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## Russian Orthodox Wall Cross of Crucified Christ, circa late XIX C.

In bronze and enamel, measures approx. 20 x 10.5 cm, weighs almost 9 oz. It depicts the Golgotha Cross (aka the Crucifixion Cross), one of the most popular Old Believers' iconography themes. The three-barred vertical cross spans from heavens to earth. On the very top is the God Father, on a cloud, with a chain of celestial objects. Directly under him, we see a depiction of the dove symbolizing the Holy Spirit, and two cherubim who are showing the plate with letters ИИЦИ (Russian abbreviation for Jesus of Nazareth, Czar of Judea). Two words under the cherubim are "Царь Славы" (Czar, or King, of Glory).

On the main crossbeam, we see the inscription "СЫН БОЖИЙ" (Son of God), the monogram "ICXC" (Russian abbreviation for "Jesus Christ the Messiah"), and the words of the main Old Believers' prayer, "Кресту Твоему поклоняемся владыко и святое Твое воскресение славим" (We bow before Thee, Lord, and pray for Thy holy resurrection).

On either side of his body, symbolic instruments of His crucifixion are depicted: on the left, a spear, symbolizing the piercing of His side, and on the right, a cane with sponge-covered tip for moistening His lips. Below His feet, abbreviated inscriptions are found: МЛ-Место Лобное (Place of execution), РБ-Раб Божий (Servant of God), ГГ-Гора Голгофа (Mount Golgotha). Under the cross, there is the depiction of a scull. Tradition holds that Golgotha was the resting place of the first man, Adam, with the letters ГА meaning Grave of Adam.

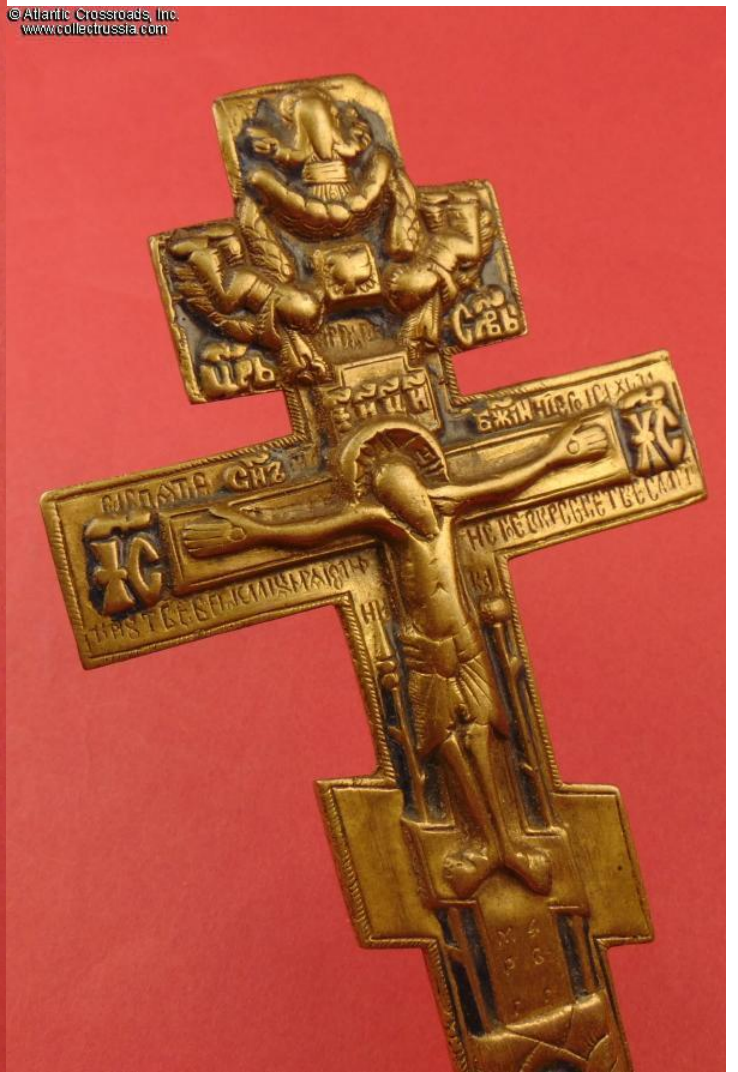
The reverse side of the cross is completely filled with text. It is certainly a prayer, most likely one of the psalms of David but, possibly, some text from the New Testament.

Although the enamel exhibits signs of wear and minor chipping, the overall metalwork of the icon remains in excellent condition. The intricate details of the metalwork, along with precision of the writing and inscriptions, continue to be well defined. Overall, the icon is a remarkable piece of artwork with a profound spiritual message.

Please note that the pen in our last photo is for size reference.

Item# 37444

**\$230.00**





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