

## Russian Orthodox Old Believers' Icon of Saint George Slaying the Dragon, XVIII C.

In bronze, measures 2 3/4" x 4" including the top cross-shaped part which has an opening to insert a suspension cord and thus make the icon wearable. The inscription on the top panel of the frame is illegible but the inscription below identifies the image as an Icon of Saint Martyr ("Образ Святого Мученика"). St. George is held in a highly revered status globally as one of the most venerated saints, being the patron saint of 11 countries, including England and Portugal.

The story of St. George is captivating. A Roman soldier during Emperor Diocletian's reign, he stood firm as one of the early Christians, and became a martyr for his unwavering faith. His resting place in the town of Lidda (modern-day Lod, Israel) has become a point of pilgrimage following the Crusaders' return. Lod houses a shrine established by the Crusaders in the XII century, making it a site of immense Christian significance.

In Russian Orthodox Church, the depiction of the battle of St. George the Victorious with the dragon bears a symbolic representation of the ongoing struggle of good vs. evil in everyday life. This portrayal also holds immense national significance, St. George's triumph over the dragon being in the center of Russia's State Emblem and coat of arms as well as that of the city of Moscow. Within Russian Orthodox Church, this icon forms an integral part of the main Deesis row, which signifies its exceptional spiritual importance.

The icon remains in overall good vintage condition, exhibiting expected signs of age and wear that only add to its historical value and allure. The hole for the suspension cord is completely filled on one side but can probably be reopened with appropriate tools and a bit of patience and dexterity.

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

Item# 40250

**\$375.00**

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