



### Voroshilov Marksman Badge, OSOAVIAKHIM issue, 1st level, #951565, circa mid-1930s.

In silver-plated and bronze-plated steel; measures 38.7 mm in height x 32.1 mm in width; weighs 9.5 g not including the screw plate. Scarce version featuring the serial number "951565" stamped on the reverse of the badge near the edge in the 3 to 5 o'clock segment (as opposed to being stamped on the screw plate as is typically the case.) There is a sharp counter-relief to the reverse of the entire badge, including the bull's eye target. Overall quality of the badge is better than most other contemporary issues and seems consistent with a mid-1930s mint production (note that the late-1930s Voroshilov Marksman badges produced by the mint had a bright nickel finish and a serial number stamped on the screw plate.)

In outstanding, excellent condition - practically impossible to upgrade. Both the red and white enamels show a beautiful luster and are completely free of any wear that can be found even under a 10x magnification - a very unusual case. The original silver finish and bronze "primer" are extremely well-preserved on both sides of the badge; the raised details are literally pristine. There is none of the usual pitting or rust to the background steel. The screw post is full length, well over 12.5 mm, and includes a very scarce screw plate with the mint logo which is of the period and in all likelihood, original to the badge. Overall, a truly outstanding piece due to both the scarcity of this variation and its superb condition!

/Similar to Badges of USSR Defense Societies A. Kalistratov, V. Voronochnko, fig. II #9 and fig. II-8, also similar to Avers 8, p. 315, fig. 1542.b/

Item# 43012

**\$150.00**

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