussian Allies was instituted by Tsar Nicholas I in July 1839 concurrently to the unveiling of the monument erected at the sight of the battle of Borodino against the Napoleonic armies that had invaded Russia.

The one-class award was presented to the Prussian veterans who had taken part in the battles that took place between 1813 and 1815 against their common enemy.

### 126 SILVER CROSS

The obverse of the silver Cross has a medallion bearing in relief the likeness of a cuirassed and helmeted Saint George riding towards right, slaying the dragon with a spear.

The reverse of the Cross is similar to its obverse, except that the medallion bears the Saint's cipher: "SG" in relief and that the crowned cipher: "AI" is placed on the upper arm of the cross; the left horizontal arm bears the letter: "N" and the right one the award number. Both sides of the Cross have raised edges. The Cross was presented with the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The size of the Cross is 34 x 34 mm.

## SAINT GEORGE CROSS FOR NON-CHRISTIANS Tsar Nicholas I

The Saint George Cross for non-Christians was instituted on 19 August 1844 during the reign of Emperor Nicholas I. All regulations concerning this award followed the amended statute of 1833 of the Saint George Cross.

During the initial stages of the military operations of the Russian army against the native tribes of the Caucasian region, a war that would soon become a long and bitter confrontation that was first to end in 1864, it was imperative for Russia to secure the active collaboration of the Muslims that were willing to fight alongside the Russian forces.

Thus the creation of the Saint George Cross for non-Christians as well as the Saint Anne Medal for non-Christians was deemed imperative in order to be able to award the Muslim warrior for his deeds of courage with an award specifically created for him.

The one-class Saint George Cross for non-Christians was awarded to non-commissioned officers and to soldiers for exceptional bravery in the face of the enemy while serving in the Imperial Russian army.

### 127 SILVER CROSS

In its centre the obverse of the silver Cross has a medallion bearing the likeness of the Imperial Russian eagle in relief.

The reverse of the Cross is similar to its obverse, except that it has the number of the award placed upon its horizontal arms.

Both sides of the Cross have raised edges.

The Cross was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The size of the Cross is 34 x 34 mm.





## MEDAL FOR THE STORMING OF AKHULGO

The Medal was established on 5 September 1839 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas I to commemorate the storming of Akhulgo on 22 August 1839.

The fortified mountain village of Akhulgo was located in Daghestan in the eastern part of the Caucasus mountain range.

It had been taken in 1837 by the Russian forces under Swiss-born Lieutenant General Fesé (Johann Kaspar Fasi), who concluded a truce with Shamil, Imam of Daghestan, the religious and political leader of the rebellious Moslem mountaineers.

The truce was broken nearly immediately by him, and followed by his Moslem tribesmen known as Murids, Shamil reoccupied the village of Akhulgo with the intention to repair the badly damaged fortress and to make it his stronghold in the renewed fight against the Russians.

The system of defence of the *aul* – or fortified village – was completely rebuilt by enlarging its perimeter and by strengthening its outer walls thus creating ample room for military and civilian quarters, ammunition and food depots.

Being located on top of a towering conical peak Akhulgo was practically inaccessible by itself. The mountain paths leading to it were in reality no more than flat shelves of rock protruding from cliffs and hanging over precipices.

In June 1839 thirteen thousand Russian soldiers under the command of General P. Grabbe advanced towards the fortress of Akhulgo. On their way they built bridges over streams and widened the mountain paths so that artillery pieces could be brought forward. Slowly, the fortress was encircled and the second siege of Akhulgo was initiated in June 1839.

Supported by their artillery, the Russians unsuccessfully tried to storm the fortress during two and half months but finally succeeded in conquering it on 3 September.

As Shamil had managed to escape from the fortress at the last moment the conquest of Akhulgo did not terminate the Caucasian war as the Russians hoped. During twenty more years the Imam continued to wage a bitter and desperate war against his enemies.

The Silver Medal was awarded to all officers, non-commissioned officers and enlisted men, who had taken part in the storming of Akhulgo.

### 128 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal shows the cipher of Tsar Nicholas I topped by the Imperial crown.

The reverse of the Medal has an inscription signifying: *"For the Storming of Akhulgo 22 August 1839"*.

Both sides of the Medal have edges decorated with beading.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The diameter of the Medal varies between 25 and 26 mm.





## MEDAL FOR THE PACIFICATION OF HUNGARY AND TRANSYLVANIA

The Medal was established on 22 January 1850 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas I to commemorate the conclusion of the military operations against the Hungarian insurgents led by Lajos Kossuth and Sándor Petöfi.

The eighteen year old Francis Joseph I, Emperor of Austria, was faced in 1848 with a full-fledged revolution in Hungary, where long suppressed national aspirations had been awakened by the French Revolution.

In April 1848 Hungary broke its ties with the Austrian Empire, proclaiming itself an independent republic under the presidency of Kossuth, the principal figure of the Hungarian revolution.

The Austrian Army was sent to quell the revolution, but was not able to achieve a rapid and decisive victory against the rebels. A potentially dangerous political situation was developing for the Austrian Empire, composed of countries having different cultures, religions and ethnic minorities. It was of paramount importance for Emperor Francis Joseph to cross the rebellion rapidly and ruthlessly in order to keep the Empire united under the Habsburg crown.

The Austrian Emperor took the unusual decision to ask for a military intervention by the Russian Army stationed in neighbouring Poland. Emperor Nicholas I accepted immediately the request for help, as he was well aware of the dangerous effect that revolutionary movements could have on Poland as well as on the national minorities in his own country. He gave orders that the Russian Army stationed in Poland should intervene with utmost speed and determination to serve as a warning to possible revolutionaries.

The Viceroy of Poland, Field Marshal General Ivan Paskevich, was given the task to invade Hungary and Transylvania and suppress the rebellion, which he was able to achieve swiftly. The Hungarian Northern Army under General Arthur von Görgei surrendered to the Russians on 13 August 1849 at Világos (Siria), a town located in Western Transylvania.

The Silver Medal was awarded to generals, officers, non-commissioned officers and enlisted men as well as to doctors and members of the clergy who had taken active part in the 1848-1849 military campaign against the rebellious Hungarians.

### 129 SILVER MEDAL

In the centre of field the obverse of the silver Medal has the Imperial Eagle topped by the all-seeing eye emanating rays. The circumscription in Old Church Slavonic means: "God is With Us. People Take Heed and Submit."

The reverse of the Medal has an inscription signifying: "For the Pacification of Hungary and Transylvania 1849."

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type XII).

The diameter of the Medal varies between 29 and 30 mm.





## MEDAL FOR ZEALOUS SERVICE Tsar Alexander II

The Medal was first instituted in December 1801 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I.

After the death of Nicholas I, the Medal was reissued in 1855 and in 1863 wearing the semblance of the new Sovereign, Tsar Alexander II.

The Medals were awarded to merchants and farmers for their zealous service which was of benefit to the State.

### 130-130A-130B-130C-130D-130E GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the 1855 issue of the Gold Medal shows the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander II facing left with a circumscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Alexander II Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias". The signature: "V. Alekseev R." \* appears under the raised neck cut of the bust (130).

The reverse of the Medal has an inscription encircled by several concentric lines signifying: "For Zealous Service."

The smaller issue of the Gold Medal is identical in details to the preceding Medal, except for the missing signature of the engraver on its obverse side (130A).

The obverse of the 1863 large and the small issues of the Gold Medal is similar in details to the 1855 issue (130, 130A), except that the bust of the Tsar is facing right, and that the signature of the engraver is missing (130B, 130C). The signature: "N. Kozin" \*\* may sometimes appear on the raised neck cut of the bust of the large medals (130D) and the initials: "N.K." \*\* on the smaller ones (130E).

The large Gold Medals (130, 130B, 130D) were worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon, while the small Gold Medals (130A, 130C, 130E) were worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbons (types III, V or VI).

The diameters of the Medals are respectively 51 mm (130, 130B, 130D) and 29 mm (130A, 130C, 130E).

### 131-131A-131B-131C SILVER MEDAL

The 1855 large and small issues of the Silver Medal are similar in size and details to the corresponding large and small issues of the 1855 Gold Medals (130, 130A), except for being made of silver (131, 131A).

The 1863 large and small issues of the Silver Medals are similar in size and details to the corresponding large and small issues of the 1863 Gold Medals (130B, 130C), except for being made of silver (131B, 131C).

The large Silver Medals (131, 131B) were worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon and the small Silver Medals (131A, 131C) were worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbons (types III, V or VI).

The diameters of the Medals are respectively 51 mm (131, 131B) and 29 mm (131A, 131C).

\* (Vasil Alekseev engraved)

\*\* (Nicholas Kozin)





133C

## MEDAL FOR USEFULNESS Tsar Alexander II

The Medal was first instituted in December 1801 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I.

After the death of Nicholas I, the Medal was reissued in 1855 and 1863 wearing the semblance of the new Sovereign, Tsar Alexander II. The Medals were awarded to civilians for their useful support to the State in the fields of trade, production and agriculture.

### 132-132A-132B-132C GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the 1855 issue of the Gold Medal shows the truncated bust of Alexander II facing left with a circumscription meaning: "Alexander II By the Grace of God Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias". The signature: "V. Alekseev R." \* appears under the raised neck cut of the bust (132).

The reverse of the Medal has an inscription signifying: "For Usefulness" encircled by several concentric lines or decorated with a wavy pattern and an inner circular broken line.

The smaller issue of the Gold Medal (132A) is identical in details to the preceding Medal, except for the missing signature of the engraver on its obverse side.

The 1863 large (132B) and small issues (132C) of the Medal are similar to the preceding types, except that their obverse sides have the truncated bust of the Tsar facing right and that they lack the engraver's signature. The larger Medals were worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon and the smaller ones were worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbons (types III, V or VI). The diameters of the Medals are respectively 51 mm (132, 132B) and 29 mm (132A, 132C).

### 133-133A-133B-133C SILVER MEDAL

The 1855 large and small issues of the Silver Medal (133, 133A) are very similar in size and details to the corresponding large and small issues of the 1855 Gold Medals (132, 132A), except for being made of silver.

The 1863 large and small issues of the Silver Medal (133B, 133C) are very similar in size and details to the corresponding large and small issues of the 1855 Gold Medals (132B, 132C), except for being made of silver.

The large Silver Medals (133, 133B) were worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon and the small Silver Medals (133A, 133C) were worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbons (types III, V or VI). The diameters of the Medals are respectively 51 mm (133, 133B) and 29 mm (133A, 133C).

### 134 SILVER MEDAL

A different type of this Medal was issued on 27 January 1861 during the reign of Tsar Alexander II and was specifically awarded to zealous State farmers.

The obverse of the octagonal silver Medal has a large crowned cipher of Tsar Alexander II. The reverse has in the centre of field an inscription meaning: "For Usefulness" encircled by a laurel wreath. Both sides of the Medal have beaded edges. The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type VI). The size of the Medal is 28 x 28 mm.

\* (Vasil Alekseev engraved)





136C

## MEDAL FOR ZEAL Tsar Alexander II

The Medal was first instituted in December 1801 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I.

After the death of Nicholas I, the Medal was reissued in 1855 and 1863 wearing the semblance of the new Sovereign, Tsar Alexander II. The Medals were awarded for long, zealous service in the Armed Forces or to civilians for their zealous support to the State.

### 135-135A-135B-135C GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the 1855 issue of the Gold Medal shows the truncated bust of Alexander II facing left with a circumscription meaning: "Alexander II By the Grace of God Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias". The signature: "V. Alekseev R."\* appears under the raised neck cut of the bust. The reverse of the Medal has an inscription encircled by several concentric lines and an inner circular broken line signifying: "For Zeal" (135). The smaller issue of the Gold Medal (135A) is identical in details to the preceding Medal, except for the missing signature of the engraver on its obverse side.

The 1863 large (135B) and small issues (135C) of the Medal are similar to the preceding types, except that their obverse sides have the truncated bust of the Tsar facing right and that they lack the engraver's signature. The large Medals were worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon, the small ones were worn on the left breast, the type of ribbon denoting the specific reason for the awarding (ribbon types III, V, VI or VIII). The diameters of the Medals are respectively 51 mm (135, 135B) and 29 mm (135A, 135C).

### 136-136A-136B-136C SILVER MEDAL

The 1855 large and small issues of the Silver Medal (136, 136A) are similar in size and details to the corresponding large and small issues of the 1855 Gold Medals (135, 135A), except for being made of silver.

The 1863 large and small issues of the Silver Medal (136B, 136C) are similar in size and details to the corresponding large and small issues of the 1855 Gold Medals (135B, 135C), except for being made of silver.

The diameters of the Medals are respectively 51 mm (136, 136B) and 29 mm (136A, 136C).

### 137 SILVER MEDAL

A different type of this Medal was issued during the reign of Alexander II and awarded to deserving citizens for zeal in trade, for social work and to State farmers.

The obverse of the octangular silver Medal has a large crowned cipher of Tsar Alexander II. The reverse has in the centre of field an inscription meaning: "For Zeal" encircled by a laurel wreath. Both sides of the Medal have beaded edges.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type VI).

The size of the Medal is 28 x 28 mm.

\* (Vasil Alekseev engraved)





139C

## MEDAL FOR LIFE SAVING Tsar Alexander II

The Medal was first instituted on 17 April 1828 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas I.

After the death of Tsar Nicholas I, the Medal was reissued in 1855 and 1863 wearing the semblance of the new Sovereign, Tsar Alexander II.

The Medals were bestowed upon individuals for deeds involving the saving of lives in peril.

### 138-138A-138B-138C GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the **1855** issue of the Gold Medal shows the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander II facing left encircled by an inscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Alexander II Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias." The signature: "V. Alekseev R." \* appears under the raised neck cut of the bust.

The reverse of the Medal has an inscription signifying: "For Life Saving" — encircled by an oak wreath (138).

The smaller issue of the Gold Medal is similar in details to the preceding Medal, except for the missing signature of the engraver on its obverse side and for the oak wreath on its reverse side (138A).

The **1863** large and small issues of the Medal are similar to the 1855 Gold Medal issue, except that their obverse sides have the truncated bust of the Tsar facing right and that they lack the engraver's signature (138B, 138C).

The large Medals were worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon, and the small Medals were worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type V). The diameters of the Medals are respectively 51 mm (138, 138B) and 29 mm (138A, 138C).

### 139-139A-139B-139C SILVER MEDAL

The large and the small issues of the **1855** Silver Medal (139, 139A) are similar in size and details to the corresponding Gold Medals of the same year (138, 138A), except for being made of silver.

The large and the small issues of the **1863** Silver Medal are similar in size and details to the corresponding large and small issues of the Gold Medals of the same year (138B, 138C), except for being made of silver (139B, 139C).

The large Medals were worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon and the smaller ones were worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type V). A bow would be added to the ribbon of the small issue of the Silver Medal if the receiver had been awarded twice with it.

The diameters of the Medals are respectively 51 mm (139, 139B) and 29 mm (139A, 139C).

\* (Vasil Alekseev engraved)





## MEDAL FOR THE DEFENCE OF SEBASTOPOL

The Medal was instituted on 26 November 1855 during the reign of Tsar Alexander II to commemorate the defence of Sebastopol by the Russian Army and Navy.

The Crimean War was primarily caused by a dispute which took place in 1852 between the Ottoman and the Russian Empires concerning concessions made by the Sublime Porte to France and the Roman Catholic Church, whereby they were granted special privileges at the Holy shrines of Jerusalem and Bethlehem. The long-standing Greek Orthodox supremacy in the Holy Land had been humiliatingly terminated by strong French political pressure.

