

SA1205160

Swiss silver pocket watch with
Ottoman military arms and
Cyrillic inscription «???????????».
C. 1882–1912

Price

GBP 800

| USD \$1,083 | EUR 936

Item Reference: SA1205160

Date of manufacture: 19th Century

Dimensions

Height = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

A Swiss silver three-body pocket watch, 5 cm diameter, with authenticated hallmarks dating it firmly to 1882–1912. The rampant bear in triangle — Swiss state silver mark for .875 fineness, in use 1882–1934 — together with the maker's mark and case initials, identifies the piece as the work of the Neuchâtel and Jura export tradition. The movement is a gilt cylinder escapement with three ruby jewels. The enamel dial is inscribed «???????????» in Cyrillic beneath the Ottoman military coat of arms of the Tanzimat and Hamidian era (1876–1909). The outer cover bears the Cyrillic monogram «??». This combination of elements points with reasonable confidence to a watch presented to a Macedonian Orthodox officer serving in the Ottoman army, at the rank of captain or major, in the decades preceding the Balkan Wars. The inscription «???????????» in Cyrillic on the dial makes this an exceptionally rare object: no comparable example has been recorded in public auction databases. The watch is accompanied by its original Macedonian hand-beaded folk pouch in yellow and blue geometric ornament — made as a protective replacement for the non-functioning case latches and surviving together wi...

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