

Medal of Sino-Soviet Friendship, 1953.

In brass and enamels; measures 44.2 mm in height (incl. eyelet), 39.4 mm in width; weighs 19.2 g not including the suspension and connecting link. The obverse shows national flags of the USSR and People's Republic of China and the motto on the red scroll "Long Live Sino-Soviet Friendship!"

The reverse has a raised inscription "People's Revolutionary Military Committee of the Central People's Government of the Chinese People's Republic" and the 1953 issue date.

The medal is in very fine condition, better than the average for the Korean War issue. The enamel is overall nicely preserved and shows very attractive luster. The banner shows some minor contact marks and surface scuffs that are not too detractive; there is also a tiny flake at the upper edge to the right of the eyelet which is practically unnoticeable to the naked eye. The upper left red scroll has some surface flakes that are so thin that it makes them barely noticeable. There is also a small chip to the upper left corner of the large scroll, not too glaring or detractive due to its tiny size and the dark patina to the brass hiding the damage.

The raised details of the artwork are perfect and crisp. There is attractive patina to the brass on both sides, no blemishes; the original gilt finish is clearly visible in recessed areas, especially on the reverse. The medal comes with a well-preserved original ribbon which includes a connecting link sewn-in to the ribbon and original pin attachment on the back. The suspension also includes the original star in gilded tin which is often missing or replaced on other surviving examples of this award.

To reiterate, despite minor imperfections, the medal displays beautifully and appears almost perfect without magnification.

Established in 1951, the Sino-Soviet Friendship Medal was issued to Soviet military and civilian personnel the Chinese during the Korean War. The early versions of the medal had date of issue in raised numerals on the reverse, whereas the later ones did not have a date. The last of the dated issues, from 1953, is very uncommon - especially in an excellent condition.

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