

# IMPERIAL RUSSIA

## ORDERS

### IMPERIAL ORDER OF ST. ANDREW THE FIRST CALLED

- Founded by Peter the Great as the highest-ranking Imperial Order. Named after the Apostle of the same name.
- Any recipient of the Order thus automatically became a Knight of the Order of St. Alexander Nevsky, the White Eagle, the first class of St. Anne, and the first class of St. Stanislaus.
- Originally, there could be no more than 12 "native Russian" bearers of the Order at any time, where the total number, including foreigners, was not to exceed 24.
- Starting from Paul I, the Order started to be far less rare - with literally hundreds of grantees, including the ever famous Napoleon Bonaparte in 1807.
- The Order came in one class and was always awarded with collar. It could have been awarded with diamonds (for exceptional Civil Merit), crossed swords (for Military Merit), and swords superimposed on the star (if previously awarded with the Order w/diamonds). Non-Christian version of the Order had the image of the Apostle replaced with the Imperial Eagle.
- In 1917, the Provisional Government decided to alter the original design of the Order, thus depriving it of its crowns, and change the Imperial Eagle inside the medallion to a new uncrowned bird (of special design by famous Ivan Bilibin). Unfortunately, no Order of this type was ever awarded or even made...
- The annual feast day of the Order was celebrated on November 30th of each year (the St. Andrew's Day).



2001

2001 Star of the Order of St. Andrew in combination with the ribbon of the Most Noble Order of the Garter. **Breast Star. By Eduard.** Silver. 89 mm. Enameled. Gold plated. Hallmarked: 84 for 1896-1908 period, 'ЭДУАРДЪ', workmaster's mark: 'ИЛ', kokoshnik marks in many places. The part of the Order of Garter was apparently added outside the Eduard company by a special order, of the high quality and fully matched to the star. Very few people could be awarded by those two Imperial decorations, and could be apparently of the Royal decent. *Excessively rare* and of the highest importance. Please check p. 92 for the enlarged image.

*Condition:* A superb workmanship and in perfect absolutely problems free condition \$ 50,000

*Provenance:* Auktion der Andreas Thies KG, 'Historische Sammlungsgegenstände – Seltene Orden und Ehrenzeichen', April 16, 1988, lot # 374