

Order of National Flag, 1st class, Type 2 Variation 1, foreign (probably Czechoslovak) manufacture, circa late 1950s-1960s.

Silver, enamels; measures 60.9 mm in height, 58.4 mm in width; weighs 56.7 g without the screw plate; overall weight with screw plate is 60.5 g. Features star counter-relief on the reverse with sharp circular depression in the middle and relatively smooth, nipple-like ends on the star points. The overall quality of the badge and especially its enamel as well as the very characteristic 27.5 mm screw plate point out that this type of the badge was manufactured outside of North Korea at a location other than the Soviet Mint, currently believed to be in Czechoslovakia.

In very fine condition. The enamel retains beautiful luster and appears practically perfect to the unaided eye; a careful examination under 10x loupe reveals some tiny flakes to the blue borders - none of them penetrating to silver - as well as miniscule contact marks to the red enamel. The center star has a few tiny dings and scratches, but its ridges are still nicely defined. The silver rays have only tiny dings, no bumps, nicks or significant wear. The gilt finish is nicely preserved and clearly visible throughout including the center star.

On the reverse, the serial number above the underline has been carefully erased, probably to conceal the identity of the original owner and thus protect his family from possible prosecution for selling the award (similar practice prevailed on the black market of Soviet decorations before the collapse of the USSR). It is noteworthy that the serial number was apparently removed decades ago judging by the even patina on the entire reverse. The screw post is full length, approx. 12.5 mm, and includes original screw plate which varies from 27.1 to 27.5 mm in width.

Established in October 1948, this was the first award of the Communist North Korea and it remained its only order for nearly two years. As the new awards were added in the first days of the Korean War, the Order of National Flag kept its status as North Korea's highest decoration. It became second highest award only in 1977, after the establishment of the Order of Kim Il Sung. The very scarce and desirable "Czechoslovak" version of this decoration is rated R3 for rarity ("rare piece, which is sometimes available but may be hard to find") in the [Military and Civil Awards of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea \(DPRK\)](#) by Sessler and McDaniel / page 106/.

Item# 36170

\$1,500.00

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