

# Finch & C<sup>o</sup>



93 A fine Russian Icon decorated with Christ on the Cross and on the reverse with the instruments of the Passion  
18th CENTURY

Size: 36cm x 22.5cm x 3cm  
Provenance: From the estate of Lord Norton, Filingsley Hall, Warwickshire

The icon is painted on wood in the shape of a Byzantine cross. It is decorated with God the Father, the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, and the Holy Ghost above Christ crucified with the lance and vinegar sponge beside him, and skull and crossbones below with a Russian townscape behind. Above and around the cross there is old Russian Cyrillic lettering. The reverse is painted with the 24 symbols of the Passion.

The icon is used as an aid to devotion and has been venerated by orthodox Christians in the Byzantine and Eastern Church since the 12th century.

The Russian Orthodox Church together with the Churches of Greece, Romania, Bulgaria and Serbia, as well as the ancient churches in Africa such as the Coptic, Syrian and Ethiopian Church do not recognise the authority of the Pope in Rome. They use elaborate and archaic forms of service and all of them produce painted icons of different sorts, which are still used to invoke divine protection.

## A FINE RUSSIAN ICON DECORATED WITH CHRIST ON THE CROSS, 18TH CENTURY

A FINE RUSSIAN ICON DECORATED WITH CHRIST ON THE CROSS AND ON THE REVERSE WITH THE INSTRUMENTS OF THE PASSION

18TH CENTURY

SIZE : 36CMX22.5 CMX3 CM

## LITERATURE

THE ICON IS PAINTED ON WOOD IN THE SHAPE OF A BYZANTINE CROSS. IT IS DECORATED WITH GOD THE FATHER, THE ARCHANGELS MICHAEL AND GABRIEL, AND THE HOLY GHOST ABOVE CHRIST CRUCIFIED WITH THE LANCE AND VINEGAR SPONGE BESIDE HIM, AND SKULL AND CROSSBONES BELOW WITH A RUSSIAN TOWNSCAPE BEHIND. ABOVE AND AROUND THE CROSS THERE IS OLD RUSSIAN CYRILLIC LETTERING. THE REVERSE IS PAINTED WITH THE 24 SYMBOLS OF THE PASSION.

THE ICON IS USED AS AN AID TO DEVOTION AND HAS BEEN VENERATED BY ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN THE BYZANTINE AND EASTERN CHURCH SINCE THE 12TH CENTURY.

THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH TOGETHER WITH THE CHURCHES OF GREECE, ROMANIA, BULGARIA AND SERBIA, AS WELL AS THE ANCIENT CHURCHES IN AFRICA SUCH AS THE COPTIC, SYRIAN AND ETHIOPIAN CHURCH DO NOT RECOGNISE THE AUTHORITY OF THE POPE IN ROME. THEY USE ELABORATE AND ARCHAIC FORMS OF SERVICE AND ALL OF THEM PRODUCE PAINTED ICONS OF DIFFERENT SORTS, WHICH ARE STILL USED TO INVOKE DIVINE PROTECTION.