

Order of Soldier's Honor, 2nd class, Type 1, circa 1950s.

Silver gilt, enamels, measures 49.4 mm in height, 47.3 mm in width; weighs 35.5 g not including the screw plate. This beautiful Type 1 piece is in solid silver and exhibits trademark quality of the Soviet mint manufacture. Like most early DPRK orders made in the Soviet Union, it is probably an award of the Korean War era.

In outstanding, excellent condition - definitely among the few best examples of this award we have seen. The enamel is literally perfect: it shows a magnificent luster and is completely free of any, even microscopic traces of wear that could be found with a 10x loupe. The details of the center medallion are exceptionally crisp and nearly pristine, having just a few minuscule dings that are practically unnoticeable to the naked eye. The original gilt finish on both the wreath and edges of the shield is still present, although partly obscured by silver patina. There is a very attractive dark patina to silver on both sides. The screw post is full length, over 13 mm, and comes with an original Soviet screw plate of correct type and vintage. To summarize, this is an incredibly well-preserved piece, and it is unlikely that we will ever find a better specimen.

The design of this order was obviously inspired by the Soviet Order of Patriotic War. Established in 1950, it was awarded exclusively by DPRK Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee to guerrilla unit members and People's Army soldiers for combat valor.

/Sessler & McDaniel, (1}Military and Civil Awards of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), [Page 199/](#)

[Item# 42023](#)

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