

Order of the National Flag, 1st class, Type 2 Variation 3, #1333, circa late 1950s-1960s.

Silver gilt, enamels; measures 60.6 mm in height, 59.9 mm in width; weighs 43.0 g without the screw plate; overall weight with screw plate is 50.2 g. Features star counter-relief on the reverse with sharp circular depression in the middle and relatively smooth, nipple-like ends on the star points. The overall quality of the badge and especially its enamel as well as the very characteristic 27.5 mm screw plate point out that this type of the badge was manufactured outside of North Korea at a location other than the Soviet Mint, believed to be in Czechoslovakia.

In excellent condition. The enamel retains a beautiful luster and shows only a few minor scratches and tiny contact marks barely noticeable to the unaided eye; it is completely free of chips, flaking, excessive rubbing or any other significant wear. The star in the center has only a minimal wear to the apex; its ridges are nicely defined and most of the original gilt finish is still present. The rays of the starburst are practically free of wear; the gilt finish on the starburst is practically pristine. The reverse shows attractive toning. The screw post is full length, approx. 13.5 mm, and includes the original screw plate. Overall, a superb example of the very rare version of the important DPRK decoration.

Established in October 1948, this was the first award of the Communist North Korea and it remained its only order for nearly two years. As the new awards were added in the first days of the Korean War, the Order of National Flag kept its status as North Korea's highest decoration. It became the second highest award only in 1977, after the establishment of the Order of Kim Il Sung. The very scarce and desirable "Czechoslovak" version of this decoration is rated R3 for rarity ("rare piece, which is sometimes available but may be hard to find") in the [Military and Civil Awards of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea \(DPRK\)](#), by Sessler and McDaniel (page 106).

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\$1,900.00

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