

Kaganovich Subway Badge, 1938 (Second Stage of Construction), #14709.

Silver, enamels; measures 36.9 mm in height, 33.2 mm in width; weighs 16.1 g without the screw plate. Riveted three-piece construction. Shows a subway car with waving red flags on the sides, hammer and sickle emblem at the top, superimposed letter "M" for "Metro" at the bottom and writing "L.M. Kaganovich Subway". Stamped serial number and raised maker mark "MD" to the reverse. The enamel and overall design are of spectacular quality.

In excellent condition - outstanding for any Kaganovich Metro badge and certainly the best example of the 1938 issue we've handled in many years. The enamel shows magnificent luster and is essentially perfect: free of rubbing, flaking or any wear visible to the naked eye, and having only a few microscopic contact marks barely noticeable even under a 10x magnification. The details of the artwork are literally pristine. The gilt on the hammer and sickle is clearly visible. The rivets are intact; all parts of the badge are perfectly tight. The screw post measures over 12 mm in length, has not been shortened. Original 28.0-mm screw plate in silver is included. Overall, this is a truly superb piece, in our opinion practically impossible to upgrade.

Awarded to the participants of the second stage of Moscow subway construction program. Subway was lavishly designed to be a subterranean "people's palace", and built primarily by slave labor. The badges were awarded to senior engineers, administrators and communist party bosses who supervised the construction, as well as NKVD officers who guarded the laborers.

/See Breast Badges of the USSR of the Era of Labor Victories, 1920-1940, A. Zsak, I. Kalistratov, V. Voronchenko, page 108, fig. 153; Avers 8, p. 76, fig. 462/.

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