Angry Russian demands for a return to the *status quo* were refused by the Turkish government and strong diplomatic pressure did nothing to alleviate the situation. For Tsar Nicholas this was an untenable situation, as he claimed to be the guardian of the Greek Orthodox faith and of the Christian Balkan populations under the Turkish yoke. Furthermore the "Eastern Question" was still unresolved, causing a widespread concern for most of the European Great Powers, alarmed by the unrelenting Russian pressure against the Ottoman Empire.

The situation quickly precipitated, when Russian forces in July 1853 invaded Walachia and Moldavia, and Turkey declared war on Russia in October. England and France entered the war in March 1854 followed by the kingdom of Sardinia in January 1855.

The Crimean Peninsula on the north shore of the Black Sea and its naval base of Sebastopol were selected as the main targets of an amphibious invasion against southern Russia. The allied forces landed in September 1854 to the west of Sebastopol and slowly advanced towards the naval base.

The great battles of the Crimean war were many and bloody: Alma, Balaklava, Inkerman and Tchernaya, but the siege and the heroic defence of Sebastopol, which lasted 349 days brought death and terrible suffering indiscriminately to attackers and defenders. The year 1855 saw the fall of Sebastopol and the death of Tsar Nicholas I, who was succeeded by his son Alexander II. Early in 1856 peace negotiations were initiated in the French capital and the Treaty of Paris was signed on 30 March 1856.

The Silver Medal was awarded to military personnel of all ranks as well as to any civilian, who had actively participated in the defence of Sebastopol.

### 140 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal shows the intertwining, crowned ciphers of Emperors Nicholas I and Alexander II.

In the centre of field the reverse of the Medal has an inscription signifying: "From 13 September 1854 to 28 August 1855" and it is topped by the all-seeing eye emanating rays. The circumscription means: "For the Defence of Sebastopol".

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.





## SAINT GEORGE CROSS Tsar Alexander II

On 19 March 1856 a major reform was decreed by Tsar Alexander II to the existing statute of the Saint George Cross, as amended in 1833 by his father, Tsar Nicholas I.

For nearly fifty years the Saint George Cross had remained a one class award. During that period well over one hundred and ten thousand Crosses had been awarded for bravery.

With the end of the Crimean war it became obvious that the one class system of the award could not be continued much longer as it was. The once seldom awarded Saint George Cross was rapidly becoming an award of lesser prestige for its recipient. It was not only for this reason it was decided to institute the four classes; repeat citations meant that being awarded with a higher class, the recipient would still retain and wear the lower class of the Cross, but most important of all, he would now be automatically granted an additional payment and enjoy a well defined pension or invalidity subsidy.

The Saint George Cross was awarded to non-commissioned officers, soldiers and sailors for bravery in the face of the enemy while serving in the Imperial Russian army or navy.

### 141 GOLD CROSS FIRST CLASS

The obverse of the gold Cross First Class has a medallion bearing in relief the likeness of a cuirassed and helmeted Saint George riding towards right, slaying the dragon with a spear.

The reverse of the Cross is similar to its obverse, except that the medallion bears the Saint's cipher: "SG" in relief, the number of the award is placed upon its horizontal arms and the lower arm bears the inscription: "1st Class".

Both sides of the Cross have raised edges. The Cross was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon with a bow (type IV).

The size of the Cross is 34 x 34 mm.

### 142 GOLD CROSS SECOND CLASS

The Gold Cross Second Class is similar in size and details to the preceding one, except that on the reverse of the Cross the lower arm bears the inscription: "2nd Class". The Cross was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV), but without a bow.

### 143 SILVER CROSS THIRD CLASS

The Silver Cross Third Class is similar in size and details to the preceding one, except for being of silver and for bearing the inscription: "3rd Class" on the lower arm of the Cross. The Cross was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon with a bow (type IV).

### 144 SILVER CROSS FOURTH CLASS

The Silver Cross Fourth Class is similar in size and details to the preceding one, except for bearing the inscription: "4th Class" on the lower arm of the reverse of the Cross.

The Cross was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV), but without a bow.





## SAINT GEORGE CROSS FOR NON-CHRISTIANS Tsar Alexander II

Concurrently to the reform of 19 March 1856 which had established the Saint George Cross with Classes it was announced that the same change was effective for the Saint George Cross for non-Christians.

The military operations in the Caucasus against the rebel Murid tribesmen of Imam Shamil had been downgraded due to the 1853-1856 war that the Russian army was fighting on two fronts, in the Crimea and in eastern Turkey. With the termination of that conflict, seasoned troops were being transferred to the Caucasus under the overall command of Prince Alexandr Bariatsky. The creation of the four-class Saint George Cross for non-Christians was thus deemed important to continue to secure the active collaboration of the Muslims willing to fight alongside the Russian soldier, and to be able to award them with an even more prestigious award. From 1913 the Cross ceased to be awarded.

The Saint George Cross for non-Christians was awarded to non-commissioned officers and soldiers for bravery in the face of the enemy while serving in the Imperial Russian army.

### 145 GOLD CROSS FIRST CLASS

The obverse of the gold Cross First Class has a medallion bearing the likeness of the Russian Imperial eagle in relief.

The reverse of the Cross is similar to its obverse, except for the number of the award which is placed upon its horizontal arms and for the inscription: "1st Class" on its lower arm.

Both sides of the Cross have raised edges.

The Cross was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon with a bow (type IV).

The size of the Cross is 34 x 34 mm.

### 146 GOLD CROSS SECOND CLASS

The Gold Cross Second Class is similar in size and details to the preceding one, except that on the reverse of the Cross the lower arm bears the inscription: "2nd Class". The Cross was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV), but without a bow.

### 147 SILVER CROSS THIRD CLASS

The Silver Cross Third Class is similar in size and details to the preceding one, except for being of silver and for bearing the inscription: "3rd Class" on the reverse lower arm of the Cross. The Cross was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon with a bow (type IV).

### 148 SILVER CROSS FOURTH CLASS

The Silver Cross Fourth Class is similar in size and details to the preceding one, except for bearing the inscription: "4th Class" on the reverse lower arm of the Cross. The Cross was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV), but without a bow.





## MEDAL FOR THE WAR OF 1853-1856

The Medal was instituted on 26 August 1856 during the reign of Tsar Alexander II to commemorate the War of 1853-1856 and was officially known under the name of "Medal for the Eastern War".

While the military operations were continuing unrelentingly in the Crimean Peninsula, the Russian army and navy were engaged in violent confrontation in many other war theatres.

After the Russian Army had crossed the river Pruth in July 1853 and invaded Walachia and Moldavia no military activities had taken place in the region until spring 1854, when they crossed the Danube in force and laid siege to the Turkish fortress of Silistra.

The Turks confronted the Russians with unexpected vigour forcing them to raise the siege of Silistra and recross the Danube. The threat of an Austrian intervention, which would have gravely endangered the Western flank of the army was the main cause of a decision, which was taken to retreat to the better defensible Pruth River defence line.

Not all land operations were setbacks for the Russian forces: the Caucasian Army Corps advanced deep into eastern Turkey capturing the fortress of Kars. The garrison of the naval base of Petropavlovsk on the Kamchatka peninsula valiantly defended itself against a numerically stronger Franco-British amphibious invasion, forcing the enemy to sail away.

At sea a Russian Black Sea squadron under the command of Admiral Pavel Nakhimov attacked and sank fifteen Turkish warships moored in the northern Turkish naval base of Sinop.

The Medal was awarded to a wide variety of servicemen in the Imperial Army and Navy, who had actively participated in Europe and Asia in the war against Turkey and its allies.

The type of ribbon indicated to which particular group the receiver of the award belonged to.

### 149-149A BRONZE MEDAL

The obverse of the light bronze (149) or dark bronze (149A) Medal shows the intertwining, crowned ciphers of the Emperors Nicholas I and Alexander II topped by the all-seeing eye emanating flaming rays. The dates: "1853-1854-1855-1856." are placed under the ciphers.

The reverse of the Medal is plain except for an inscription signifying: "We have Set Our Hopes in Thee O Lord, Let Us Never Be Ashamed."

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from a ribbon.

It was awarded to non-commissioned officers, petty officers, enlisted men and sailors who had taken active part on land or at sea against the enemy or had defended the naval base of Petropavlovsk (ribbon type: IV); to all other servicemen, who had taken indirect part in the conflict (ribbon type: I); to a regiment of Cossack Cavalry, that had taken active part in the war as well as to militia and deserving civilians (ribbon type: V); to merchants and civilians, who had helped the war effort or aided the wounded (ribbon type: VI).

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.





150A

## COMMEMORATIVE CROSS TO THE CLERGY FOR THE WAR OF 1853-1856

The Cross was established on 26 August 1856 during the reign of Tsar Alexander II to commemorate the conclusion of the war of 1853-1856.

The Cross was officially known under the name of "Cross to the Clergy for the Eastern War".

The Medal for the War of 1853-1856 was awarded in great number to members of the Armed Forces and to a wide cross-section of the national population that had participated directly or indirectly in the conflict.

It was therefore deemed important to complement it by including the clergy that had untiringly given its religious support to the Russian warriors and to civilians at or behind the front lines.

Just over forty years earlier the clergy was similarly shown the gratitude of the rulers of the Nation by the creation of the Commemorative Cross to the Clergy for the 1812 war against the invasion of the armies of Emperor Napoleon I.

To celebrate the three hundredth anniversary of the Romanov dynasty a third and last commemorative cross for the clergy was created in 1913; it was bestowed upon those members of the clergy, who had officiated or assisted at divine services held on 21 February 1913.

The Cross to the Clergy for the Eastern War was specifically created to award the clergy for its active support during the Crimean war of 1853-1856 against the Ottoman Empire and its Allies.

### 150-150A BRONZE CROSS

The obverse of the light bronze (150) or copper (150A) Cross has arms which are decorated and have enlarged ends. In its centre it has the life-size reproduction of the obverse side of the Medal for the War of 1853-1856.

Rays appear between the arms of the Cross.

The reverse of the Cross is plain except for its centre being decorated with the reverse side of the Medal for the War of 1853-1856.

Rays appear between the arms of the Cross.

The Cross was worn round the neck suspended from a long and wide ribbon (type V).

The size of the Cross varies between 58 x 101 and 60 x 110 mm.





## MEDAL FOR THE SUBJUGATION OF CHECHNYA AND DAGHESTAN

The Medal was established on 15 July 1860 during the reign of Tsar Alexander II to commemorate the completion of the military operations in 1859, by which the Chechnya and Daghestan areas in the eastern Caucasus mountain range were incorporated into the Russian Empire.

After the fall in 1839 of the fortress of Ahulgo, the bastion of resistance of Imam Shamil, the Russian military leadership was confident that the confrontation with the Murid tribesmen would cease completely. This optimistic forecast did not materialise. The guerrilla warfare waged by the Caucasian tribesmen gradually increased in severity and the Russian Army was forced to wage a defensive war. In 1844 the military authorities decided to send reinforcements, and once again it became clear that it was not a matter of numerical superiority and modern matériel that counted, but the waging of warfare in an extremely difficult environment. The Caucasian tribesmen would attack suddenly and disappear as rapidly in a mountainous terrain, with which they were completely familiar.

Persia and Turkey viewed the fight of the rebellious Moslem tribesmen with great sympathy, but did not come to their help as most of the southern region of the Caucasus was firmly in the hands of the Russian Army. The military situation in the area continued to deteriorate for the Russians, and only after the end of the Crimean war in 1856 it was possible for them to transfer seasoned troops to the Caucasus.

In 1856 General, Prince Alexander Bariatinsky was named commander of the Eastern Army Group and ordered not only to restore the morale of the troops, but also to bring the campaign to a victorious conclusion. By the beginning of 1858 the lower Chechnya and the eastern part of Daghestan were in Russian hands, thus forcing the Murid tribesmen of the Imam to retreat deep into mountainous, nearly inaccessible regions.

Slowly but inexorably the Russian forces progressed, storming one mountain fortress after the other. On 25 August 1859 Shamil capitulated in the encircled *aoul* of Gunib.

On 13 August 1911 Emperor Nicholas II issued a decree stating that individuals that had suffered wounds in action were to add a bow to the ribbon of the Medal.

The Silver Medal was awarded to all officers, non-commissioned officers, enlisted men, and militia, who had taken active part in the Caucasian campaign of 1857-1859.

### 151 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal shows the cipher of Tsar Alexander II topped by the Imperial crown.

The reverse of the Medal has an inscription signifying: "For the Subjugation of Chechnya and Daghestan in 1857 1858 and 1859."

Both sides of the Medal have raised edges.

The award was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type XIII) with or without a bow.

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.





## MEDAL FOR THE EMANCIPATION OF THE SERFS

The Medal was established on 19 February 1861.

The Gold Medal was awarded to convey the personal gratitude of Tsar Alexander II to Governor-Generals and Governors for their work in the preparation of the reform for freeing the serfs from personal slavery.

The Silver Medal was awarded to members of the Reform Committees and to persons, who had prepared the drafts of the Statutes.

### 152 GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal shows the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander II facing left with a circumscription meaning: "★ I Am Thankful ★ 19 February 1861". The reverse of the Medal has the inscription signifying: "For Endeavours Towards the Emancipation of the Serfs ———". Both sides of the Medal have raised edges.

The Award was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type III).

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.

### 153 SILVER MEDAL

The Silver Medal is similar in size and details to the Gold Medal except for being made of silver.

## MEDAL FOR THE EMANCIPATION OF THE "PALACE" SERFS

The Medal was established on 26 June 1863.

The Gold Medal was awarded to convey the personal gratitude of Tsar Alexander II to persons who had prepared the drafts for the Reform for the Emancipation of the Serfs employed in the properties belonging to the Crown or to Members of the Imperial Family.

The Silver Medal was awarded to the substitutes of such persons.

### 154 GOLD MEDAL

The gold Medal shows the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander II facing left with a circumscription meaning: "★ I Am Thankful ★ 26 June 1863". The reverse of the Medal has the inscription signifying: "For Endeavours Towards the Emancipation of the Palace Serfs ———". Both sides of the Medal have raised edges.

The Award was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type III).

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.

### 155 SILVER MEDAL

The Silver Medal is similar in size and details to the Gold Medal except for being made of silver.





156



157A

## MEDAL FOR THE SUBJUGATION OF THE WESTERN CAUCASUS

The Medal was established on 12 July 1864 during the reign of Tsar Alexander II to commemorate the completion of the military operations in 1846, by which the territories of the Western Caucasus were subjugated and incorporated into the Russian Empire. Although the Chechnya and Daghestan regions had been conquered by 1859, the Cherkess population in north-western Caucasus was still stubbornly resisting the Russian forces. It was only by the end of 1863 that the Russians succeeded to subdue the Cherkess mountain tribes.

On 13 August 1911 Emperor Nicholas II issued a decree stating that individuals that had suffered wounds in action were to add a bow to the ribbon of the Medal.

The Silver Medal was awarded to officers of all ranks, non-commissioned officers, enlisted men and militia, who had taken active part in the campaign of 1859-1864 in the Western Caucasus.

### 156 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal shows the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander II. The signature of the engraver: "N. Kozin R."\* appears under the raised neck cut of the bust.

The reverse of the Medal has in the centre of field the dates: "1859-1864" and a circumscription signifying: "For the Subjugation of the Western Caucasus".

The award was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type XIII) with or without a bow.

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.

