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Distinguished NKVD Employee Badge, Type 2, #2239, 1942-1946 issue.

Brass, enamels; measures 42.5 mm in overall height; the oval "egg" portion is 33.4 mm tall, 26.6 mm wide; weighs 15.9 g without the screw plate. Four-piece construction: the oval back plate, O-shaped part with horizontal lines, sword, and the scroll with hammer & sickle emblem are separate parts held by wires. The serial number is engraved in standard manner under the screw post.

In very fine condition, outstanding for the highest NKVD award of WW2 vintage. The enamel on the red scroll is extremely well-preserved, completely free of the usual chips, flaking or repairs, and exhibits a beautiful luster. It has only some tiny hairlines in the upper left segment that caused a darker appearance in the area but apparently do not threaten the integrity of the enamel.

The enamel on the background under the sword is professionally replaced with epoxy-based "cold" enamel, as is almost always the case with surviving WW2 examples (apparently due to the inherent weakness of the enamel on this part of the badge).

The sword, oval backplate, and the hammer & sickle emblem show just a few very tiny dings and minor scratches, no significant dents or other serious wear. A good amount of the original silver finish is present and clearly visible on the recessed areas of the sword, the oval portion of the badge, and much of the reverse.

The wires holding parts of the badge are original, intact and tight; all parts align perfectly and show an equal amount of wear and patina. The screw post is original and measures approximately 13 mm in length; it has not been reduced. The badge comes with its original, characteristically thick screw plate with the mint logo, measuring 18.4 mm in diameter and weighing 4.0 g; as far as we know, this kind of screw plate is unique to the Distinguished NKVD Employee badge.

Established in 1940, the Distinguished Employee badge was the highest NKVD decoration of the era. Its bronze version was awarded from 1942- 1946. Most surviving WW2 issues show extensive enamel damage, repairs and often, replaced parts. The example offered here is among the very best specimens of this badge to be found.

Item# 46975

\$1,800.00



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