



275 RUSSIA, COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL.

Transportation of the granite monolith for the monument to Peter I, 1770, by J.C.G. Jaeger.

**Obverse:** Laureate bust of Catherine II left, mantled and wearing star and ribbon: above the portrait signature of engraver J.C.G. JAEGAR.

**Reverse:** A panoramic view of the transport of the granite block with Tsarina, workers, and spectators.

**Provenance:** The Batten Family, Church Farm, Ryme Intrinseca, Dorset.

This medal with others are purported to have been given to Mrs Haynes granddaughter J. Chamberlain, who was a librarian to George III by Catherine II Empress of Russia, as she (Chamberlain) obtained for the Empress certain pictures in Windsor Castle.

J. Chamberlain was the third great grandmother of H.C.C Batten who was given the medals in 1906.

The reverse of this medal is based on an engraving by I.F.Schley of the drawings by Y.M.Felten. The block of granite used as a pedestal for the monument was called 'The Thunder Stone', and was considered to be the largest stone ever moved by man. Its weight was

calculated at 15,000 tonne, it was moved 6km overland to the Gulf of Finland and then by barge to St. Petersburg. The project was considered a historic engineering feat, all work was done by men, no animals or machines were used in the transport of the stone. The engineer in charge was a Greek serving as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Russian Army, Marinos Carburis. He was the first Greek to hold a diploma in engineering.

The medal is believed to be one of the finest of the few known and has minimal wear appearing in its original state with proof-like fields and finely engraved frosted relief. The medal is being offered contained in what appears to be its original turned wood box.

£3,000-6,000

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