

Navy Admiral or Officer full dress belt with dagger hangers, circa 1947 - 48 issue.

In gold bullion brocade with plush lining in black wool. Shows superb quality throughout. The massive buckle is in gilded brass; its centerpiece shows an anchor and star emblem, while the outer part has a nicely sculptured oak and laurel wreath. The buckles on dagger straps feature snarling lion heads - the so-called "angry" lions introduced in 1947. Fully expanded, this belt should accommodate a waist as large as 45", but it is easily adjustable to any smaller size.

In very good to excellent condition. The brocade is beautifully preserved, without tears, loose strands or stains. Comes complete with all the hardware and both brocade belt loops present. The original gilt finish on the brass parts is well preserved and bright. The wool lining is very clean, sound and completely free of moth damage. At some point in time, the stitches attaching the backing had weakened and some bullion thread was applied to secure the backing in place; because the thread matches the color and quality of the outer brocade layer, the repair is completely unnoticeable from the outside when the belt is worn or displayed.

The type of belt with bullion brocade was largely replaced in the late 40s by the cheaper to manufacture silk brocade version. The earlier belts are both more spectacular and harder to find. They are essentially the same as the WW2 version used from 1941-47, with the exception of the "angry" lions (as opposed to "kind" lions on the dagger straps of the earlier admiral's belts.)

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\$320.00

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