

## Russian Orthodox Old Believers' Icon of Three Patriarchs, circa late XIX C.

In bronze, measuring 3 ¾ x 4 ½", weighs 9 oz. The icon portrays three outstanding hierarchs of early Christianity; St. John Chrysostom, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. Basil the Great. Above their figures is a miniature "miraculous" (as in, not made by human hands) icon of Jesus Christ. Their names are inscribed around the icon of Jesus.

St. John Chrysostom (c. 350-407), also known as "Zlatoust," served as the Patriarch of Constantinople. He was renowned for his exceptional eloquence and used his pulpit to criticize the opulent lifestyles of the priesthood. This outspoken stance earned him popularity among the common people but led to persecution by the aristocracy and some members of the clergy.

St. Gregory the Theologian (c. 330-390) is best known for formulating the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. He also criticized the Arian heresy and authored sermons and liturgical texts still in use today.

St. Basil the Great (c. 330-379), one of the Church Fathers, demonstrated the primacy of spiritual wisdom over science. He authored a liturgy that is still in use in the church today. Basil vehemently opposed the Arian heresy and was a member of the Council of Nicaea.

In the icon, the three saints are vested as bishops, wearing omophoria, with their right hands raised in blessing, holding Books of Gospel in their left hands. This metal icon, cherished by old believers, showcases exquisite metalwork. The intricate patterning on the metal reveals a clear graphical design. The level of detail in the facial features, hair dress and beards, richly decorated gowns and inner decorative frames is exquisite.

The icon is in excellent, outstanding condition, with only a few dark tarnish spots on the reverse. The raised parts of the bas-relief portraits are exceptionally well preserved. Overall, this icon is a stunning and magnificent work of art and a remarkable religious object.

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

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**\$270.00**

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