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Mongolia, Honorary Medal of Labor, Type 1, Variation 2 (screw back suspension, engraved number without the "N"), #1840, circa 1947-1948.

Silver, enamels; medallion measures 36.6 mm wide, 2.6-2.7 mm thick at the edge; weighs 25.9 grams not including the suspension and connecting link; overall weight with suspension is 39.3 g. Beautiful quality, typical of the Mongolian awards manufactured by the Soviet Mint. This is the early post-war version of the medal featuring engraved serial number without the prefix "N".

Note that the serial is exceptionally low for the Variation 2: it is well below the lowest previously known number for this version mentioned in the reference book [The Orders and Medals of the Mongolian People's Republic](#) by Khuujii Urnukh (pp. 160, 161). Interestingly, according to the book, the serial numbers for Var. 2 started at 2001 when the first batch of them was delivered to Mongolia in 1947. Therefore, this piece is likely an official replacement for the Variation 1 (with prefix "N", serial number range from 1 - 2000). Another possibility that the engraver at the mint made an error in the first digit of the serial number (which was supposed to start with any number from 2 to 6); this would mean there exists another, Var. 1 Labor Medal with identical serial number! Whatever might be the case, this specimen is a truly unprecedented case worthy of further research.

In excellent condition. The red enamel is essentially pristine and shows attractive luster. The green enamel on the leaves appears perfect to the unaided eye, although a close examination under a 10x loupe reveals some tiny, very shallow flakes on some of the leaves that are completely unnoticeable without magnification. The medal is free of edge knocks; the center has a few barely noticeable dings to the center while the Uyghur inscription on the obverse remains perfect and crisp.

The medal comes on original suspension with old, probably original ribbon which is well-preserved and clean. The screw post has been slightly reduced for convenience as was customary and it is now 8 mm long measured from the triangular back plate; this length is more than enough for proper functionality. Original Soviet screw plate marked "Monetnyi Dvor" (Mint) is included. The connecting link appears to be original and its ends are still joined with solder.

Item# 36749

\$180.00



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