

Excellent Railway Rebuilder Badge, circa late-1940s.

Brass, enamels; measures 39.0 mm in height x 27.3 mm in width. The screw post measures approx. 3.5 mm thick. This is a relatively early post-war issue of one of the awards of the WW2 Railway Proficiency Series (1943-57). Unlike the later, 1950s issues, this piece features a pronounced 3-d relief to the oval center medallion. Although a post-WW2 issue, the badge was almost certainly earned during the war.

In excellent condition. The red enamel is perfect and retains beautiful luster, completely free of even the microscopic flakes or scratches. There are only a couple of miniscule contact marks to the white enamel that are practically unnoticeable to the naked eye. Raised details of the artwork are perfect and exceptionally crisp. The original silver and gilt finishes are practically pristine on both the obverse and reverse. The screw post is full length, over 12 mm. Comes with original late-1940s screw plate maker-marked " Sh.M. Z MPS " (Mechanical Stamping Factory, Ministry of Railroad Transportation") and featuring three radial tabs of the early, so-called "propeller" style. The screw plate fits the screw perfectly. Overall, an extremely attractive piece, a real standout among the badges of the Railroad Proficiency series that usually display at least some degree of damage to enamel.

Rebuilding the railroad track and rolling stock destroyed by the Luftwaffe or blown up by retreating German ground troops was of paramount importance to the Soviet war effort. Railway workers routinely labored round the clock, in miserable weather and under bombardment to complete the task. Even in the initial period of the Patriotic War, the uncanny speed of the repairs often frustrated all German efforts to disrupt Soviet transportation system.

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