## CROSS FOR SERVICE IN THE CAUCASUS

The Cross was established concurrently to the Medal for the Subjugation of the Western Caucasus (155). The gold Cross was bestowed upon commanding officers of the 1859-1864 campaigns in the Western Caucasus. The silver and the bronze Crosses were awarded to non-commissioned officers, enlisted men, volunteers and militiamen, who had taken active part in the campaigns.

### 157-157A-157B CROSS

The Cross has a central medallion bearing the Imperial Arms of Russia, the upper arm of the cross the crowned cipher of Tsar Alexander II, the left and the right arms an inscription signifying: "For Service in the Caucasus", and the lower arm the date: "1864". Crossed swords protrude from under the cross.

The Cross is manufactured either in gold (157), silver (157A), or in light bronze (157B). The arms of the cross are enamelled black.

The reverse of the Cross is plain. The Cross was worn on the left side of the chest fixed to the uniform by means of a screw and a wing nut.

The size of the Cross is 48 x 48 mm.

\* (Nikolai Kozin engraved)





## MEDAL FOR THE PACIFICATION OF THE POLISH REBELLION

The Medal was established on 1 January 1865 during the reign of Tsar Alexander II to commemorate the completion of the military operations after which the Polish rebellion was quelled.

The death of Prince Ivan Paskevich in 1856, Governor General of the Kingdom of Poland, concluded a period of harsh repression and forced russification of the country. His successor was General Gorchakov who shifted gradually the policies of his predecessor towards a somewhat more lenient attitude towards Polish internal political activities.

In this he was supported by none others than Tsar Alexander II who, after the successful conclusion in 1863 of the reforms that had freed the Russian serfs, wished to introduce an agrarian reform in Poland.

The Polish politicians interpreted the new policy as a sign of weakness of the Russian government, and their secret patriotic meetings in the cities became more and more public, campaigning for a free and independent Polish Kingdom. The movement soon spread to the countryside and at the beginning of 1863 the Polish people rose in the so-called "January Revolution". Not having succeeded by political means to stop the rebellion the Tsar gave orders to intervene militarily and put an end to the disturbances, which was swiftly achieved, although Polish partisan groups continued to fight the rest of the year in some remote parts of the country.

Harsh reprisals against the leaders of the rebellion were immediately put into force either by condemning them to sentences of death or exile to Siberia. Poland was furthermore soon to lose its status of Kingdom, as it was to be subdivided into several provinces as integral part of the Russian Empire.

On 13 August 1911 Emperor Nicholas II issued a decree stating that individuals that had suffered wounds in action were to add a bow to the ribbon of the Medal.

The light Bronze Medal was awarded to officers of all ranks, non-commissioned officers, enlisted men, and militia, who had taken active part in the military operations against the Polish rebels. The dark Bronze Medal was awarded to non-combatant units of the Russian Army as well as to civilians, who had actively assisted the military in their campaign against the insurgents.

### 158-158A BRONZE MEDAL

The obverse of the light (158) or dark bronze (158A) Medal bears the arms of Imperial Russia.

In the centre of field the reverse of the Medal has the dates: "1863-1864" and a circumscription signifying: "For the Pacification of the Polish Rebellion".

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (XIV) with or without a bow.

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.





## MEDAL FOR THE AGRARIAN REFORM IN POLAND

The Medal was established on 19 February 1866 during the reign of Tsar Alexander II.

It was awarded to commemorate the successful completion of the work, which was needed to start the implementation of the agrarian reform in the Kingdom of Poland.

These reforms had long been under preparation as the hard working Polish farmer was of crucial importance for the process of russification in contrast to the uncompromisingly hostile attitude of the inhabitants of the larger Polish towns. The 1864 rebellion actually hastened the completion of the final drafts concerning the agrarian reform, as it was concrete results that were urgently needed instead of empty promises.

To ease the increased bureaucratic burden, which would arise in respect to land distribution, compensation and taxation, it was decided that the whole process would be administered locally, instead from far-away Russian Ministries.

Inevitably, the next step was to be the abolishment of the Polish Kingdom by incorporating the country into the Russian Empire, and by creating several new provinces with near-autonomous administrations. This was also a political reminder that Russia, after the Polish rebellions of 1831 and 1864, would not tolerate any new disturbances that could endanger the security of the Empire.

The Gold Medal was awarded to the highest authorities in Russia and Poland, both civilian and military, who were instrumental in the preparation and the carrying out of the Agrarian Reform in the Kingdom of Poland.

The Silver Medal was awarded to members of the Reform Committees and to persons, who had prepared the drafts of the statutes.

### 159 GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal shows the truncated busts of Tsars Nicholas I and Alexander II facing left with a circumscription divided in two parts. The first meaning: "26 May / 7 June 1864" and the second: "19 February / 2 March 1864".

The initials of the engraver: "R.N.K." \* are at the bottom of the Medal. The suspender of the Medal consists of a large Imperial crown.

The reverse of the Medal is plain, except for the inscription signifying: "For Endeavours for the Agrarian Reform in the Kingdom of Poland". A small loop is soldered to the reverse of the suspender of the Medal.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type III).

The size of the Medal is 28 x 39 mm.

### 160 SILVER MEDAL

The Silver Medal is similar in size and details to the Gold Medal except for being made of silver.

\* (Engraved by Nikolai Kozin)





## MEDAL FOR THE KHIVA CAMPAIGN

The Medal was established on 22 July 1873 during the reign of Tsar Alexander II to commemorate the conclusion of the Khiva campaign, which took place between February and August 1873.

The Khanate of Khiva was located to the south of the Aral Sea and bordered to the west the Amu Darya River and was centred around the oasis of Khiva.

The town of Khiva was already in existence in the VI century and was part of the Khorezm state, but was later conquered by the Persians, becoming its vassal state up to the end of the XVIII century.

The territory of the former Khanate of Khiva is divided today between the republics of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

One of the reasons for the 1873 campaign was to put an end to the continuous attacks on Russian caravans travelling from and to the Eastern markets by armed bands belonging to the Khanate of Khiva.

General Konstantin von Kaufman was ordered to lead a 13,000 strong army and attack the Khanate through a mostly arid and sandy region. The campaign was a success, and the Khan of Khiva was forced to surrender and to sign a treaty with Russia, by which the Khanate became a vassal state of the Russian Empire.

General Kaufman had been decorated for bravery with the Order of Saint George, Third Class, for the 1868 campaign against the Khanate of Bokhara. For the Khiva campaign he was awarded with the Order of Saint George, Second Class.

On 13 August 1911 Emperor Nicholas II issued a decree stating that individuals that had suffered wounds in action were to add a bow to the ribbon of the Medal.

The Silver Medal was awarded to all officers, non-commissioned officers, enlisted men, militia, volunteers and medical staff, who had taken active part in the Khiva campaign of 1873.

### 161 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal bears the cipher of Tsar Alexander II topped by the Imperial crown.

In the centre of field the reverse of the Medal has the date: "1873" and a circumscription signifying: "For the Khiva Campaign", with below an olive branch crossed by an oak branch.

The award was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type X) with or without a bow.

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.





162



162A



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162, 162A

## MEDAL FOR THE SUBJUGATION OF THE KHANATE OF KHOKAND

The Medal was established on 26 November 1876 during the reign of Tsar Alexander II to commemorate the end of the campaign against the Khanate of Khokand, which took place between August 1875 and September 1876.

The central Asian city of Khokand is located to the Southeast of the town of Tashkent on the Syr Darya river and in the Fergana valley. The Khanate of Khokand was already important in the X century, and it became the capital of the Uzbek Khanate, but was later conquered by the Persians, and became their vassal state up to the end of the XVIII century. The territory of the former Khanate of Khokand is divided today between the republics of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

In the sixties the Russians had conquered most of the territories under Turkestani rule as well as the northern regions of the Khanate of Khokand including the fortified city of Tashkent, which was the historic centre of the China-Central Asia trade route.

Sporadic attacks by armed bands belonging to the Khanate were the pretext for the Russians to start a new campaign and to capture its capital, Khokand.

General Mikhail Skobelev's troops invaded the Khanate through the Fergana Valley and forced the rulers to sign a treaty by which the Khanate became a vassal state of the Russian Empire.

The General was decorated with the Order of Saint George, Third Class, for the victorious battle of Balichki.

A year later, General Skobelev was to become one of the heroes of the 1877-1878 war against Turkey, following which Bulgaria was freed from the Turkish yoke.

On 13 August 1911 Emperor Nicholas II issued a decree stating that individuals that had suffered wounds in action were to add a bow to the ribbon of the Medal.

The Bronze Medal was awarded to all officers, non-commissioned officers, enlisted men, militia, volunteers and medical personnel, who had taken active part in the Khokan Khanate campaign of 1875-76.

### 162-162A BRONZE MEDAL

The obverse of the light bronze Medal bears the cipher of Tsar Alexander II topped by the Imperial crown (162). A second type has a highly ornate cipher topped by a very large Imperial crown with flowing pendelia (162A).

In the centre of field the reverse of the Medal has the date: "1875-1876" and a circumscription signifying: "For the Subjugation of the Khanate of Khokand ★".

The award was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type X) with or without a bow.

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.





## MEDAL FOR BLAMELESS SERVICE IN THE POLICE Tsar Alexander II

The Medal for the Blameless Service in the Police was instituted on 17 December 1876 during the reign of Tsar Alexander II.

The award was bestowed upon the lower ranks of the Police Force as well as to members of the Fire Brigades, who had served with distinction during a period of not less than five years.

Having reached ten years of blameless service in the Police Force or in the Fire Brigades the recipient was allowed to wear the award.

Some years later other categories of officials were awarded with the Medal for blameless service in the Police Force.

This well designed medal was also awarded throughout the reigns of Tsars Alexander III and Nicholas II, wearing the effigies of the new Sovereigns.

During the reign of Tsar Alexander III a nearly similar medal was introduced and awarded for blameless service to prison guard personnel.

### 163 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal bears the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander II facing right. There are no inscriptions.

The reverse of the Medal is plain, except for an inscription signifying: "*For Blameless Service in the Police*".

A wide wreath of laurel leaves, held at the top by a clasp, encircles both sides of the Medal.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type VI).

The diameter of the Medal varies between 34 and 37 mm.





Awarded to Princess Milena of Montenegro

164

## INSIGNIA OF DISTINCTION OF THE RED CROSS

The Award was established on 3 March 1878 which was the date of signature of the Peace Treaty between the Russian and Ottoman Empires.

The Russo-Turkish war of 1877-1878 started following widespread unrest in Bulgaria and Bosnia-Herzegovina, ruthlessly put down by units of the Turkish army. The news about the atrocities against the Christian population in Bulgaria rapidly spread throughout Europe, and Russia was quick to intervene by declaring war on the Ottoman Empire on 24 April 1877. The time had come to vindicate the defeat the Russian warrior had suffered in the 1853-1856 Crimean war.

As champion of the oppressed Slav population of the Balkans, the Russians could count on military assistance from the Serbs, the Montenegrins and especially from the Rumanians. The Russian army of the Danube under the command of Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaievich the Elder, brother of Emperor Alexander II, was soon joined by strong units of the Rumanian army. The invasion of Bulgaria started with the crossing of the Danube river.

Only after conquering the stronghold of Plevna and breaching the Balkan pass of Shipka, could the Russians march deep into southern Bulgaria and advance towards Adrianople (Edirne) reaching the Sea of Marmara at San Stefano (Yesilköy).

The Insignia of Distinction of the Red Cross was awarded to Russian and foreign ladies for praiseworthy work in alleviating the suffering of the wounded and sick during the 1877-1878 war against the Ottoman Empire.

One of the recipients of the award was Princess Milena of Montenegro, the wife of the staunch ally of Russia, Prince Nicholas of Montenegro. In 1910 Montenegro was proclaimed a kingdom\*.

The Insignia that was awarded to the Princess is reproduced on the opposite page.

### 164 GOLD INSIGNIA

The obverse of the open-work gold Medallion has the red-enamelled and gold-rimmed emblem of the Red Cross placed inside a wide circle, which bears an inscription signifying: *"For Comforting the Wounded and Sick Warriors ★"*.

The reverse of the Medallion is plain.

The Award was worn below the left shoulder suspended from a bow of the prescribed type of ribbon (III).

The diameter of the Medallion is 32 mm.

### 165 SILVER INSIGNIA

The Silver Medallion is similar in size and details to the preceding type, except for being made of silver.

The reverse side of the Medallion has the engraved award number placed in its centre.

\* See page 29 of "The Orders, Medals and History of Montenegro", Second Edition, by the same author.





## MEDAL FOR THE TURKISH WAR OF 1877-1878

The Medal was instituted on 17 April 1878 during the reign of Tsar Alexander II to commemorate the victorious conclusion of the 1877-1878 war against Turkey.

In 1875 Christian Slavs in Bosnia and Herzegovina had rebelled against the Turkish oppression, which was followed in 1876 by an insurrection in Bulgaria, ruthlessly put down by units of the Turkish Army and by irregulars. The tales of the atrocities spread throughout Europe and created mounting indignation in Russia, culminating in its Government declaring war on the Ottoman Empire on 24 April 1877.

On 26-27 June 1877 the bulk of the Russian Army under the command of Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaievich the Elder, brother of Tsar Alexander II, crossed the Danube near Sistova (Svishtov) his forces spreading in several directions. Their advance into Bulgaria was hindered by the strongly fortified town of Plevna, defended by the well trained forces of Osman Pasha, the veteran of the Crimean War. After a long siege and heavy fighting Plevna was finally captured towards the end of 1877 thus making it possible for the Russian Army to continue its campaign to liberate Bulgaria.

The Russian Army broke through the Shipka Pass and crossed the Balkan Mountain Range in force, captured Sofia, and advanced towards Adrianople (Edirne) reaching the Sea of Marmara at San Stefano (Yesilköy), twenty kilometres from Constantinople. On the Caucasian front the fortresses of Kars, Ardahan and Erzerum were captured.

On 13 August 1911 Emperor Nicholas II issued a decree stating that individuals that had suffered wounds in action were to add a bow to the ribbon of the Medal.

The Silver Medal was awarded to all ranks of the Imperial Russian Army, who either fought during the Turkish War of 1877-78 defending the Shipka Pass, were present at the blockade of Bayazet or participated in the storming of the fortress of Kars.

The Light Bronze Medal was awarded to all ranks of the Russian Army and Navy, who had participated in the battles on the Bulgarian or Caucasian fronts or in naval engagements in the Black Sea. The Dark Bronze Medal was awarded to servicemen who had not directly participated in battles.

### 166 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal shows a Russian cross standing upon a Turkish crescent. The cross is placed upon radiating flaming rays surrounded by the dates: "1877." and: "1878.". In the centre of field the reverse of the Medal has an inscription signifying: "Not Unto Us, Not Unto Us, But in Thy Name," \*, which is partly surrounded by a laurel wreath tied at the bottom with a ribbon.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IX) with or without a bow. The diameter of the Medal is 27 mm.

### 167-167A BRONZE MEDAL

The light (167) and dark (167A) Bronze Medals are identical in size and details to the Silver Medal, except for being made of bronze.

\* Verse extracted from Psalm 115.





### MEDAL FOR THE LIBERATION OF BULGARIA

The Medal was instituted on 17 April 1878 during the reign of Tsar Alexander II to commemorate the liberation of Bulgaria from the Turkish yoke.

