

Portrait of Stalin, original, oil/oilcloth, artist signed, circa late 1930s - early 40s.

Large size measuring 23" x 31". The width on top is actually 22", 23" on the bottom. The artist's last name, Belousov (Белюсов), is handwritten in the lower right-hand corner. Our research yielded a rather high number of artists with this last name and of the same period, but their signatures do not match the one on this portrait.

In good condition. Minor loss of paint is evident but at least 95-97% of it is intact. The chipped paint reveals blue surface of the oilcloth, which blends nicely with the overall palette of the portrait and is not too intrusive to the eye. There are three tears to the oilcloth, all repaired on the verso with pieces of oilcloth. We took photos of them, placing a quarter coin next to the worst-looking one for size reference.

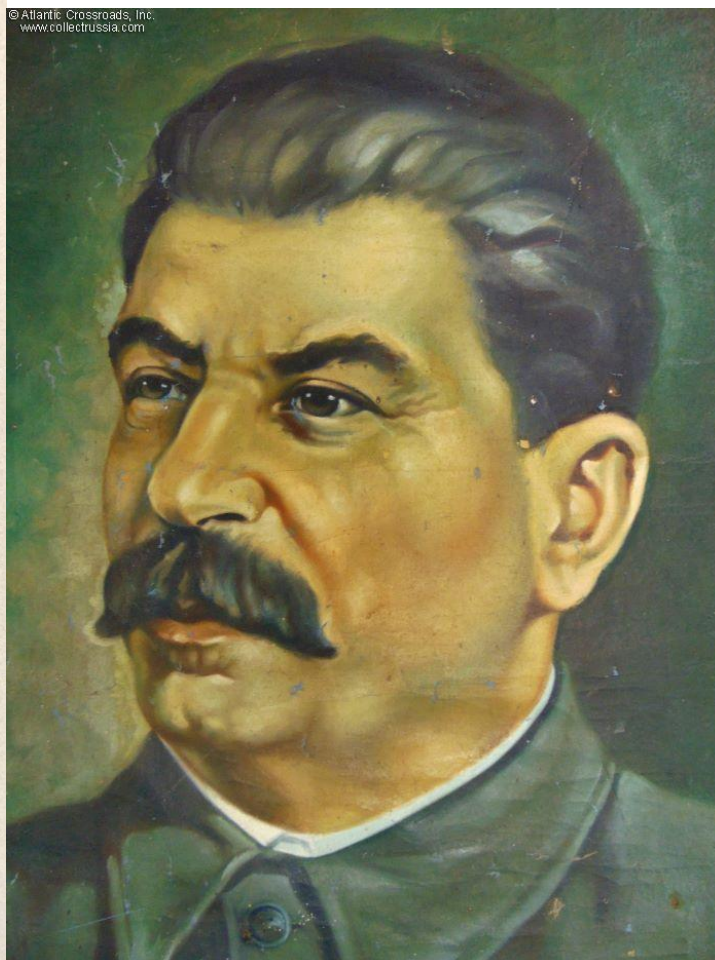
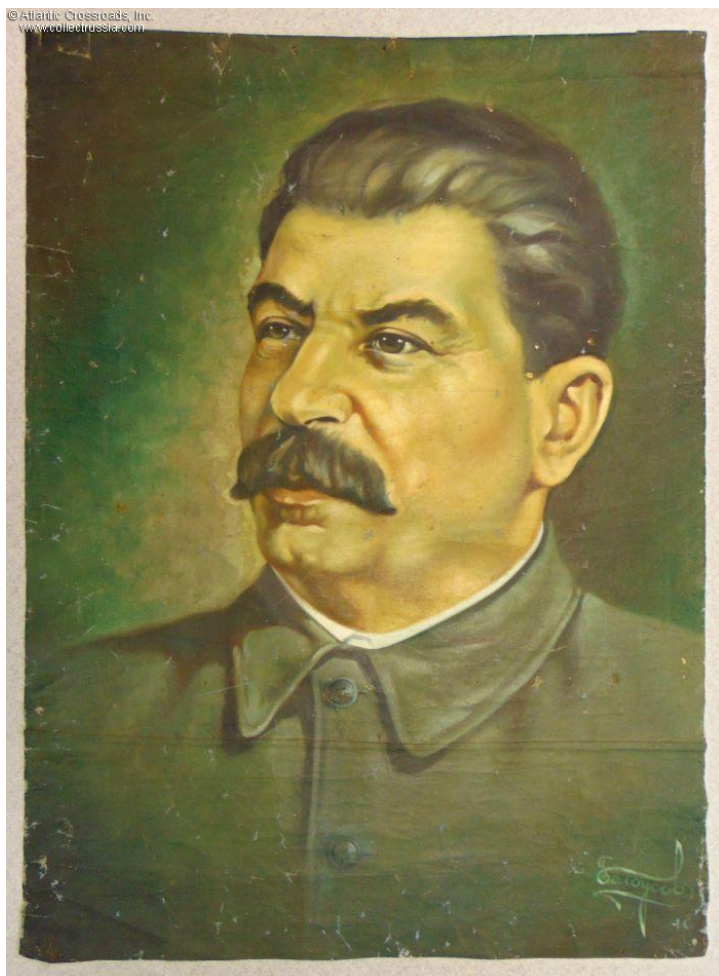
There are also several punctured round holes. Some of them are along the edges where you would expect framing nails to have been, but there are two horizontal lines of holes running far from the edges, not easy to notice and not too detractive. Another irregularity is that the lower part of the oilcloth has been skillfully double-stitched to the upper part on a sewing machine. We think that the repairs and the added part of the oilcloth, and oilcloth instead of canvas, can all be attributed to the frugality and shortages of the period which led to such forced improvised solutions. Too bad painting cannot talk! We think this one could tell an interesting story.

Overall, the painting presents well, the wear adding to its air of age and authenticity.

Please note that the 1-ft. ruler in our photo is for size reference.

Item# 42417

\$640.00







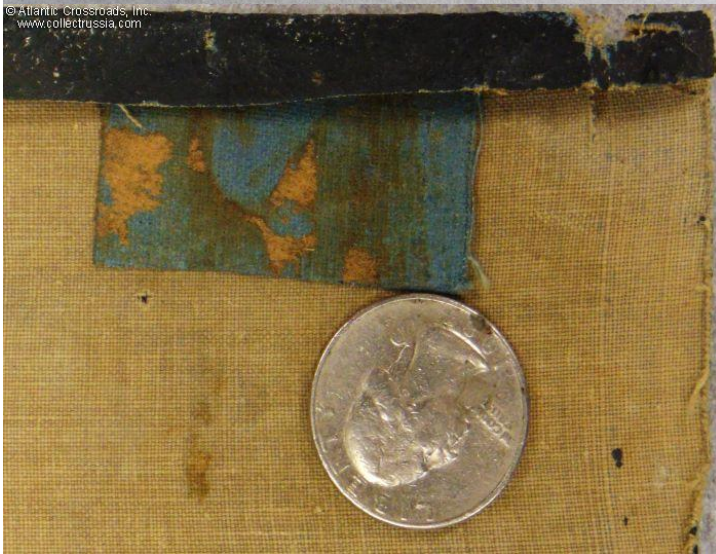
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