

MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ICONS

203 Union Street . Clinton . Massachusetts 01510

One Icon Exhibition Kazan Mother of God

Museum News and Events

January, 2010

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

We are pleased to announce the acquisition of a Kazan Mother of God Icon, circa 1650



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Information about the Kazan Mother of God Icon

In the 13th century, this striking Mother of God icon traveled from Constantinople to Kazan, a city on the Volga river three hundred miles east of Moscow. It became known as the Kazan Mother of God icon. In 1438, the Tartars captured the city of Kazan. The icon was lost for more than 100 years until the Russian Czar, Ivan the Terrible liberated the city in 1552.

According to legend, the Mother of God appeared in a dream to a 10 year old girl named Matrona, and told her where to find this renowned icon. Metrona repeatedly dreamt the icon was buried under the ashes of a soldier's home that had been destroyed by fire. On July 8th, 1579, Metrona and her mother went to the home, dug up the ashes and found the icon in perfect condition. As a result, it became highly venerated in Kazan.

When Moscow was invaded and occupied by the Polish army 33 years later in 1612, the Patriarch of Russia brought the famous icon from Kazan to Moscow. The Polish army was defeated on October 22nd 1612, and the victory was attributed to the Kazan Mother of God icon.

The Kazan Mother of God was also credited with the defeat of Napoleon's army when two centuries later in 1812, Napoleon invaded Moscow and was defeated when, with no sign of clear victory in sight, he began the disastrous *Great Retreat* from Moscow.

The Kazan Mother of God icon is considered to be one of the two most important Mother of God icons in Russia, the other being the Vladimir Mother of God.



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NEW ACQUISITIONS