

Badge of Honored Railway Employee, Type 1, miniature version in silver, #1730, 1934-38 issue.

Silver, enamels; 33.1 x 22.3 mm. Riveted two-piece construction: the hammer & sickle emblem is a separate, superimposed part. The reverse has engraved serial number "1730".

In very fine condition. The banner has small surface flakes to enamel near its upper edge - not too noticeable. The enamel still has extremely attractive appearance and original luster. The white enamel is completely intact. The raised details of the steam engine locomotive are perfect and crisp: even the name "Stalin" on the front is fully legible. The screw post is full length, approx. 9 mm. Comes with original silver wing nut having hallmarks "916" and the raised markings of the Vsekokhudozhnik Workshop in Moscow.

This badge was the highest award to railroad employees, equivalent of "Honored" titles in other fields. Like the other "honorary badges", the early type of this decoration was made in silver, whereas much more common post-1941 issues were in silver-plated or nickel-plated brass. The scarce first version of the silver type was in production only between 1934 and 1938, with approximately 4200 ever made, according to various published sources.

/See "Avers 8", p. 146, fig. 738.a (upper right)/.

Item# 24695

\$1,495.00

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