The Bulgarian Campaign of 1877-1878 was initiated by a successful crossing of the Danube by the bulk of the Russian Army near Sistova (Svishtov). Cavalry and army units under the command of General Iosif Gurko rapidly advanced towards central Bulgaria first liberating Timovo, the ancient capital of Bulgaria, then Gabrovo and reached the strategically important Shipka Pass in the Balkan Mountain Range.

What started as a text-book military operation soon ground to an embarrassing halt when Russian forces attacking the fortified town of Plevna (Pleven) were beaten back. The town had a key position in the Turkish defence strategy and the fortress had received massive reinforcements of seasoned troops commanded by Marshal Osman Nuri Pasha. Added defensive positions were rapidly built by the Turks as it became clear that the Russians would lay siege and try to storm Plevna again. All available Russian and Rumanian forces were soon concentrated around the besieged town. It was not before 10 December 1877, after five months of bitter fight that the fortress finally capitulated. Meanwhile the defenders of Shipka Pass had heroically held their positions, thus blocking any reinforcements reaching Plevna from the south.

After the fall of the fortress the Russian Army was finally able to resume its long delayed advance into central Bulgaria, soon gaining victories over the Turks in the battles near Plovdiv (Philippopolis) and Adrianople (Edirne) routing the demoralised enemy forces. On 30 January 1878 Russian army units reached the shores of the Sea of Marmara to the immediate south of the capital of the Ottoman Empire. The campaign was thus concluded with the liberation of Bulgaria, and the humiliating defeat of the Crimean War was avenged.

The Bronze Medal was awarded to non-commissioned officers and enlisted men who took active part in the 1877-1878 campaign for the liberation of Bulgaria.

## 168 BRONZE MEDAL

The obverse of the light bronze Medal bears the laureate, truncated bust of Tsar Alexander II facing right with an inscription below signifying: "*Tsar Liberator*".

The circumscription means: "By the Grace of God Alexander II Emperor and Autocrat of All Russia \* 19 February 1878 \*".

In the centre of field the reverse of the Medal has a Russian Cross placed upon short radiating flames, with the Turkish crescent below. The circumscription signifies: "Who Sows with Tears Will Reap with Joy \* In Memory of the Liberation of the Bulgarian Brothers \*".

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.





© The State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg  
This specimen lacks the award number

171A

## MEDALS FOR BRAVERY Tsar Alexander II

The Medal for Bravery and the Medal for Bravery With Classes were established respectively in 1863 and on 3 August 1878 during the reign of Tsar Alexander II.

After the end of the victorious 1877-1878 war against Turkey in which nearly sixty four thousand Saint George Crosses had been awarded, it was deemed necessary to create a Medal for Bravery With Classes. The Medal was intended to be specifically bestowed upon border military personnel that had had a defensive role during and after that war. Their main duty had been to prevent any hostile or criminal incursion into the Russian Empire.

Just over twenty years after Russia had suffered a grave military defeat in the Crimea against the combined British, French, Sardinian and Turkish forces, Russia could celebrate the victorious campaign to liberate Bulgaria from the oppression of the Ottoman Empire.

The fall of the Bulgarian fortified town of Plevna was not only of great strategic value, but it had a revenging impact for Russia as the city was defended by none other than Osman Pasha, the veteran commander of the Turkish forces in the Crimea.

The Medals for Bravery were awarded to non-commissioned officers, soldiers and sailors for acts of valour in defending the borders of the Russian Empire.

### 169-169A GOLD MEDAL, GOLD MEDAL FIRST CLASS

The obverse of the Gold Medals show the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander II facing right encircled by an inscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Alexander II Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias."

The reverse of the Medal is plain, except for an inscription signifying: "For Bravery" (169) or with below it the award number and the inscription: "1st Class" (169A). The award was worn respectively at the neck or suspended from the prescribed ribbon with a bow (ribbon type IV).

The diameter of the Medals is respectively 50 and 28 mm.

### 170 GOLD MEDAL SECOND CLASS

The Gold Medal Second Class is similar in size and details to the Gold Medal First Class (169A), except that the reverse of the Medal bears the award number and has the inscription: "2nd Class"

The prescribed ribbon (type IV) lacks the bow.

### 171-171A SILVER MEDAL, SILVER MEDAL THIRD CLASS

The Silver Medals are similar in size and details to the Gold Medal and Gold Medal First Class, except for being of silver. The Silver Medal Third Class bears on its reverse side the inscription: "3rd Class"

### 172 SILVER MEDAL FOURTH CLASS

The Silver Medal Fourth Class is similar in size and details to the Gold Medal Second Class (170), except for being of silver and for bearing on its reverse side the inscription: "4th Class". The prescribed ribbon (type IV) lacks the bow.





## MEDAL FOR THE STORMING OF GEOK-TEPE

The Medal was instituted on 19 February 1881 during the reign of Tsar Alexander II to commemorate the siege and the storming of the Turkmen fortified town of Geok-Tepé on 12 January 1881.

The town is located in the Trans-Caspian region of Turkmenia bordering to the south with Persia and to the north with the former Khanate of Khiva of which it was a vassal state until 1873. The arid desert of Kara Kum covers nearly 90 percent of Turkmenia.

The conquest of Turkmenia was part of the long planned expansion of the Russian Empire towards Persia and Afghanistan. Unsuccessful attempts had taken place already in 1877-1879. Poorly organised expeditions and inexperienced leadership were to be blamed, but also the fact that the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878 took precedence on all other military activities.

After the Turks had been defeated in Bulgaria and in Eastern Asia Minor, and following the peace treaty of San Stefano which was followed by the Berlin Congress, the Russians started to prepare a new campaign to conquer Turkmenia. General Mikhail Skobelev was named the commander of the expedition. The general had been one of the heroes of the Bulgarian Campaign and was furthermore well acquainted of the difficult natural and climatic conditions of the area, as he had successfully led the conquest of the neighbouring Khanate of Khokan. Accompanied by a long caravan of camels bearing water, food and matériel, he attacked Turkmenia in December 1880 leading his men straight through the arid Kara Kum desert and laid siege to Geok-Tepé. Twenty days later the fortress was stormed and the spectacular campaign ended with the Turkmen warriors conceding defeat, their country becoming part of the Russian Empire. General Skobelev was awarded the Order of Saint George, Second Class, for brilliantly planning and executing the Turkmenia Campaign.

On 13 August 1911 Emperor Nicholas II issued a decree stating that individuals that had suffered wounds in action were to add a bow to the ribbon of the Medal.

The Silver Medal was awarded to all military personnel that had actively participated in the storming of Geok-Tepé. The Bronze Medal to all individuals having taken part in the 1879-1880 expedition to the East of the Caspian Sea.

### 173 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal bears the cipher of Tsar Alexander II topped by the Imperial crown. The edge of the Medal is decorated with beading.

The reverse of the Medal is plain, except for an inscription signifying: "*For the Storming of Geok-Tepé 12 January 1881*".

The award was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV) with or without a bow. The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.

### 174 BRONZE MEDAL

The Bronze Medal is identical in size and details to the Silver Medal, except for being made of light bronze.





## ALEXANDER II MEMORIAL MEDAL

The Medal was established on 12 March 1881 by Tsar Alexander III to commemorate the tragic death on 1 March 1881 of his father, Tsar Alexander II, who died in St Petersburg of wounds from a bomb thrown at him by a terrorist.

The Medal was bestowed upon members of the escorting squadron of Terek Cossacks.

### 175 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal bears the cipher of Tsar Alexander II topped by the Imperial crown.

The reverse of the Medal is plain, except for the inscription signifying: "First of March 1881".

The award was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type XV).

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.

## MEDAL FOR THE CORONATION OF TSAR ALEXANDER III

The Medal was established on 3 November 1883 to commemorate the coronation of Tsar Alexander III, which took place in Moscow on 15 May 1883 at the Uspensky Cathedral.

The Medal was awarded to persons of all ranks, military or civilian, who took active part in the ceremonies of the coronation.

### 176-176A BRONZE MEDAL

The obverse of the dark bronze Medal shows the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander III, facing right. The circumscription means: "By the Grace of God Alexander III Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias". The initials of the engraver: "L.S.R."\* may appear close to the lower rim of the Medal or the initials of the same engraver: "LS" may appear on the raised neck cut of the bust (176). A re-engraved issue bears the initials of the new engraver: "A.G."\*\* which is placed on the raised neck cut of the bust (176A).

The reverse of the cross is plain, except for the inscription meaning: "Crowned in Moscow on 15 May 1883."

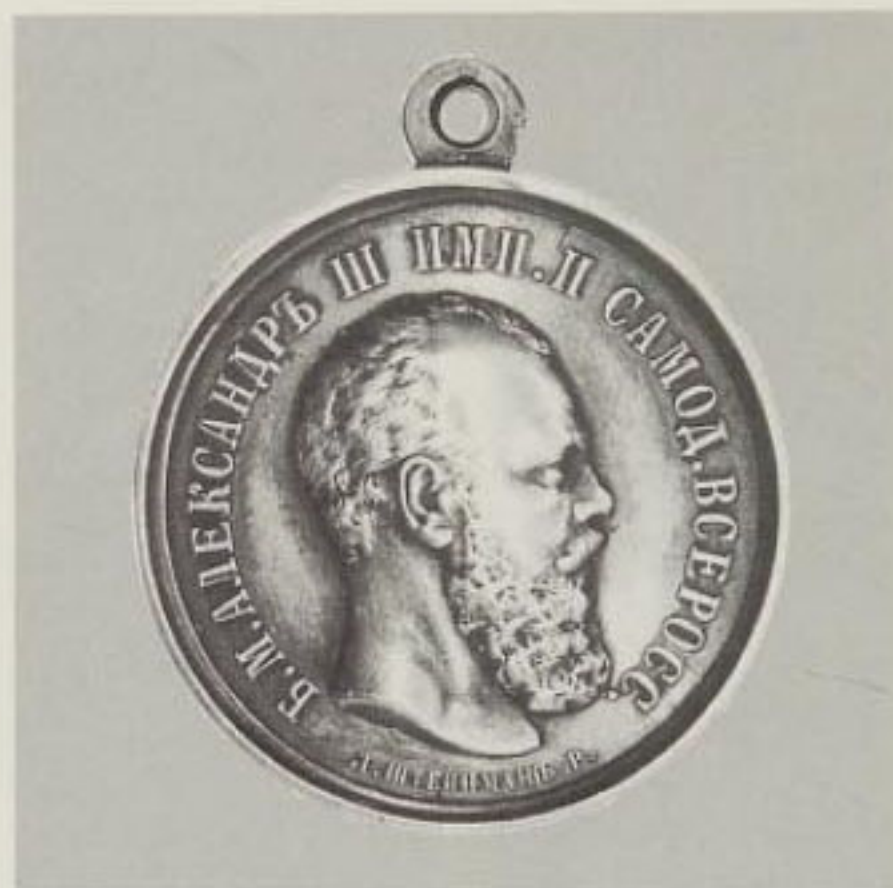
The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type III).

The diameters of the Medals are respectively 29 mm (176) or 28 mm (176A).

\* (Leopold Steinman engraved)

\*\* (Abraham Grilliches)





## MEDAL FOR ZEALOUS SERVICE Tsar Alexander III

The Medal was first instituted in December 1801 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I.

After the death of Tsar Alexander II, the Medal was reissued wearing the semblance of the new Sovereign, Tsar Alexander III.

The Medal was primarily awarded to merchants and farmers for their zealous service which was of benefit to the State.

Tsar Alexander III was the son of Tsar Alexander II.

### 177-177A-177B-177C SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the large and small issues of the silver Medal (177, 177A) bears the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander III facing right with a circumscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Alexander III Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias" with the signature of the engraver: "L. Steinman R." \* below.

At a later date the large and small Medals were issued bearing a re-engraved bust of the Tsar with the letters: "AG" \*\* appearing on the raised neck cut of the bust (177B, 177C).

The reverse of all the Medals has an inscription encircled by several concentric lines signifying: "For Zealous Service."

The larger Medals were worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon and the smaller ones were worn on the left breast, the type of ribbon denoting the specific reason for the awarding (ribbon types I, III, V or VIII).

The diameters of the Medals are respectively 51 mm (177, 177B) and 29 mm (177A, 177C).

\* (Leopold Steinman engraved)

\*\* (Avenir Grigorievich Griliches St.)





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179E

## MEDAL FOR USEFULNESS

### Tsar Alexander III

The Medal was first instituted in December 1801 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I.

After the death of Alexander II, the Medal was reissued wearing the semblance of the new Sovereign, Tsar Alexander III.

The Medals were awarded to citizens primarily for their useful support to the State in the fields of trade, production and agriculture.

#### 178-178A-178B GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal shows the truncated bust of Alexander III facing right with a circumscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Alexander III Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias". A similar issue has below the bust the name of the engraver: "L. Steinman R."\* (178A).

At a later date the Medal was issued bearing a re-engraved bust of the Tsar with the letters: "AG" appearing on the raised neck cut of the bust (178B).

The reverse of the Medals has an inscription signifying: "For Usefulness" encircled by several concentric lines or a wavy decorative pattern and an inner circular broken line.

The Medal was worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon (type VI or VIII).

The diameter of the Medal is 51 mm.

#### 179-179A-179B-179C-179D-179E SILVER MEDAL

The large (179/179B) and small issues (179C/179E) of the Silver Medal are similar in most details to the corresponding Gold Medals (178/178B), except for being made of silver.

The smaller Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type VI or VIII).

The diameters of the Medals are respectively 51 mm (179/179B) and 29 mm (179C/179E).

\* (Leopold Steinman engraved)

\*\* (Avenir Grigorievich Griliches Sr.)





181B

## MEDAL FOR ZEAL Tsar Alexander III

The Medal was first instituted in December 1801 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I.

After the death of Alexander II, the Medal was reissued wearing the semblance of the new Sovereign, Tsar Alexander III.

The Medals were awarded to civilians for their zealous support to the State, and to military personnel for long, zealous service in the Russian Imperial Army or Navy.

### 180-180A-180B-180C GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the large and small issues of the gold Medal (180, 180A) bears the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander III facing right with a circumscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Alexander III Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias" with below the signature of the engraver: "L. Steinman R." \*

At a later date the larger and smaller Medals were issued bearing a re-engraved bust of the Tsar with the initials of the engraver: "AG" \*\* appearing on the raised neck cut of the bust (180B, 180C).

The reverse of the Medals has an inscription encircled by four concentric lines and an inner circular broken line signifying: "For Zeal" •.

The larger Medals were worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon; the smaller ones were worn on the breast, the type of ribbon denoting the specific reason for the awarding (ribbon types III, V, VI or VIII).

Presentation Medals lacking the eyelet exist.

The diameters of the Medals are respectively 51 mm (180, 180B) and 29 mm (180A, 180C).

### 181-181A-181B-181C SILVER MEDAL

The large (181) and small (181A) issues of the Silver Medal are similar in size and most details to the corresponding large and small issues of the Gold Medals of the first type (180, 180A), except for being made of silver.

The re-engraved large and small issues of the Silver Medal (181B, 181C) are similar to the corresponding issue of the Gold Medal (180B, 180C), except for being made of silver.

\* (Leopold Steinman engraved)

\*\* (Avenir Grigorievich Griliches St.)





183A

## MEDAL FOR LIFE SAVING Tsar Alexander III

The Medal was first instituted on 17 April 1828 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas I.

After the death of Tsar Alexander II, the Medal was reissued wearing the semblance of the new Sovereign, Tsar Alexander III.

The Medals were bestowed upon individuals for deeds involving the saving of lives in peril.

