



Excellent Rifleman Badge, circa early-1950s.

Brass, enamels; 45.7 x 36.7mm; weighs 13.7 g not including the screw plate. Features domed center medallion; the top ornament has a well-defined downward pointing triangle in the center and does not have a border framing its top edge. Manufactured by the Pobeda Factory in Moscow, it is the "First Unified" variation according to the Airapetyan classification.

In outstanding, excellent condition. The enamel is essentially pristine, retaining a beautiful luster and showing no wear noticeable to the naked eye; it has only a few microscopic contact marks that can be found just barely with a 10x loupe. The details of the artwork are perfect. Some of the original gold finish is clearly visible in recessed areas of the wreath on the obverse and on the reverse. The screw post is full length, well over 10 mm, and includes an original Pobeda Factory screw plate.

Established in 1947, this award - the true meaning of which is best translated as "Excellent Sharpshooter" or "Excellent Shot" - was one of the two badges of the Proficiency series that came up after the war. This particular example is probably from the early-50s, produced several years before the cancellation of the service-specific awards of the proficiency series in 1957.

/Airapetyan, Breast Badges of the Red Army, 1941-1945, p. 137, fig. 9/.

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\$150.00

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