

Excellence in Railway Troops badge, early to mid-1950s.

Brass, enamels; measures 45.9 x 37.0 mm; weighs 14.7 g not including the screw plate. This is the last variation of the badge, "classic flat" according to B. Airapetyan's Breast Badges of the Red Army, 1941-1945..

In outstanding, excellent condition - practically impossible to upgrade. The enamel is essentially perfect: shows magnificent luster throughout and is completely free of any flaking, scratches or any wear visible to the naked eye; there are only a few microscopic contact marks that are not easily found even under a 10x magnification. The wreath is pristine with all of its original gilt finish intact and bright. The original gold plating is likewise perfect and exceptionally bright on the reverse. The fragile grey finish along the edge of the shield is mostly intact. The screw post is full length, over 11 mm, and includes original screw plate marked "Pobeda Factory, Moscow".

Unlike many other badges of the "combat proficiency" series, post-war versions of the Excellent Railway Trooper badge are at least as scarce as its WW2 issues. In general, the Railway badge is among the rarest in the series, and it is especially hard to find one in as superb a condition as this example.

/See Airapetyan, Breast Badges of the Red Army, 1941-1945, p. 107 fig.3/.

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