### 182-182A-182B-182C GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the large issue of the gold Medal shows the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander III facing right encircled by an inscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Alexander III Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias." (182).

At a later date the Medal was reissued bearing the re-engraved bust of the Tsar with the initials of the engraver: "AG" \* appearing on the raised neck cut of the bust (182A).

The reverse of the Medal has an inscription signifying: "For Life Saving ———" encircled by an oak wreath tied by a ribbon at the top and the bottom.

The smaller issues of the Medal are similar in details to the large Medals, except for the missing encircling oak wreath on its reverse side (182B, 182C).

The large Medal was worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon, and the small Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type V).

The diameters of the Medals are respectively 51 mm (182, 182A) and 29 mm (182B, 182C).

### 183-183A-183B-183C SILVER MEDAL

The large and small issues of the Silver Medal (183/183C) are similar in size and details to the corresponding large and small issues of the Gold Medals (182/182C), except for being made of silver.

A bow would be added to the ribbon of the small issue of the Silver Medal if the receiver had been awarded twice with it.

\* (Avenir Grigorievich Griliches Sr.)





184, 184A, 185



184, 184A



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## MEDAL FOR BLAMELESS SERVICE IN THE POLICE Tsar Alexander III

The Medal was instituted on 17 December 1876 during the reign of Tsar Alexander II.

After the death of the Tsar the Medal was redesigned and issued around 1881 bearing the semblance of the new Sovereign, Tsar Alexander III.

It was bestowed upon the lower ranks of the Police Force and to members of the Fire Brigades, who had served with distinction during a period of not less than five years. Having reached ten years of blameless service the recipient was allowed to wear the award.

### 184-184A SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal bears the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander III facing right. There is no inscription of an engraver (184). On 25 February 1883 the Medal was reissued bearing the re-engraved bust of the Tsar with the initials of the engraver: "AG" \* appearing on the raised neck cut of the bust. The bust of the Tsar is encircled by an inscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Alexander III Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias." (184A). The reverse of both Medals is plain, except for an inscription signifying: "For Blameless Service in the Police". A wide wreath of laurel leaves, held at the top by a clasp, encircles both sides of the Medal. The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type VI).

The diameters of the Medals are respectively 33 mm (184) and 36 mm (184A).

## MEDAL FOR BLAMELESS SERVICE IN THE PRISON GUARD Tsar Alexander III

The Medal was instituted on 3 December 1887 during the reign of Tsar Alexander III.

It was bestowed upon the lower ranks of the Prison Guard, who had served with distinction during a period of not less than five years. Having reached ten years of blameless service the recipient was allowed to wear the award.

### 185 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal bears the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander III facing right encircled by an inscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Alexander III Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias." The initials of the engraver: "AG" \* appear on the raised neck cut of the bust. The reverse of the Medal is plain, except for an inscription signifying: "For Blameless Service in the Prison Guard".

A wide wreath of laurel leaves, held at the top by a clasp, encircles both sides of the Medal. The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type VI).

The diameter of the Medal is 36 mm.

\* (Avenir Grigorievich Griliches Sr.)





## MEDALS FOR BRAVERY Tsar Alexander III

The Medals for Bravery with and without classes were first introduced by Tsar Alexander II respectively in 1863 and 1878. After the death of the Emperor the Medals for Bravery were reissued around 1881 wearing the semblance of the new Sovereign, Tsar Alexander III.

The first Medal for Bravery had already been created in 1789 by Empress Catherine the Great, its awarding statute, remaining unclear. Gold and silver one-class Medals for Bravery were also issued by Alexander I and Nicholas I, the awards being given to very few individuals belonging to specific ethnic groups, especially to Cossack *Atamans* and later to loyal Caucasian chieftains. The Medal for Bravery was awarded to non-commissioned officers, soldiers and sailors for acts of valour in defending the borders of the Russian Empire.

### 186-186A GOLD MEDAL, GOLD MEDAL FIRST CLASS

The obverse of the Gold Medals show the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander III facing right encircled by an inscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Alexander III Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias".

The reverse of the Medal is plain, except for an inscription signifying: "For Bravery" (186) or with below it the award number and the inscription: "1st Class" (186A). The award was worn respectively at the neck or suspended from the prescribed ribbon with a bow (ribbon type IV).

The diameter of the Medals is respectively 50 and 28 mm.

### 187 GOLD MEDAL SECOND CLASS

The Gold Medal Second Class is similar in size and details to the Gold Medal First Class (186A), except that the reverse of the Medal has the inscription: "2nd Class".

The prescribed ribbon (type IV) lacks the bow.

### 188-188A SILVER MEDAL THIRD CLASS

The Silver Medal is similar in size and details to the Gold Medal Second Class, except for being made of silver. The Silver Medal Third Class bears on its reverse side the inscription: "3rd Class".

The Medal was worn suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV) with a bow.

### 189-189A SILVER MEDAL FOURTH CLASS

The Silver Medal is similar in size and details to the preceding one, except that the Silver Medal Fourth Class bears on its reverse the inscription: "4th Class".

The prescribed ribbon (type IV) lacks the bow.

The diameter of the Medals is respectively 29 and 28 mm.





191A

## MEDAL FOR LIFE SAVING Tsar Nicholas II

The Medal was first instituted in April 1828 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas I.

After the death of Tsar Alexander III the Medal was redesigned and issued around 1894 bearing the semblance of the new Sovereign, Tsar Nicholas II.

The Medal was bestowed upon individuals for deeds involving the saving of lives in peril.

### 190 GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal bears the truncated bust of Tsar Nicholas II facing left encircled by an inscription meaning: "*By the Grace of God Nicholas II Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias.*"

The reverse of the Medal has an inscription signifying: "*For Life Saving*" with at the left side a half-wreath composed of palm, laurel and oak branches tied at the bottom with a ribbon.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type V).

The diameter of the Medal is 30 mm.

### 191-191A SILVER MEDAL

The large and small issues of the Silver Medal (191, 191A) are similar in details to the Gold Medal, except for being made of silver.

The larger Medal was worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon and the smaller one on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type V).

A bow would be added to the ribbon of the small issue of the Silver Medal if the receiver had been awarded twice with it.

The diameters of the Medals are respectively 51 mm (191) and 30 mm (191A).





## MEDAL FOR BRAVERY Tsar Nicholas II

The Medal for Bravery With Classes was first established during the reign of Tsar Alexander II.

In the first years of the reign of Emperor Nicholas II, the Medal for Bravery was thoroughly redesigned and its statute changed.

During the reigns of Catherine the Great and her successors Medals for Bravery were awarded to a very few individuals belonging to specific ethnic groups, especially to Cossack *Atamans* and to loyal Caucasian chieftains, who had distinguished themselves during the wars against Persia and the Ottoman Empire. Tsar Alexander III had issued a decree that the Medal was to be awarded to non-commissioned officers, soldiers and sailors for acts of valour in defending the borders of the Russian Empire.

Tsar Nicholas II amended the decree by which the Medal for Bravery could henceforth be awarded to military and police personnel as well as to civilians, doctors and Red Cross nurses for acts of bravery in times of war.

### 192 GOLD MEDAL FIRST CLASS

The obverse of the gold Medal for Bravery shows the truncated bust of Tsar Nicholas II facing left encircled by an inscription meaning: "*By the Grace of God Nicholas II Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias*".

The reverse of the Medal bears an inscription meaning: "*For Bravery*" surrounded on its left side with a branch composed of palm, oak and laurel leaves bound at the bottom with a ribbon.

The award was worn at the neck suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The diameter of the Medal is 51 mm.

### 193 GOLD MEDAL SECOND CLASS

The Gold Medal is similar in details to the preceding one, except for its size.

The award was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV). Ladies wore the award on their left shoulder suspended from the prescribed ribbon formed as a bow (type IV).

The diameter of the Medal is either 28 or 30 mm.

### 194 SILVER MEDAL FIRST CLASS

The Silver Medal is similar in size and details to the Gold Medal First Class (192), except for being made of silver.

### 195 SILVER MEDAL FOURTH CLASS

The Silver Medal is similar in size and details to the Gold Medal Second Class (193), except for being made of silver.

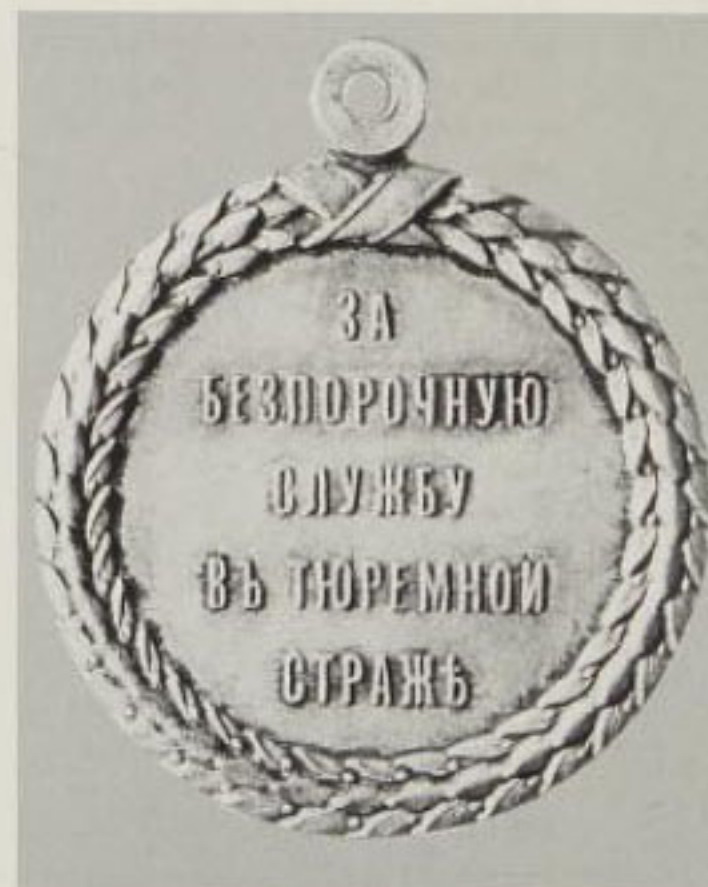




196, 197



196



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197

## MEDAL FOR BLAMELESS SERVICE IN THE POLICE Tsar Nicholas II

The Medal was first instituted in December 1876 during the reign of Tsar Alexander II.

After the death of Emperor Alexander III the Medal was redesigned and issued around 1894 bearing the semblance of the new Sovereign, Tsar Nicholas II.

The Medal was bestowed upon the lower ranks of the Police Force and to members of the Fire Brigades, who had served with distinction during a period of not less than five years.

After ten years of blameless service the recipient was allowed to wear the award.

### 196 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal bears the truncated bust of Tsar Nicholas II facing left encircled by an inscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Nicholas II Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias". The reverse of both Medals is plain, except for an inscription signifying: "For Blameless Service in the Police".

A wide wreath of laurel leaves, held at the top by a clasp, encircles both sides of the Medal.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type VI).

The diameter of the Medal is 36 mm.

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## MEDAL FOR BLAMELESS SERVICE IN THE PRISON GUARD Tsar Nicholas II

The Medal was first instituted in December 1887 during the reign of Tsar Alexander III.

After the death of the Emperor, the Medal was redesigned and issued around 1894 bearing the semblance of the new Sovereign, Tsar Nicholas II.

The Medal was bestowed upon the lower ranks of the Prison Guard, who had served with distinction during a period of not less than five years.

After ten years of blameless service the recipient was allowed to wear the award.

### 197 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal bears the truncated bust of Tsar Nicholas II facing left encircled by an inscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Nicholas II Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias". The reverse of the Medal is plain, except for an inscription signifying: "For Blameless Service in the Prison Guard".

A wide wreath of laurel leaves, held at the top by a ribbon, encircles both sides of the Medal.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type VI).

The diameter of the Medal is 36 mm.





199



201A

## MEDAL FOR USEFULNESS Tsar Nicholas II

The Medal was first instituted in December 1801 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I.

After the death of Tsar Alexander III the Medal was redesigned and issued around 1894 bearing the semblance of the new Sovereign, Tsar Nicholas II.

The Medal was awarded to citizens for their support to the State in the fields of trade, production and agriculture.

### 198 GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal bears the truncated bust of Tsar Nicholas II facing left with a circumscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Nicholas II Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias". The reverse of the Medal has an inscription signifying: "For Usefulness". The left side has a half-wreath composed of palm, laurel and oak branches tied at the bottom with a ribbon.

The Medal was worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon (type VI). The Medal exists without an eyelet. The diameter of the Medals is 50 mm.

### 199-199A SILVER MEDAL

The large and small issues of the Silver Medal are similar in details to the Gold Medal, except for being made of silver. The large Medal was worn at the neck suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type VI or VIII). The smaller Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type VI). The diameter of the Medals is respectively 51 mm (199) and 28 mm (199A).

## MEDAL FOR ZEAL Tsar Nicholas II

The Medal was first instituted in December 1801 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I.

After the death of Tsar Alexander III the Medal was redesigned and issued around 1894 bearing the semblance of the new Sovereign, Tsar Nicholas II.

The Medal was awarded to civilians that had shown exceptional zeal in the trade, production and social fields as well as to military personnel for zealous service.

### 200-200A GOLD MEDAL

The obverse of the gold Medal bears the truncated bust of Tsar Nicholas II facing left with a circumscription meaning: "By the Grace of God Nicholas II Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias". The reverse of the Medal has an inscription signifying: "For Zeal". The left side has a half-wreath composed of palm, laurel and oak branches tied at the bottom with a ribbon. The large Medal was worn at the neck suspended from a wide ribbon, the small Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (types I, III, V, VI or VIII).

The diameter of the Medals is respectively 51 mm (200) and 30 mm (200A).

### 201-201A SILVER MEDAL

The large (201) and small (201A) issues of the Silver Medal are similar in details to the corresponding Gold Medals (200, 200A), except for being made of silver.





### COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL OF THE REIGN OF TSAR ALEXANDER III

The Medal was established on 26 February 1896 by Tsar Nicholas II to commemorate the fifty-first year of birth of his late father, Tsar Alexander III.

The Medal was bestowed upon the higher ranks of the Armed Forces, civil servants and of the Clergy who were on active duty on that date.

#### 202 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal bears the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander III encircled by an olive branch and an inscription meaning: "Emperor Alexander III". The initials of the engraver: "AG" \* appear on the raised neck cut of the bust.

The reverse of the Medal has in the centre of field the dates: "1881 1894" with a large Imperial crown at the top and a cross at the bottom.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type III).

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.

### COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL FOR THE CORONATION OF TSAR NICHOLAS II

The Medal was established on 26 May 1896 to commemorate the coronation of Tsar Nicholas II, which took place in Moscow on 14 May 1896 at the Uspensky Cathedral.

The Medal was awarded to all civil servants, military personnel and individuals who took active part in the preparation of the ceremonies of the coronation.

At a later date the award was also bestowed upon women who had actively assisted in the preparation of the ceremonies.

#### 203 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal shows the truncated bust of Tsar Nicholas II, facing left. The circumscription means: "By the Grace of God Nicholas II Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias".

The reverse of the Medal has an inscription signifying: "Crowned in Moscow on 14 May 1896" with a large Imperial crown at the top.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type I).

When awarded to ladies the Medal was worn below the left shoulder suspended from a bow of the prescribed type of ribbon (type I).

The diameter of the Medal is 27 mm.



\* (Avenir Grigorievich Griliches Sr.)





## COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL OF THE REIGN OF TSAR NICHOLAS I

The Medal was instituted following a decree published on 25 June 1896 by order of Tsar Nicholas II.

It was created to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Tsar Nicholas II's great-grandfather, Tsar Nicholas I, who was born on 25 June 1796 at Tsarskoe Selo. Several months later a rather similar Medal was instituted and awarded to deserving teachers of three Military Institutes. The reverse of this Medal had a different inscription.

The Silver Medal was bestowed upon the higher ranks of the military and civilian personnel who performed active duty during the reign of Tsar Nicholas I.

The Bronze Medal was awarded to the lower ranks of the military and civilian personnel as well as to servants having been on active duty during the reign of Tsar Nicholas I.

### 204 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal bears the truncated bust of Tsar Nicholas I facing right encircled by an inscription meaning: "*Nicholas I Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias*."

In the centre of field the reverse of the Medal shows the dates: "1825 1855" with a circumscription signifying: "*In Memory of the Tsar \* For Serving Him Faithfully \**".

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type XVI).

The diameter of the Medal is 27 mm.

### 205 BRONZE MEDAL

The Bronze Medal is similar in size and details to the Silver Medal, except for being made of light bronze.





## MEDAL FOR THE CAMPAIGNS IN CENTRAL ASIA

The Medal was instituted on 14 July 1896 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas II.

The Award was created to commemorate the marking in central Asia of the final boundary between the Russian Empire, Persia and Afghanistan and in 1892 the mutually agreed one with China. The struggle between Great Britain and Russia for influence in Persia, Afghanistan and Turkestan had begun in the beginning of the XIX century. To defend her imperial interests and to protect the routes to India, Great Britain initiated a military expansion policy, which started by the taking of Assam followed by the conquest of Baluchistan and the invasion of Afghanistan.

The war in Afghanistan had been started to put an end to the Russian nascent influence in that country, but the war culminated for the British in the massacre of their forces occupying Kabul. The Russians had initiated their own military expansion in central Asia already during the reign of Tsar Nicholas I, later building several fortified outpost on the Turkestan frontiers, ostensibly to defend the passage of caravans, which were often attacked by armed bands belonging to the bordering Khanates.

These outposts became between 1853 and 1885 the springboards for the many central Asian campaigns that culminated in the seizure of the Turkmen territories, followed by an intensive diplomatic activity with China, resulting in a peaceful agreement concerning the demarcation of the common borders in the Pamir region.

On 13 August 1911 Emperor Nicholas II issued a decree stating that individuals that had suffered wounds in action were to add a bow to the ribbon of the Medal.

The Silver Medal was bestowed upon the higher ranks of the military and civilian personnel as well as upon doctors, Red Cross personnel and the clergy who had taken active part in the campaigns in central Asia. The Bronze Medal was awarded to the lower ranks of the military and civilian personnel, to militiamen and volunteers who had been on active duty during the campaigns.

### 206 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal bears the crowned cyphers of Tsars Nicholas I, Alexander II, Alexander III and Nicholas II.

The reverse of the Medal has an inscription signifying: "For the Campaigns in Central Asia in 1853-1895".

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type X) with or without a bow.

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.

### 207 BRONZE MEDAL

The Bronze Medal is similar in size and details to the Silver Medal, except for being made of light bronze.





## MEDAL FOR THE FIRST GENERAL CENSUS OF THE POPULATION

The Medal was instituted on 21 November 1896 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas II.

The Award was created to commemorate the successfully held first general census of the Russian population.

Considering the enormous distances involved and the lack of train or road access to many regions of the Empire, the positive result of the effort can only be described as astonishing. It took years of preparation and organisation, which was to be carried out by an army of registrars. The whole operation was also to cost the Russian government a very substantial amount of funds.

As a mark of his special favour, the Emperor gave order to create a beautiful golden, diamond studded jetton, to be presented by him to the persons that were directly responsible for the organisation and successful implementation of the census operations. The recipients were: Count S.Y. Witte, J.L. Loquinovitch, N.A. Troinitsky, P.P. Semenov Tian-Shansky and I.I. Wilson.

At the threshold of a new century the Russian Empire was experiencing a strong expansion in the fields of trade and industrialisation, and after the emancipation of the serfs, also in the agricultural production.

A general census of the population was therefore regarded as a necessary step in the process of modernisation of the country as well as in the possibility of an analysis of the compiled data.

The Medal was awarded to all civil servants and military personnel, who had been actively involved in the preparation and the implementation of the census.

### 208-208A BRONZE MEDAL

In the centre of field the obverse of the dark bronze (208) or light bronze (208A) Medal bears the crowned cipher of Tsars Nicholas II encircled by two laurel branches. The circumscription means: "First General Census of the Population".

The reverse of the Medal has an inscription signifying: "For Efforts in the First General Census 1897".

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type XVII).

The diameter of the Medals is respectively 29 mm (208) or 27 mm (208A).





## MEDAL FOR THE CAMPAIGN INTO CHINA

The Medal was instituted on 6 May 1901 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas II and was created to commemorate the 1900-1901 campaign that took Russian forces into China.

The Opium War provoked by Great Britain in 1839 forced China to grant territorial and commercial concessions to it in 1842; this was soon followed by the great world powers rushing to secure their own concessions in several Chinese ports on the seacoast or on large rivers as well as claiming and receiving extra territorial rights. A growing frustration and resentment against foreign dominance first led to local unrest but soon escalated to armed attacks by bands on alien and Chinese Christians in many parts of the country.

China was defeated in the 1894-1895 war against Japan and had to sign the Treaty of Shimonoseki by which she was forced to renounce her claims on Korea. Anti-foreign secret societies grew explosively and by late 1899 the Boxer Rebellion became a reality. In June 1900 hordes of Boxer rebels invaded Peking and laid siege to the international legations district, other units spread to the north occupying most of Manchuria, threatening the Russian town of Blagoveshchensk on the Amur river.

The reaction of the Great Powers was swift and co-ordinated: an expeditionary force was landed in the harbour of Tiensin with the order to fight their way to Peking and relieve the besieged legations. It was commanded by the German general von Waldersee and was comprised of English, French, German, American, Russian and Japanese troops. By August 1900 the relief forces had entered Peking liberating the besieged legations, following which the Boxer rebellion movement collapsed. Russia had won an easy victory, her territorial gains in Manchuria were formally sanctioned, but she had also gained the enmity of Japan whose plans of expansion towards Korea and Manchuria had been shattered.

On 13 August 1911 Emperor Nicholas II issued a decree stating that individuals that had suffered wounds in action were to add a bow to the ribbon of the Medal. The Silver Medal was awarded to all ranks of military personnel or to civilians, who had taken active part in the campaign. The Bronze Medal was presented to those who had not taken active part in the conflict, but were stationed in China or Manchuria during the campaign against the Boxer Rebels.

### 209 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal bears the crowned cypher of Tsar Nicholas II. The reverse of the Medal has in the centre of field the dates: "1900-1901" with below an anchor placed upon a crossed sword and rifle. The circumscription means: "For the Campaign into China". The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type XII) with or without a bow.

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.

### 210 BRONZE MEDAL

The Bronze Medal is similar in size and details to the Silver Medal, except for being made of light bronze.





## MEDAL FOR THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEFENCE OF SEBASTOPOL

The commemorative silver Medal for the fiftieth anniversary of the defence of Sebastopol was instituted on 16 September 1903 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas II and a bronze one was created on 15 December 1903.

The Governing Commission of the Sebastopol museum which was also responsible for the safeguard of the monuments of the defence of Sebastopol was given the task of determining the rightful recipients to be awarded with the Medal.

The heroic defence of the Russian naval base and town had lasted 349 days after which the city was reduced to rubble.

According to the clauses of the Crimean Peace Conference of 1856 the few fortifications of Sebastopol and its harbour facilities that still remained undamaged after the conclusion of the war were to be razed to the ground. By 1871 however, the defensive military works of the town and the harbour installations were being rebuilt and in 1890 Sebastopol became once again the principal naval base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet.

The town tragically endured a similar martyrdom in 1942 when it suffered an eight-month siege by the German and Rumanian forces. Bombardments by enemy artillery and planes completely destroyed the town and its military installations and the naval base fell to the enemy on 3 July 1942. Sebastopol was recaptured by the Soviet Army in May 1944.

The Silver Medal was awarded to all ranks of the army and navy, the clergy, the physicians and the nurses who had taken part at any of the battles that had taken place at Alma, Balaklava, Inkerman or at the Tchernaya river.

The Bronze Medal was bestowed upon all the members of the Commission for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the defence of Sebastopol upon completion of their task.

### 211 SILVER MEDAL

In the centre of field the obverse of the silver Medal shows a cross bearing the figure: "349" \* surrounded by a wreath of oak leaves. It is topped by the all-seeing eye emanating flaming rays. At the bottom are the dates: "1855-1905".

The reverse of the Medal is plain, except for an inscription in Old Church Slavonic signifying: "Our Fathers Trusted in Thee and Thou has Delivered Them".

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type IV).

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.

### 212 BRONZE MEDAL

The Medal is similar in size and details to the Silver Medal, except for being made of light bronze.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type V).

\* The figure represents the number of days Sebastopol was under siege.





## MEDAL FOR THE NAVAL BATTLE OF CHEMULPO

The Medal was instituted on 5 June 1904 to commemorate the battle between the Russian cruiser *Varyag*, the gunboat *Koreyetz* and warships of the Imperial Japanese Navy outside the Korean harbour of Chemulpo (Inchon).

The *Varyag*, a protected cruiser built by Cramp's in the USA, was one of the fastest cruisers of its time and was commanded by Captain V. Rudnev. The gunboat *Koreyetz* was commanded by Captain Belayev 2nd.

The Russian warships as well as the Italian cruiser *Elba* and the French *Descartes* were anchored just off Chemulpo. Six Japanese cruisers appeared suddenly and blockaded the harbour. At 11:30 A.M. with its band playing the national anthem, the *Varyag* slowly passed the foreign cruisers and advanced on a dead calm sea towards the Japanese line of warships. Nobody could foresee the intention of the intruders, but the Japanese flagship raised a signal ordering the Russian warships to surrender. In answer Captain Rudnev commanded that the battle flags be raised and the two ships advanced towards the enemy line.

The battle began some 4 km from the breakwaters of Chemulpo harbour. The Japanese opened fire and in a few minutes the *Varyag* was reduced to a smocking wreck. Most of its guns were disabled, and all the men on the deck were killed or wounded. The cruiser listing heavily to port retreated towards the harbour and finally anchored close to the foreign cruisers. In the early hours of the afternoon seeing the Japanese battle fleet approach the harbour, Captain Rudnev ordered the *Varyag* scuttled. The *Koreyetz* practically undamaged was blown up after its crew was put ashore. The surviving officers and sailors of the *Varyag* and part of the crew of the *Koreyetz* were allowed to return to Russia and were met on 29 April 1904 by the Emperor and the Grand Dukes Alexis, Vladimir, Nicholas and Peter at the Nicholas Railways Station in St Petersburg. At the end of the war the Japanese were able to raise the *Varyag* and after being refitted it served in the Japanese navy as the *Soya*. But the fate of the *Varyag* was not to end its life under the flag of the rising sun. In 1916 the Japanese returned to Russia a few warships and one of these was the *Soya*, which was once more renamed *Varyag* and could again raise the flag of St Andrew.

The Medal was awarded to the survivors of the two warships.

### 213 SILVER MEDAL

In the centre of field the obverse of the silver Medal bears the Saint George Cross with a flowing ribbon surrounded by a laurel wreath tied at the bottom with a ribbon. The circumscription means: "For the Battle of the *Varyag* and *Koreyetz* 27 January 1904-Chemulpo."

The reverse shows the two Russian warships engaging the Japanese fleet. In the background there are clouds surmounted by a cross.

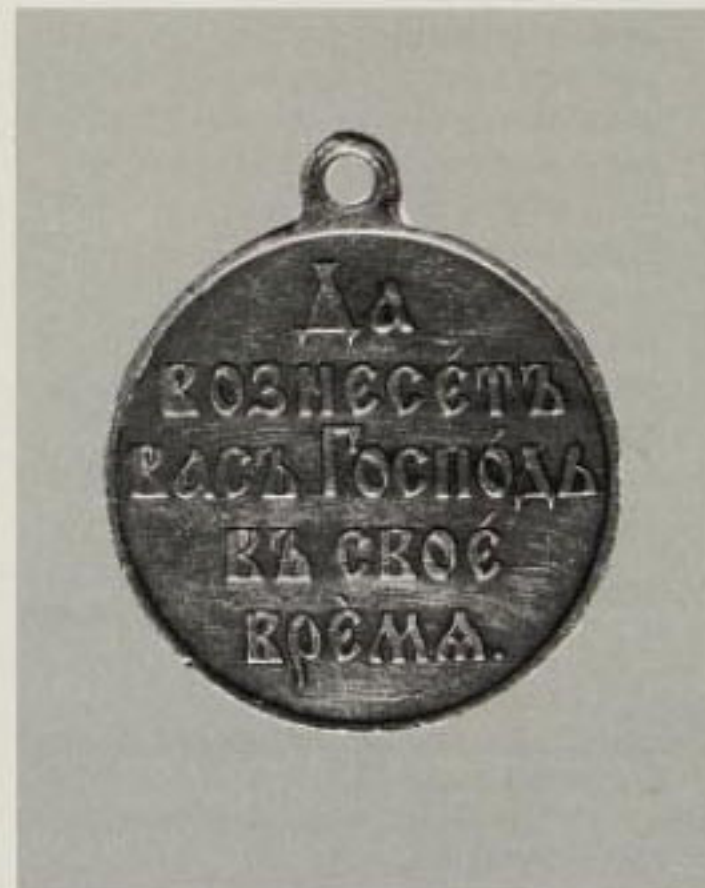
The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type XVIII).

The diameter of the Medal is 30 mm.





214



215

## RED CROSS MEDAL FOR THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

The Medal was instituted on 19 January 1906 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas II.

The Award was bestowed upon all ranks of the Red Cross and of the medical personnel who had assisted the wounded and the ill during the 1904-1905 Russo-Japanese war.

### 214-214A SILVER MEDAL

The red-enamelled symbol of the Geneva Cross is superimposed upon the obverse of the silver Medal.

The reverse of the Medal is plain, except for an inscription signifying: "*Russo Japanese War 1904-1905*".

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type III). When awarded to ladies the Medal was worn below the left shoulder suspended from a bow of the prescribed type of ribbon (type III).

The diameter of the Medal is either 28 (214) or 23 mm (214A).

## MEDAL FOR THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

The Medal was instituted on 21 January 1906 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas II.

The Award was created to commemorate the 1904-1905 conflict between the Russian and the Japanese Empires.

On 1 March 1906 Emperor Nicholas II issued a decree stating that individuals that had suffered wounds in action were to add a bow to the ribbon of the Medal.

The Silver Medal was bestowed upon all ranks of military and civilian personnel that were stationed in Port Arthur during the siege which lasted from May to December 1904.

The light Bronze Medal was bestowed upon the higher ranks of the military and civilian personnel, border guards and volunteers that had taken active part in the conflict. The dark Bronze Medal was awarded to medical and clerical personnel that had been on active duty in the eastern Siberian regions adjacent to the territories declared as war zone.

### 215 SILVER MEDAL

In the centre of field the obverse of the silver Medal bears the all-seeing eye emanating flaming rays with the dates: "*1904-1905*," inscribed below.

The reverse of the Medal is plain, except for an inscription signifying: "*May God Resurrect You When Time Comes*".

