

Badge for Excellence in Aeroflot, 50th Anniversary issue, 1973.

Brass, "cold" enamels; measures 41.0 mm in height, 41.5 mm in width. Features reverse with a flat center portion and a raised mint mark "MMD". The latter indicates that the badge was made no later than in 1974: during that year, the Moscow Mint adopted a new round logo.

The badge is in excellent condition. The enamels and the silver finish on the Aeroflot wings emblem are perfect. The original gilt finish is well preserved throughout and shows only attractive mild toning, no blemishes. The full-length 9.5 mm long screw post is slightly bent which appears to be a factory flaw, not a result of wear. Original mint marked screw plate is included.

This badge is among the first made after the introduction of the award in 1973. As was common Soviet practice, the "jubilee" issue continued to be awarded for quite a while even after the actual anniversary year (a good analogy is X and XV anniversary awards for OGPU / NKVD). The later versions of the badge have more counter-relief to the reverse and "hot baked" enamel.

{ 1}Avers 8 , Page 156, Fig. 767/

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