

## Military and Civil Awards of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) , Warren Sessler and Paul McDaniel, C 2009.

ENGLISH text, 406 pages, large 12 x 9 x 1 6/8" thick hardcover format with dust jacket.

This is destined to become the standard reference work for collectors of North Korean orders and medals in much the same way that McDaniel and Schmitt's "The Comprehensive Guide to Soviet Orders and Medals" became the Bible for collectors of Soviet medals and decorations. And not just collectors but military historians will find this book an invaluable resource - finally there is a reference book in English that enables us to decipher the profusion of mysterious awards appearing in newsreels and press photos coming out of North Korea.

Over 1000 high resolution close-up color photos of the obverses and reverses of North Korean medals, orders and award documents plus some 60+ black-&-white and color photos of recipients wearing their decorations. The book contains a trove of factual information and details including: award qualifications, all types and variations of inscriptions and mint marks, serial number styles and ranges, rivets, suspensions and pin back devices, etc. There is also a very handy full color ribbon chart.

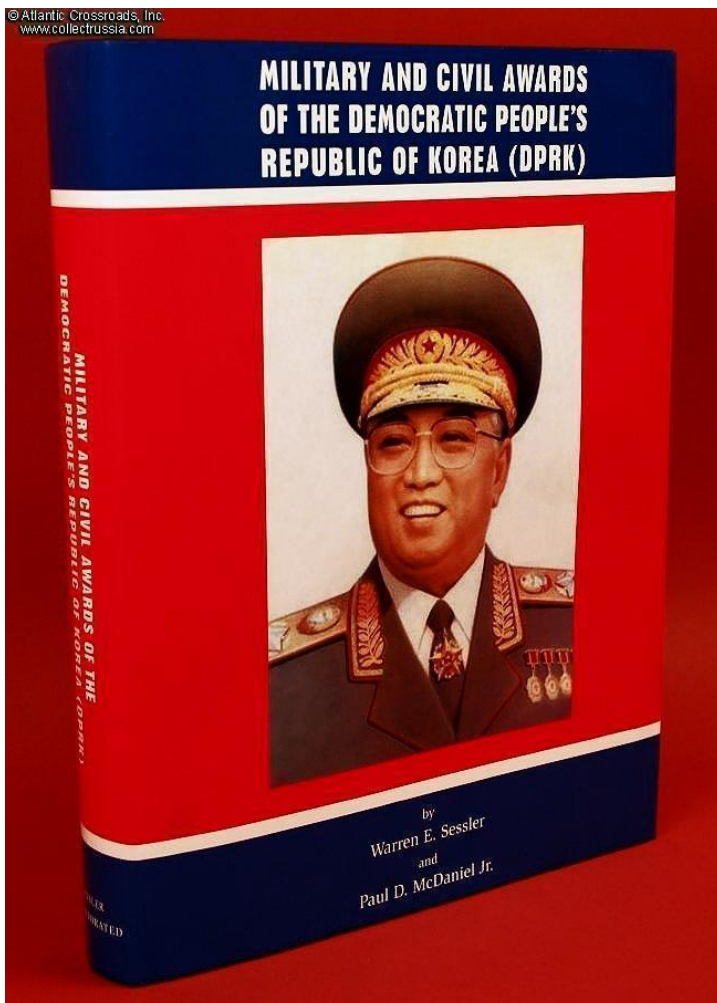
Of utmost importance to collectors, the authors also explain in great detail how to detect fakes. We highly recommend this book as a tremendous value and indispensable resource for any collector or student of the awards of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

If you've been struggling in the dark trying to collect North Korean medals, rest assured that the depth and reliability of the information contained in this volume will pay for itself many times over.

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## Collecting the Medal

During the Korean Conflict, 481 were awarded to North Koreans and 10 were awarded to Chinese. The Medal consists of a rayed, ten-pointed star, with a center medallion that contains a five-pointed raised star on a white enameled background. There is an inscription on the reverse, which varies by Type/Variation. The suspension has a red ribbon, with two vertical white stripes. The ribbon is fastened to suspension by a suspension plate and nut or a horizontal pin.

## Awards to foreigners and high-ranking North Koreans

When foreigners are awarded the title Hero of the DPRK they are given a cased set, with the Medal, and an Order of the National Flag, 1st Class on a collar chain. Of the North Koreans who have received the award, Kim Il Sung's first wife, Kim Il Suk and Kim

Jong Il are known recipients of the collar chain variation.

## Screwbacks

Type 1, Variation 1. Soviet-made, gold-plated silver with screwback suspension and connecting ring. The screwpost on the reverse is 4mm in width (large). On the reverse are the words "Korean People's Republic, Hero" in raised letters. The ribbon is fastened to the suspension by a suspension plate and nut. Weight: 15g Height: 37mm Width: 33.5mm (all measurements are for medal only, not suspension). RARITY RATING: R4

No verifiable, authentic serial-numbered pieces have been observed. Several have been observed with large serial numbers (3.5mm in height) neatly hand-engraved into them (469, 497, 503, 547), but these are unlike the small, authentic serial numbers stamped into the Labor Hero of the Democratic