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type XIII) with or without a bow.

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.

### 216-216A BRONZE MEDAL

The light (216) and the dark bronze (216A) Medals are identical in size and details to the Silver Medal (215), except for being made of bronze.





## MEDAL FOR THE FAR EAST NAVAL EXPEDITION

The Medal was instituted on 19 February 1907 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas II to commemorate the ill-fated Far East naval expedition of 1904-1905.

In early 1904 the Japanese Empire severed diplomatic relations with Russia and launched a surprise attack against a powerful squadron of the Russian Pacific fleet harboured at Port Arthur as well as upon two warships anchored at Chemulpo. The Second Japanese army invaded the Liao-Tung peninsula and laid siege to the base itself, while the Fourth and First armies pushed north towards Manchuria. The Russian naval squadron of Port Arthur had been badly mauled by the Japanese surprise attack and had suffered further damage by mines placed by the enemy close to the entrance of the harbour. The naval and military situation in the Far East continuing to be precarious and Port Arthur being in its fifth month of siege, it was decided in October 1904 in St Petersburg that a powerful naval squadron of the Baltic fleet be dispatched in all haste to relieve the besieged fortress.

Admiral Zinovy Petrovich Rozhdestvensky was chosen to lead the fleet from the Baltic Sea to its distant Far Eastern destination. The British government having denied passage to the Russian fleet through the Suez Canal, Admiral Rozhdestvensky was forced to sail around the Cape, thus considerably lengthening the voyage and undermining the morale aboard the warships. After frequent stops to be resupplied with coal, water and provisions, the Admiral learned in January 1905 that Port Arthur had surrendered to the Japanese; his final destination thus became the Russian naval base of Vladivostok, which meant that the fleet had to pass the Strait of Tsushima located between southern Korea and the Japanese islands.

The Japanese fleet under command of Admiral Togo was cruising in the strait and attacked the Russian fleet in the afternoon of 27 May 1905. Having sailed for nearly eight months the Russian officers and sailors were ill-prepared for the battle, but tried heroically to fight back, but to no avail. What followed was the near-destruction of the Russian Baltic fleet.

On 13 August 1911 Emperor Nicholas II issued a decree stating that individuals that had suffered wounds in action were to add a bow to the ribbon of the Medal.

The Medal was bestowed upon all surviving naval personnel which had participated in the Far East naval expedition. The officers and petty officers were awarded with the Silver Medal and the sailors with the Bronze Medal.

### 217 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal bears in its centre of field a large anchor flanked by the dates: "1904 1905". The reverse of the Medal shows the map of the Eastern Hemisphere in relief indicating the route sailed by the Baltic Fleet.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type XIV) with or without a bow. The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.

### 218 BRONZE MEDAL

The Medal is similar in size and details to the Silver Medal, except for being made of dark bronze.





219

## CROSS FOR THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE 1857-1859 WAR IN THE CAUCASUS

The Cross was instituted in 1909 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the end in 1859 of the war in the Chechnya and Daghestan areas of eastern Caucasus.

The military operations waged by the Russian forces against the Caucasian tribes called Murids, led by Shamil, the third Imam of Daghestan ended victoriously in 1859.

The fall of the fortress of Ahulgo in September 1839, centre of the Imam's stubborn resistance against the invading Russian forces did not result in the cessation of the hostilities. Having managed to escape from the fortress, Shamil continued to wage war against his enemy during twenty more years in the harsh, forbidding regions high in the Caucasian mountain ranges.

Not until August 1859 being encircled in the mountainous *abul* of Gunib, Shamil was finally forced to capitulate. Hence all of the Chechnia and Daghestan region was incorporated into the Russian Empire.

The completion of all military operations in the Caucasus first ceased in 1864 with the end of the 1859-1864 war in Western Caucasus against the stubborn resistance of the Cherkess tribes.

With the exception of the Cossack units, the Russian soldier had initially not been prepared to wage war in such extremely difficult and for him unusual terrain, where the enemy most of the time was invisible and could not be forced into an open confrontation.

It was only at a later stage of the long war that powerful reinforcements and the use of light mountain artillery made it possible for the Russian forces to attack and dislodge the dreaded mountaineers from one fortified village after the other, thus slowly gaining complete mastery of the Caucasus.

The commemorative Cross was bestowed upon higher ranking officers who had taken active part in the 1857-1859 Caucasian campaign and reportedly also to those who participated in the 1859-1864 final Caucasian campaign.

### 219 GOLD CROSS

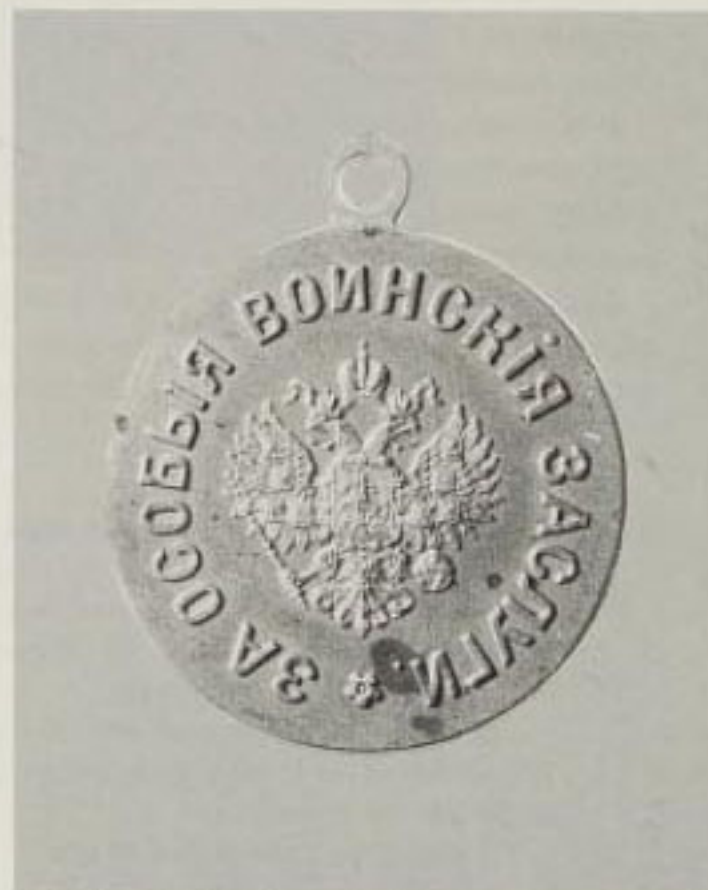
The crowned, silver gilded Cross shows in the central medallion the large Latin numeral: "L" with the left arm of the cross being inscribed with the year: "1859" and the right one with: "1909". Crossed swords protrude from under the cross, the left tip of the blade is decorated with the crowned cipher of Tsar Alexander II and the right one with that of Tsar Nicholas II.

The medallion and the arms of the cross are enamelled black.

The reverse of the Cross is plain, except for a pin to attach the award which was worn on the left side of the body.

The size of the Cross is 44 x 48 mm.





## MEDAL COMMEMORATING THE CREATION OF PARISH SCHOOLS

The Medal was instituted on 29 May 1909 by Tsar Nicholas II to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the creation of parish schools in the Russian Empire.

It was Tsar Alexander III that had taken the initiative in 1884 to create parish schools throughout the Empire.

The principal aim was to combat rampant illiteracy particularly in the remote areas of the country.

The Medal was bestowed upon clerical, administrative and medical personnel that had obtained during a period of 10 years exemplary pedagogic achievements in their parish schools.

### 220 SILVER MEDAL

The obverse of the silver Medal bears the busts of Emperors Alexander III and Nicholas II facing left wearing robes trimmed with ermine. The busts are surmounted by a small Imperial crown. The encircling inscription signifies: "Emperor Alexander III Emperor Nicholas II".

The reverse of the Medal shows an open book inscribed with the first eight letters of the Russian alphabet surmounted by a Russian cross placed upon a sun emanating flaming rays. On the left is the date: "1884" and on the right: "1909".

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type XVI).

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.

## MEDAL FOR SPECIAL MILITARY DEEDS

The Medal was instituted on 1 May 1910 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas II.

It was awarded to all ranks of the military personnel who had been cited by their superiors for having accomplished special achievements in reinforcing coastal fortifications and in the construction of railroad links in the Baltic area of the Empire.

### 221 BRONZE MEDAL

The obverse of the light bronze Medal bears the truncated bust of Tsar Nicholas II facing left.

In the centre of field the reverse of the Medal shows the arms of Imperial Russia and bears the circumscription signifying: "For Special Military Deeds".

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type D).

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.





## COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL FOR THE BATTLE OF POLTAVA

The Medal was instituted on 17 June 1909 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas II.

The Medal was created to commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of the battle of Poltava which took place on 27 June 1709.

The anniversary of the battle was marked with celebrations held in the capital, in Moscow and in several major Western towns of the Empire, as well as on the site where the battle had taken place, not far from the town of Poltava. It was there that the armies of Tsar Peter I and the Swedish King Charles XII had confronted each other in a decisive battle for the mastery of northern Europe.

The well trained and experienced Swedish army had advanced from Poland and having crossed the river Vistula invaded central Russia, marching in the direction of Moscow expecting to confront the Russians at any moment.

The strategy of Tsar Peter and his generals was of a deliberately evasive nature, using a scorched earth tactic, to constantly harass the supply lines of the enemy and mostly engage him with swift attacks followed by just as rapid disengagements. Still hoping to confront the bulk of the Russian army in a full fledged battle the Swedes were driven months after months towards south, away from Moscow.

By the time Tsar Peter and his staff had decided to give battle, his army was well entrenched near Poltava, was highly motivated and was fully prepared to stand and fight. The Swedish army, on the other hand, had lost many of his troops, was short of food and military supplies, but was still a formidable and well trained adversary, commanded by experienced leaders.

The outcome of the battle of Poltava was a total defeat for the Swedes, their King fleeing south wounded and his dreams to become the supreme ruler of northern Europe shattered.

The Medal was awarded to a very great number of individuals: to all ranks of military personnel that took part in the official ceremonies and to the parades held on the fields where the great battle had been fought, to civilians who had actively assisted to the preparation of the ceremonies and to the authorities that had taken part in the festivities.

### 222 BRONZE MEDAL

The obverse of the light bronze Medal bears the laureate, truncated bust of Tsar Peter I facing left.

The reverse of the Medal is plain, except for an inscription signifying: "Poltava 1709 Know About Peter that for Him Life Was Not Dear Only that Russia Might Live 1909".

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type I).

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.





## COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL FOR THE CENTENARY OF THE 1812 WAR

The Medal was instituted on 12 August 1912 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas II.

The Medal was created to commemorate the centenary of the end of the campaign on Russian soil against the Napoleonic invaders.

The anniversary was marked by extensive celebrations both in Moscow and on the site where the great battle of Borodino between the French and the Russians had taken place. Solemn religious services were also officiated in many Russian churches and a silver Ruble was minted to commemorate the French withdrawal in 1812.

The outcome of the incredibly bloody battle of Borodino, which took place on 26 August 1812, was considered at the time inconclusive, as both sides had suffered appalling losses in human life and matériel.

The Russians slowly retreated from the battlefield drawing the enemy further and further inland and away from the all important supply routes, finally letting the French enter Moscow on 13 September. Having waited in vain for five weeks for Russian emissaries requesting peace negotiations the French Emperor decided to abandon Moscow and retreat in the direction of Poland.

The retreating French army was constantly attacked by the Russian army, the Cossacks, the territorial and the partisan units and by the time they had reached and crossed the Berezina river the retreat had become a rout. By early December 1812 the exhausted, decimated remains of the once mighty *Grande Armée* had left Russian soil.

Years later it became clear to many historians that the battle of Borodino in reality was the turning point of Napoleon's victorious military achievements and that the loss of fifty thousand of his most experienced soldiers and some of his ablest generals inexorably led to his final defeat at Waterloo three years later.

The Medal was awarded to a very great number of individuals: to all ranks of the military personnel that took part in the ceremonies in Moscow and in the parades held on the fields of Borodino, to civilians who had actively assisted to the preparation of the ceremonies and to a wide range of officials who were present at the festivities.

### 223 BRONZE MEDAL

The obverse of the light bronze Medal bears the truncated bust of Tsar Alexander I facing right.

The reverse of the Medal is plain, except for an inscription signifying: "1812 This Glorious Year Went By, But the Heroic Deeds Then Performed Will Never Pass — 1912".

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type V).

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.





## COMMEMORATIVE CROSS TO THE CLERGY FOR THE TERCENTENARY OF THE ROMANOV DYNASTY

The Cross was established on 24 January 1913 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas II to commemorate the three hundredth anniversary of the Romanov dynasty.

The tercentenary jubilee had begun in St Petersburg in March 1913 with a solemn thanksgiving service which took place at the Our Lady of Kazan Cathedral, and was officiated by Antonij, Metropolitan of St Petersburg and Ladoga. The Imperial Family was joined by government ministers, members of the Duma, national delegations and the ambassadors of foreign nations. All over the Russian Empire, in cathedrals, churches and monasteries similar religious services were held. During the following months religious ceremonies were officiated in all the cities visited by the Tsar and his family.

This Commemorative Cross is the third and last such award specifically created to be bestowed upon clergymen. The first was created in 1814 to commemorate the end of the campaign on Russian soil against the Napoleonic invaders, while the second was instituted in 1856 to commemorate the end of the 1853-1856 war against the Ottoman Empire and its allies.

The Cross was awarded to those members of the clergy, who had officiated or assisted at divine services held on 21 February 1913. There are several known versions of this Cross.

### 224 GOLD CROSS

In the centre of field the obverse of the silver gilded Cross has a black-enamelled Russian cross placed upon a white-enamelled Latin cross with the arms widening from the centre, the ends of the arms being convex. In turn the cross is placed upon a Latin cross with the arms widening from the centre and with irregular ends of the arms. The tips of the cross are black-enamelled and are decorated with three green-enamelled leaves. Between the arms of the cross is a wide green-enamelled, decorative circle. The upper arm of the cross is surmounted by the Cap of Monomakh\* which has a red-enamelled lining. The tip of the lower arm of the cross is decorated with three droplets.

The reverse of the Cross is un-enamelled and has in the centre of field a cross with arms widening from the centre. The encircling inscription signifies: *"The Tsars Rule by the Grace of God ✠"*. The upper arm of the cross is decorated with the Romanov coat of arms, the left one has the crowned cipher: "M" the right one the crowned cipher: "N II" and the lower one the dates in Old Cyrillic: "1613 1913".

