

Badge for Excellence in Socialist Competition of the Ministry of Southwestern Oil (Yuzhzapadneft), #609, 1946-48.

Brass, silver plating, gilt, enamels; 30.1 mm in height, 24.3 mm in width; weighs 7.1 g not including the screw plate. Engraved serial number on the reverse. Note the extremely low, three-digit serial number.

In excellent condition. The enamel is flawless and shows beautiful luster. The fragile silver and gilt finishes are essentially pristine. The screw post is nearly 11 mm in length, has not been reduced, and includes original mint marked screw plate.

The Ministry for Southwestern Oil (Production) was formed in 1946 from the Narkomat (People's Commissariat) bearing the same name. It proved to be very short-lived: in 1948, it merged with the Ministry for Oil Industry of the Eastern Regions forming a single large Ministry of Oil Industry of the USSR. The award badges of Southwestern Oil Ministry were issued for only two years and are therefore quite scarce.

/Avers 8 , p. 117, fig. 600/

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