

Russian Orthodox traveling icon of Saint Boris and Saint Gleb, late XIX-early XX C.

In bronze, weighs approx. 4 oz, measures 13.9 cm x 8.9 cm (5 ½" x 3 ½"). Boris and Gleb are revered as the first saint martyrs of the Russian Orthodox Church. They were brothers who lived in the 11th century, sons of Prince Vladimir the Great, who was the main driving force in the process of Christianization of Kievan Rus.

After Vladimir's death, a struggle for power ensued among his sons Sviatopolk the Accursed and Yaroslav the Wise, both willing to claim the throne. However, Boris and Gleb chose not to participate in the conflict and instead upheld the Christian principle of peace and brotherly love, even in the face of danger. In 1015, driven by his ambition, Sviatopolk ordered the assassination of Boris and Gleb. Despite being aware of the danger, the brothers did not resist and accepted their fate, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to peace and forgiveness. They were martyred and buried in separate locations, eventually being transferred to the Vyshhorod Cathedral near Kiev. The veneration of Boris and Gleb played a significant role in the development of Russian Orthodoxy, inspiring generations of believers to live virtuously and peacefully.

This icon, depicting the brothers as horsemen dressed in ancient Russian princely attire with distinctive high hats and spears in hands, is associated with their veneration. The horses in the icon are depicted floating between earth and heavens. At the top of the icon, there is an image of Savaoph, God the Father, and a roundel showing St Trinity (Troitsa): three angels visiting Abraham on their way to Sodom, symbolizing harmony and peace.

This is a small yet beautiful and concise work of art that can serve as a traveling icon or amulet. In excellent condition. There is a couple of small greenish oxidation spots on the reverse and a very attractive and mild patina, adding to the aura of authentic antiquity to the icon.

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

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\$325.00

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