

Badge of Honored Road Builder, #5006, circa mid- to late 1940s issue.

Brass, silver plating, enamels. Measures 44.7 x 32.2 mm; weighs 15.8 g without the screw plate. Two-piece construction: the star is a separate, superimposed part held by wires. The serial number is engraved in characteristic "square" font.

In excellent, near mint condition. The enamel is beautiful and pristine everywhere including the fragile red scrolls; it shows none of the usual chips, flaking or buffing. Raised details are perfect and crisp. The silver finish is completely intact - a highly uncommon case - showing practically no wear even on the high points and creating full impression that the badge is made of solid silver. The original gilt on the wreath and the edges of the star is beautifully preserved and bright. The silver plating on the reverse of the badge is pristine. The screw post is full length, nearly 13 mm. Comes with original screw plate maker marked "Moscow Artists Cooperative". Overall, this is really a magnificent example of Dorozhnik badge - literally impossible to upgrade.

From 1935 through 1953 all major road building in the USSR was under direct control of NKVD (MVD) which supplied ample slave labor for the construction projects. The NKVD and its Gushosdor Agency awarded the Pochyotnyi Dorozhnik (i.e. "Honored Road Builder") badges to best engineers, managers and even some of the "rehabilitated" prisoners.

[/ History of Awards and Insignia of Russian MVD, 1802 - 2002](#), p. 108, fig. 1.2.3.34, also Avers 8" p. 139 fig. 710c /.

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