

Medal of Honored Military Pilot of the USSR, Variation 1, #108, circa early 1970s.

German silver, brass, gilt; riveted two-piece construction. The medallion measures 26.0 mm in height (incl. eyelet), 27.6 mm in width; weighs 7.3 grams not including the suspension and connecting link; overall weight with suspension is 15.0 g. This is the early version of the award, featuring stamped rather than engraved serial number. The raised mint mark "MMD" is in smaller font, with characteristic pointy top of the "D".

In excellent condition. There is nice patina to the silver finish, no dings or scratches. The gilt finish on the airplane is nicely preserved and bright showing only minuscule amount of wear. The nose of the airplane is slightly bent toward the silver base, which is not visually detractive or even very noticeable. The rivets are perfectly tight.

Comes on original suspension, complete with well-preserved old, probably original ribbon, rectangular back plate, hexagon retaining nut, and mint marked screw plate. Interestingly, the original owner applied some glue to the back of the ribbon to permanently affix it along with the back plate (we wouldn't try and undo it.) The screw post is slightly over 7 mm long measured from the back plate, has not been reduced. The connecting link is original and has not been cut.

The Honorary Title and Medal of Honored Military Pilot were established in 1965. According to the "Brest Badges of the Soviet Armed Forces" by Borisov (p. 51), only 701 were ever issued. Almost needless to say, this decoration is extremely rare - especially its early version with a stamped number.

Item# 33600

**\$2,250.00**













