

People's Commissar of Defense Hero and Marshal of the Soviet Union Timoshenko During Military Exercise , an offset lithograph circa 1940s-50s, after a 1940 drawing by Anatoliy Yar-Kravchenko.

The lithograph measures approx. 8 1/2" x 7 1/2". Total size with the backing frame is 13 3/4" x 10 1/2". Printed on rough paper often encountered in sketch books for pencil drawing, affixed by a thin line of glue along the top edge of the lithograph to a thin cardboard backing inside a printed frame. The title of the painting and name of the artist are printed under the lithograph on the right. The artist's handwritten signature and year of the drawing are visible in the lower right corner of the lithograph. The drawing depicts the marshal holding a map and, apparently, giving directions to an officer, probably commander of the artillery unit visible in the background.

The lithograph is in outstanding condition. No wear or damage of any kind whatsoever. Both sides of the paper are of barely different color tone suggesting minimal age toning. The backing cardboard is in very good condition as well, showing just a small stain near the top right corner, barely discernible corner bumps and a vague area of minor discoloration along the left edge, none of which are really detractive.

The original drawing is by Anatoliy Yar-Kravchenko (1911-1983), a Russian Soviet artist who worked primarily in the genre of graphic portrait. Actually, he was born, and remained until 1929, simply Kravchenko. A poet, Nikolai Klyuev, suggested that Anatoliy pre-pose "Yar" before his last name to give it more gravitas. The preposition stuck forever. The artist had a fine nose for painting what the Soviets wanted to see. This earned him the Stalin Prize in 1947 and the title of People' Artist of RSFSR (Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic) in 1969.

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