

MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ICONS

203 Union Street . Clinton . Massachusetts 01510

CHRIST IN MAJESTY Circa 1580

Museum News and Events

Coming May 5, 2009

Hours: Tue. - Fri., 11AM-3PM and Sat. 9AM-3PM

**We are pleased to announce the acquisition of a monumental Christ in Majesty Icon
centerpiece of an ancient 1580 iconostasis**



**On Exhibit with over 20 new acquisitions beginning May 5, '09
Following the groundbreaking Two Museums | One Culture Exhibition ending May 2, '09**

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Information about the Christ in Majesty Icon

This monumental icon was the centerpiece and main focus of the Deesis tier of an ancient Iconostasis (Icon wall) at the front of an Orthodox Christian Church. The Deesis tier is the most important tier of a wall that could have as many as seven tiers with a total of forty icons in a large church.

In the Deesis tier, Christ honors Mary, the Mother of God on His right and John the Baptist on His left, as the first witnesses to Christ's Divinity. The Deesis row usually extends with Archangels Michael and Gabriel plus six saints on each side facing in toward Christ.

Christ in Majesty is seated on a high throne above the Royal Doors that lead to the altar. The curved red squares surrounding Him represent an octagonal eternal star. The style of this icon is Muscovite.

The Bible is open to the passage "*Come to me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest*" (Matthew 11:28-29).

The Slavonic letters in three sections of Christ's halo (WON) are from the Old Testament and represent the oneness of the three part trinity. At the very top of this icon are the letters IC and XC representing the first and last initials for the Greek name of Jesus Christ. Christ bestows a blessing with His right hand holding His fingers to represent IC and XC.

In the blue and green mandorla are many angel faces representing seraphim—angels with quivering wings.

In the four red corners are triangles with symbols representing, clockwise from the upper left, Matthew (a man), John (an eagle), Luke (an ox), and Mark (a lion).

This icon represents Christ as Pantocrator—Almighty and Omnipotent and the Savior—Ruler of the Universe.



NEW ACQUISITIONS