

Jetton for Winning the Second Place in Sharpshooting Competition, 1928 issue.

In silver; measures 38.6 mm in height (incl. eyelets), 23.9 mm in width. Three-piece construction: the crossed rifles and the red star are separate superimposed parts soldered to the flat base with a bull's eye in the center. Note the early style of the star featuring hammer and plow - as opposed to the later, more common and familiar Soviet emblem of hammer and sickle. The right eyelet has two silver hallmarks of the style adopted in 1926 (it replaced the Imperial era Kokoshnik hallmarks). The same eyelet has a poorly struck maker mark on its reverse side.

There is engraved inscription "II Prize" and the year 1928 on the obverse. The reverse is inscribed in Ukrainian "To the best rifleman of the team of VUTsVK [All-Ukrainian Central Executive Committee] comrade Makarov". The jetton is in very fine to excellent condition. The enamel on the star is of "cold" variety, but it appears to be quite old and may be original to the jetton. There are a couple of very minor dings to the edge, but no scratches, nicks or other significant wear. Details of the rifles are perfectly preserved. Very attractive patina throughout. The suspension chain is original.

The Central Executive Committee - commonly known by its Russian acronym TsIK - was an early form of Soviet legislative government existing on the All-Union (federal) level as well as in each of the Soviet republics that were a part of the USSR. In 1938, the name was changed to Supreme Soviet and it remained so until the late 80s, almost through the breakup of the USSR. It is of course very interesting to see a sharpshooting award to a member or staffer of one of the early Executive Committees. One must remember that the old Bolshevik cadres would be hard hit by the Stalin's repressions in the mid to late-1930s. Both the members of the 1928 government and their awards had rather bleak prospects of long-term survival.

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