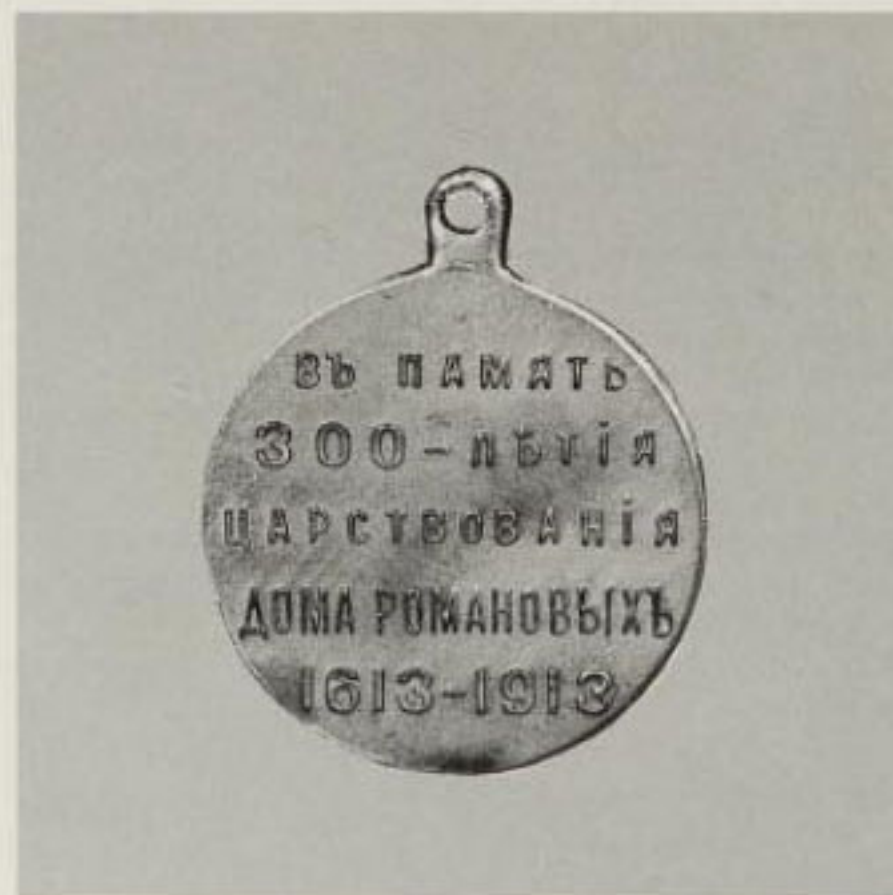
The Cross was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type V). The size of the Cross is 40 x 65 mm.

### 225 BRONZE CROSS

The Bronze Cross is similar in size and details to the Gold Cross, except for being made of light bronze.

\* Vladimir Monomakh, twelfth-century ruler of Kievan Rus is said to have been crowned with the Cap.





## COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL FOR THE TERCENTENARY OF THE ROMANOV DYNASTY

The Medal was instituted on 21 February 1913 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas II to commemorate the three hundredth anniversary of the Romanov dynasty.

Shortly after the conclusion of the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-1905 a series of awards were created to commemorate the conflict and to distract the political and military focus from its disastrous outcome. A few years later preparations were commenced to celebrate two jubilees, in 1909 the two hundredth anniversary of the victorious battle of Poltava followed in 1912 by the hundredth anniversary of the ousting of Napoleon's armies from Russian soil. Both jubilees became impressive, festive and popular celebrations highlighting the heroic and victorious Russian armies.

Preparations for the solemn national celebration to commemorate the tercentenary were started in an atmosphere of political unrest and mounting popular hostility against the rulers of the country. Rapidly growing industrialisation had created a working class which had embraced syndicalism as well as socialism and the Russian government was constantly confronted with strikes and political assassinations.

Grandiose festive arrangements were prepared not only in the capital and in Moscow, but also in many smaller towns that had a historic relationship to the Romanov dynasty. Government ministers, members of the Duma and national delegations invited from the furthest corners of the Empire were to take part in the celebrations. From abroad came relations from most of the European Royal houses and the representatives of many foreign governments.

Concern about disturbances, strikes or the constantly present threat of attempts on the life of authorities did not materialise. Instead the dynastic celebrations succeeded beyond any expectations as they became a festive occasion enthusiastically shared by the great majority of the Russian people.

Many Commemorative Medals were unofficially minted; they were made of gold, gilded silver as well as of bronze.

The Medal was awarded to a very great number of individuals, civilian or military, who either had participated in the Jubilee ceremonies or were on duty on 21 February 1913.

### 226 BRONZE MEDAL

The obverse of the gilded or light bronze Medal bears the uniformed bust of Tsar Nicholas II and the bust of Tsar Michael Feodorovich wearing the Cap of Monomakh\*, both facing three-quarters right. The busts are partly encircled by two lines, the outer one being a decorative broken line.

The obverse of the Medal is plain except for an inscription signifying: *"In Memory of the Tercentenary of the Rule of the House of Romanov"*.

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type XIV).

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.

\* Vladimir Monomakh, twelfth-century ruler of Kievan Rus is said to have been crowned with the Cap.





230B

## SAINT GEORGE CROSS Tsar Nicholas II

A major reform was enacted by Emperor Nicholas II on 10 August 1913 as a decree was passed concerning the statute of the Military Order of Saint George and that of the Insignia of Distinction of the Military Order. Apart from administrative amendments it was decided that the Medal for Bravery which had been founded in August 1878 by Emperor Alexander II, was to be attached to the Military Order of Saint George under the new name of: "Saint George Medal for Bravery". Thus the range of awards with the prestigious Saint George name increased even further. From 23 June 1915 the Gold Crosses were manufactured with a reduced content of gold, which was indicated by a small circle on the reverse lower arm of the cross. At a later date the inscription: "1/M" was added to the upper reverse arm of the Cross Fourth Class indicating that the award number had passed the one millionth mark. In January 1917 two small letters in Cyrillic were added to the reverse of the Crosses indicating substitute yellow or white metal. The Saint George Cross was awarded to non-commissioned officers, soldiers and sailors for exceptional bravery in the face of the enemy.

### 227-227A-227B GOLD CROSS FIRST CLASS

The obverse of the Cross has a medallion bearing the likeness of a cuirassed and helmeted St George riding towards right, slaying the dragon with a spear. The reverse of the Cross is similar except for its medallion bearing the Saint's cipher: "SG", for the number of the award placed upon its horizontal arms and for the lower arm bearing the indication: "1st Class". The Cross may have a small circle on its reverse lower arm (227A) or the Cyrillic letters: "Ж" and "М" added to its reverse horizontal arms indicating substitute "yellow metal" (227B). Both sides of the Cross have raised edges.

The Cross was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon with a bow (type IV). The size of the Cross is 34 x 34 mm.

### 228-228A-228B GOLD CROSS SECOND CLASS

The Cross is similar in size and details to the preceding one, except that the lower arm on the reverse of the Cross bears the inscription: "2nd Class". The eventual use of reduced content of gold (228A) or substitute metal (228B) may be similarly indicated.

The prescribed ribbon (type IV) lacks the bow.

### 229-229A SILVER CROSS THIRD CLASS

The Silver Cross Third Class is similar in size and details to the preceding one, except for being of silver and for bearing on its reverse lower arm the inscription: "3rd Class". The eventual use of substitute "white metal" may be indicated on its reverse side with the Cyrillic letters: "Б" and "М" (229A).

The prescribed ribbon (type IV) has a bow.

### 230-230A-230B SILVER CROSS FOURTH CLASS

The Silver Cross Fourth Class is similar in size and most details to the preceding one, except for bearing on its reverse lower arm the inscription: "4th Class". The reverse upper arm of the Cross may bear the inscription: "1/M" (230A). The eventual use of substitute metal may be similarly indicated on its reverse side (230B). The prescribed ribbon (type IV) lacks the bow.





Awarded in 1914 to Countess Irina Barionovna Cheremeteva while serving as a Red Cross nurse on the Eastern Front

## SAINT GEORGE MEDAL FOR BRAVERY Tsar Nicholas II

The Medal for Bravery With Classes was first founded by Tsar Alexander II on 3 August 1878. After the death of Emperor Alexander III the Medal for Bravery was reissued around 1894 wearing the semblance of the new Sovereign, Tsar Nicholas II.

Initially no changes were made to the Medal, but on 10 August 1913 a sweeping amendment was introduced by which the Medal for Bravery was incorporated into the statute of the Order of Saint George and its name changed to Saint George Medal for Bravery.

Little could be guessed at the time how much this decision was timely, considering that a year later the awarding of the Saint George Crosses and Medals would reach astronomical numbers, due to the years of bitter fighting against the Central Powers and the Ottoman Empire.

From 23 July 1915 the Gold Medals, similarly to the golden Saint George Crosses, were manufactured with a reduced content of gold. From January 1917 the Saint George Medals for Bravery were manufactured with substitute yellow or white metal.

The Medal was awarded to non-commissioned officers, soldiers and sailors as well as to civilians for exceptional acts of valour in time of war or peace.

### 231 GOLD MEDAL FIRST CLASS

The obverse of the Gold Medal First Class shows the truncated bust of Tsar Nicholas II facing left encircled by an inscription meaning: "*By the Grace of God Nicholas II Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias.*"

The reverse of the Medal is plain, except for an inscription signifying: "*For Bravery*" with below the award number and the inscription: "*1st Class*".

The award was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon with a bow (type IV).

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.

### 232 GOLD MEDAL SECOND CLASS

The Gold Medal Second Class is similar in size and details to the preceding one, except that the reverse of the Medal has the inscription: "*2nd Class*".

The prescribed ribbon (type IV) lacks the bow.

### 233 SILVER MEDAL THIRD CLASS

The Silver Medal Third Class is similar in size and details to the preceding one, except for being of silver and for bearing the inscription: "*3rd Class*" on its reverse.

The prescribed ribbon (type IV) has a bow.

### 234 SILVER MEDAL FOURTH CLASS

The Silver Medal Fourth Class is similar in size and details to the preceding one, except for bearing the inscription: "*4th Class*" on its reverse.

The prescribed ribbon (type IV) lacks the bow.





235

## PORT ARTHUR CROSS

The Cross was instituted in 1914 and bestowed upon higher ranking officers of the Russian army and navy who had taken active part in the defence of the Russian naval base of Port Arthur between 8 February 1904, the day of the Japanese surprise attack and 2 January 1905, which was the date of its capitulation.

Port Arthur (Lushun), a natural harbour strategically located at Kwantung, the southern portion of the Liao-Tung peninsula, was leased to Russia by China in 1898 for a period of 25 years. The Russian policy of expansion into Manchuria as well as the creation of an ice free harbour for its Pacific Fleet was a direct threat to the Japanese Empire's own expansion policy in an area they considered their own sphere of influence.

The harbour of Port Arthur was spacious and well equipped and was protected towards inland by several lines of fortifications reinforced by a number of bunkers. It was the terminal station of the South Manchurian Railway, which linked with the Chinese Eastern Railway at Harbin, where Russian settlers had been granted since 1896 a concession and trading rights. The greatest strength of the naval base at the time of the sudden Japanese aggression was in the Russian warships anchored in its harbour; it comprised 7 battleships, several cruises and over two dozen destroyers and auxiliary vessels.

The well prepared Japanese plan of a surprise attack by their navy on Port Arthur caused extensive damage to the Russian warships, although their own navy lost three battleships which blew up and sank after striking mines which were protecting the harbour. The attack was soon followed by the Imperial Japanese army landing troops to the hinterland of Port Arthur and the Fourth and First Japanese armies invading the south-eastern shores of the Liao-Tung peninsula, pushing northwards towards Russian occupied Manchuria. By the end of April 1904 the naval base was under siege.

Initially the fortifications protecting Port Arthur held the onslaught of the superior Japanese forces inflicting heavy losses upon the attackers, but after nine months of siege the situation became untenable as the Japanese forces had been able to occupy several key positions of the fortifications defending the base. Lack of ammunitions, the growing amount of wounded and sick soldiers and civilians forced the commanding officer of the base, General Stessel against the objection of several of his subalterns, to sign a document of capitulation. Upon his return to Russia after the conclusion of hostilities, the General was tried by a court martial and sentenced to be shot, a decision which later was commuted to a 10 years prison term.

### 235 SILVER CROSS

The obverse of the straight armed silver Cross has a grained surface with raised edges.

Placed in the medallion the likeness of a warship encircled by a wall and bastions of a fort. The inscription: "Port Arthur" is placed upon the horizontal arms of the Cross.

The reverse of the Cross is plain. The Cross was worn low on the left side of the chest fixed to the uniform by means of a screw and a wing nut.

The size of the Cross is 44 x 48 mm.





## COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL FOR THE NAVAL BATTLE OF GANGUT

The Medal was instituted on 12 June 1914 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas II.

The Medal was created to commemorate the bicentennial of the naval battle that took place on 27 July 1714 near Cape Gangut (Hangö), located in south-western Finland.

95 galleys under command of General-Admiral Feodor Apraxine attacked a division of the Swedish fleet anchored in a fjord close to the Hangö peninsula and gained the first major sea-going victory of the new-born Russian navy.

The award is a close replica of the original medal\* which was created by Tsar Peter I to commemorate the incredible triumph of the Russian galleys against a powerful Swedish fleet at Hangö.

After the disastrous outcome of the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-1905 in which the Russian navy had suffered appalling losses in men and ships, the celebrations were to mark renewed confidence in the Imperial Navy, its crews and the newly built warships that had joined it.

The 27th of July 1914 was commemorating the bicentennial of a crucial for Russia naval battle. The very next day Europe and the World learned that Austro-Hungary supported by Germany had declared war on the Kingdom of Serbia, thus precipitating the continent into a terrible war that was to last more than four years.

The Medal was bestowed upon all ranks of officers and to the sailors of the Imperial Russian Navy that had participated in the celebrations of the anniversary.

### 236 BRONZE MEDAL

The obverse of the light bronze Medal bears the laureate, cuirassed bust of Tsar Peter I facing right with the circumscription signifying: "*Peter the Great, Emperor and Autocrat of All Russias*".

The reverse of the Medal shows the scene of the naval battle with the date: "*27 July 1714*" below and is surrounded by an upper inscription placed on a scroll meaning: "*Dedication and Fidelity Excel Force*" and a lower one meaning: "*First Naval Victory at Gangut*".

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type I) which is decorated with a very small chain.

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.

\* See medal numbers 54 and 55





## MEDAL FOR THE GENERAL MOBILISATION

The Medal was instituted on 12 February 1915 during the reign of Tsar Nicholas II and was the last award created in the Russian Empire.

The annexation by the dual monarchy of Austro-Hungary in 1908 of Bosnia and Herzegovina led to a rapidly escalating tension between Austro-Hungary and Serbia. Following the defeat in 1913 of its former ally Bulgaria, Serbia had become the dominant Slavic power in the Balkans.

Meanwhile, Russia with its long standing and very active policy of Pan-Slavism was fanning the hopes of freedom and independence of the large Slavic population of the whole region.

On 28 June 1914, the name of the town of Sarajevo suddenly became known all over the World, when the heir to the Austrian throne, Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife were shot to death by a Serbian political agitator.

Accusing Serbia of being involved in the assassination, the Austro-Hungarian government presented the Serbians with an ultimatum. The Austro-Hungarian Monarchy supported by their German allies having rejected the Serbian reply as being unsatisfactory, declared war on the Kingdom of Serbia on 28 July 1914 and precipitated Europe into a war of unprecedented magnitude.

The immediate response from the Russian government was to declare a general mobilisation of its armed forces on 31 July 1914 which in turn was followed by the German Empire declaring war on August 1 against the Russian Empire.

What ensued in the following weeks was a dramatic and unavoidable widening of the conflict, as several other countries joined the belligerents either on the side of the Allies or of the Central Powers.

The Medal was bestowed upon all individuals, military or civilian whose distinguished efforts led to a successful conclusion of the general mobilisation. From 10 December 1915 the Medal was also awarded to individuals that had been engaged in the physical preparation of young conscripts.

### 237 BRONZE MEDAL

The obverse of the light bronze Medal bears the truncated bust of Tsar Nicholas II facing left.

The reverse of the Medal is plain, except for an inscription signifying: "For Exemplary Efforts in Carrying Out the General mobilisation of 1914".

The Medal was worn on the left breast suspended from the prescribed ribbon (type VII).

The diameter of the Medal is 28 mm.



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