

M 1955 Medical or Veterinary Corps officer dress visor hat, 1956-1958.

In gray napped wool with red piping and green band. The hat badge is an early version, two-piece construction, consisting of the oval centerpiece in brass and enamels and "scrambled eggs" wreath in anodized aluminum. There is a matching "scrambled eggs" motif in anodized aluminum on the visor. The chin cord is in gold metallic filigree. The liner has sweat diamond with the logo of the TsEP garment factory of the Ministry of Defense in Moscow. Marked size 57 (US size 7 1/8 / Medium) on the sweat diamond under the manufacturer's logo.

In outstanding, excellent condition. The grey crown is completely free of the usual moth holes or tracks, having only a single pinprick-sized nip to the underside near the seam in the right temple area, nearly unnoticeable. The piping and band are pristine. The hat has held its trademark shape beautifully. The visor is firmly attached. Both the exterior and interior are immaculately clean. The sweat band and liner show practically no wear. The finish on the metal embellishment on the visor is bright and free of tarnish; all of the attachment prongs are present and completely intact.

With its distinctive grey top, this hat was introduced in 1955 along with the other similar full-dress hats as a part of the new uniform code. The change was initiated by Marshal Zhukov who had just returned from relative obscurity, played a major role in the Kremlin power struggle after the death of Stalin, and subsequently rose to become the Soviet Defense Minister. The new type of uniform only lasted until 1958, little longer than Zhukov's tenure as the military minister. This particular piece was apparently made at some point from 1956-58, judging by the aluminum "scrambled eggs" and surround of the cockade. With its grey, green and red color combination, this hat is both very distinctive and rare.

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\$420.00



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