

Order of Freedom and Independence, 1st class, Type 3 Variation 1, #1313, circa 1960s - 70s issue.

In gilded brass and enamels; measures 62.3 mm in height x 59.4 mm in width. Very high quality massive and impressive decoration; the enamel in particular is extremely nice, at least for a relatively late award.

The order is in very fine to excellent condition. The enamel is overall very well preserved and shows magnificent luster throughout; its only flaw is a couple of tiny surface flakes or scuffs to the upper right arm of the star. Elsewhere, there are only a few microscopic contact marks that are not easy to find even under a 10x magnification. The details of the center medallion are untouched by wear; the gilt finish is practically pristine and exceptionally bright throughout.

Established in 1950, the order was awarded exclusively by the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee to commend combat valor. Issued to combined guerrilla unit leaders, Regular Army unit leaders, and People's Army commanders. A few were also awarded to officers from allied socialist nations as well as to Soviet military advisers and pilots who clandestinely fought in the Korean War. Even the later issues of the 2nd class of this award are scarce, while the 1st is exceedingly rare: according to the Sessler & McDaniel reference guide, the rarity rating for any of the three versions of the Type 3 is 4 out of 5.

/Sessler & McDaniel, [Military and Civil Awards of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea \(DPRK\)](#), p. 183 (top)/

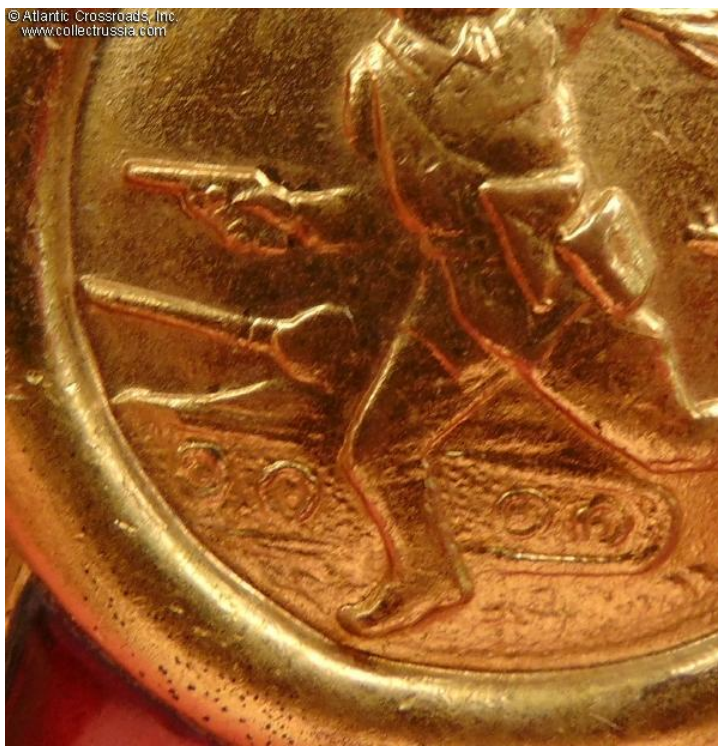
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