

Badge for Excellence in Aeroflot, Type 1 Variation 3, #5985, circa 1960s issue.

Brass, enamels; measures 40.4 x 30.8 mm; weighs 11.1 g not including the screw plate. The serial number is engraved on the reverse. The badge is of spectacular quality.

Very fine to excellent condition. The obverse is practically perfect. The enamel shows beautiful luster and appears perfect to the naked eye; a close examination with a 10x loupe reveals a single minuscule flake to the small red scroll at the bottom which is nearly invisible without magnification. There are only some microscopic contact marks elsewhere and some hairlines in the upper segments of the banners, completely unnoticeable without a magnifying glass. The raised details of the globe, wreath, and Aeroflot emblem are extremely well- preserved and crisp. There is attractive even patina to the brass, while some of the original gilt finish is visible in the recesses of the wreath.

The gilt is still very bright and mostly intact on the reverse. The screw post has been shortened for convenience as was customary, but its remaining length of over 7.5 mm is easily enough for proper functionality. The badge comes with an original mint-marked screw plate.

The highest award of Soviet civil aviation, this badge was bestowed very sparingly throughout its half-a-century-long history. This particular version was issued from the late-1940s through 1973.

/See Avers 8 , fig 765.c/

Item# 39627

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