

The Coburg Decoration Das Coburger Abzeichen

The Coburg Decoration was instituted by Adolf Hitler on October 14, 1932 in commemoration on the 10th anniversary of the October 14-15, 1922 'German Day' in Coburg.

This was to be presented to all members of the NSDAP who had participated in the actions there. Hitler and a large number of his followers went to Coburg, then a stronghold of communism, and physically attacked Communist workers and leaders. This proved to be successful and was considered a propaganda victory for the NSDAP.

There were 436 names of participants given to Hitler who were to receive this decoration, to include several widows. On November 6, 1936, this decoration was elevated to a special Honor Decoration of the NSDAP.

This decoration had a special presentation document personally signed in ink by Hitler under the heading 'Münchem Oktober, 1932.'

The original badge existed in two forms, the first with a thin attaching pin on the reverse and the second with a wider pin. Also, there was a special class of this badge given by Hitler as a personal presentation. This was in silver and lightly vaulted, the swastika behind the sword being enameled in red. Only twenty of these were given to Hitler's closest associates.

The original badge is 54.5 mm in height, 39.5 mm in width, the sword is 53 mm in height and the swastika is 19 mm in thickness. The badge weight is 21.3 grams.

These rare decorations have been extensively copied but aside from the wrong size and weight, the easiest way to detect a modern fake is to look at the sword blade. In *all* originals there is a so-called 'ridge line' on the blade which is a peak line running from the cross guard of the sword to the tip.

It should be noted that there are small 'RZM' marks on the reverse of originals but no maker's name. These badges were *not* numbered nor produced in any other color than bronze (with the sole exception on the special class as noted above) and there were *no* period pieces in gold or encrusted with diamonds.



First issue, obverse

[Download](#)



First issue, reverse

[Download](#)



Second issue, obverse

[Download](#)



Second issue, reverse (note the thicker pin)

Download



Ailsby Collection

Download

[View slide show \(2\)](#)