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## 18th Century Russian Orthodox Brass Crucifix Icon Enamel Christ Travel Cross



350 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Bronze

### Description

This remarkable artifact is a 19th century Russian Orthodox travel crucifix, known as a "Cross with Enamel" or "Brass Orthodox Crucifix." It belongs to the tradition of sacred objects used by Russian Orthodox believers for personal devotion while traveling. Measuring 22 x 16 cm, this crucifix features the traditional Byzantine-style Calvary scene. The central figure depicts Christ crucified, with inscriptions in Church Slavonic above reading "King of Glory" (??? ???). At the top of the cross is the image of the Holy Face (Mandylion), representing Christ's face imprinted on cloth. On either side of Christ are mourning figures - to the left stand the Apostle John and other witnesses, while to the right are the Virgin Mary and the pious women. The blue enamel background (cloisonné technique) represents the

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Saint-Gilles 1060

heavens, with the cityscape of Jerusalem depicted at Christ's feet. The letters "IC XC" at the top center are the traditional Greek monogram for Jesus Christ. The reverse side displays intricately engraved floral motifs, including stylized lotus flowers and ornamental foliage arranged in symmetrical patterns. This elaborate decorative work on the back is characteristic of the meticulous craftsmanship of Russian Orthodox metalwork. These icons were often made in workshops of the Old Believers, a traditionalist branch of Russian Orthodoxy. Such crucifixes served multiple purposes - as personal icons for prayer, protection during travel, and as family heirlooms passed through generations. The piece combines religious significance with fine craftsmanship, making it a valuable artifact for both collectors of religious items and those interested in Russian Orthodox heritage.

Condition: This brass crucifix icon is in good condition considering its age. The brass structure remains intact and solid. The blue enamel work shows some wear and minor losses consistent with age and use, particularly in the background areas. There are expected signs of oxidation on the brass surfaces. The details of the figures remain clear and well-defined. The engraved floral patterns on the back show light wear but remain clearly visible with fine detail preservation. No significant damage, cracks, or repairs are evident. This piece has developed a natural patina that enhances its historic character.

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