

Honored Railway Employee, Type 2, #70438, circa early to mid-1946 issue.

Brass, enamels; measures 45.0 x 30.8 mm. Shows a steam engine locomotive bearing Stalin's name, nicely executed in 3-d profile (this is a locomotive of the IS or "Iosif Stalin" series that was designed in the early 30s and won international acclaim.) This version of the badge features sharp counter-relief on the entire reverse. The serial number is stamped in standard manner of the period.

In outstanding, excellent condition. The enamel is exceptionally well preserved on all parts of the badge. The red enamel on the banner in particular retains beautiful luster, appears perfect to the naked eye, and has only a couple of microscopic flakes that are very hard to find even under 10x magnification. The red scroll at the bottom is free of even microscopic contact marks or flakes. The white enamel, colored lenses of the semaphore, and red star are likewise perfect. The silver finish on the obverse is nearly pristine showing only barely noticeable wear to the highest points of the locomotive. The fine details of the artwork are perfect and crisp. The silver plating on the reverse is completely intact. The screw post is of full length, approx. 12.5mm (Note that it is slightly bent - a common manufacturing flaw - but remains sound and fully functional.) The badge comes with original screw plate marked "ShMZ-D NKPS" (Mechanical Stamping Factory, Narkomat of Transportation).

This extremely attractive piece is practically impossible to upgrade condition-wise. It was probably issued within a year after the end of WW2, but undoubtedly earned during the war.

/See Ural Photo Catalog of Soviet Phaleristic. Part 1 , p. 87, fig. II-94 (top)/.

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