Iconography Terms
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acheiropoieic The “image not made with human hands”. The miraculously imprinted face of Christ upon cloth.

Adoptionism An early heresy that taught that Jesus was not divine until He was adopted as God’s Son, either at His baptism or Resurrection.

Adoration of the Magi The worship of the Christ Child by visiting pagan noblemen from the East; a common iconographic subject.

aeciduла (крошечныйхрам) An opening at the top of a metal icon used as a crest.

aer (возбухъ) A veil used for covering the paten and chalice.

agate (агат) agraffe A hook on one side of a vestment that corresponds to a loop on the other which is used to fasten the clothing.

afterfeast A continuing celebration of a feast for several days after the feast day, until the leave-taking of the feast.

Agnets (Агнес, from Lat. Agnus, “lamb”) The piece of Eucharistic bread placed on the paten, to be consecrated. It corresponds to the image of the Lamb of God in the Book of Revelation.

akakia (акакиа) A purple pouch carried by the Byzantine Emperor containing soil from a grave, intended to symbolize the ephemeral nature of life.

akathist (Акафист, Gk. for “without sitting”) Originally, a long hymn composed by St. Romanos the Melodist in the 6th century in honor of the Mother of God. The congregation remains standing throughout the duration of the hymn, which is sung during the weeks surrounding the Feast of the Annunciation. In Imperial Russia, many popular paraliturgical hymns on various subjects were written, using form of the original Akathist as their basis. These hymns are also known as “akathists.” Many icons depict the text of a related akathist in border scenes.

alabaster (алебастровый) alb (стихарь) A long, white, liturgical vestment used in the Western rite.

alexandrite Green gemstone that is prized for its ability to drastically change colors when exposed to light.

alkanet root The root of the alkanet plant used to attain a red dye.

alloy (сплав) almandine (альмандин) An iron-like gemstone, the red variety of garnet.

alpaca An alloy of copper, zinc, nickel, and silver.

Altar The sacred table located in the apse of a church or the entire area behind the Iconostasis.

altar cloth (завесаалтарная)

aluminium (алюминий)

amber (янтарь)

ambo (амвон, Gk. for “step”) An elevated platform in front of the Altar. From the ambo, the Gospel is read and sermons are delivered. In older times, the ambo was located in the center of the nave and was used for displaying relics and for special ceremonies on feast days such as the Exaltation of the Cross.

amethyst (аметист) A purple variety of quartz.

amice A white vestment which is fastened over just the shoulders of a priest by two ribbons.

amictus (мантияте) Ancient Roman term used for draped, outer vestments.

amulet (амулетan) Object intended to bring the wearer good luck or
protection. It could take the form of a crucifix or any medallion.

analav See paraman.

analogion (аналой, Gk. for “reading stand”) A stand on which icons or sacred books are placed in church for veneration or reading.

analoy Lectern

analoy na ikona Lectern icon, also known as a proskynesis icon. An icon that is displayed on the lectern or on an easel in front of an iconostasis during the period of celebration of an important liturgical feast and which has as its theme an image pertaining to that feast.

Anapeson (ὁ Ἀναπεσών, “He Who is reclining”) Icon type depicting the Christ Child asleep, suggesting His future death.

anastasis (from Greek “raising up”). The icon depicting Christ’s Descent into Hell and the subsequent “raising” of humanity.

anchorite (затворник; анахорет, Gk. for “one who has withdrawn”) A hermit monk.

Ancient of Days Icon type depicting the pre-incarnate Christ as an old man. The image derives from Daniel 7.

Angelic Orders The hierarchy of heavenly powers, consisting of Cherubim, Seraphim, Thrones, Dominions, Virtues, Authorities, Principalities, Archangels and Angels.

Angel of Great Counsel (Ангел Великого Совета) Epithet for the future king prophesied by Isaiah, interpreted to be Jesus Christ.

Annunciation (Благовещение) The Archangel Gabriel’s announcement to Mary that she would bear the Son of God and His conception in her womb. This event is celebrated as one of the Twelve Great Feasts, on March 25. There are four iconographic variants of the Annunciation: Ann. With Yarn, Ann. By the Spring, the Child in the Womb and Ann. with a Book.

anthemion Decorative symmetrical floral pattern.

antimension (антиминса) Rectangular piece of cloth placed on the altar which is decorated with depictions of the entombment of Christ, the four Evangelists, and a scripture passage related to the celebration of the Eucharist.

apocalypse (апокалипсис, Gk. for “revelation”) Genre of literature, often apocryphal, on the subject of the End-times; esp. the Apocalypse of John.

apocryphon (апокрнф, Gk. for something “hidden” or “secret”) A pseudo-scriptural Christian or Jewish book not traditionally recognized as canonical. Apocryphal literature forms the basis of or influences many iconographic scenes, including the Birth of the Mother of God, the Entry of the Mother of God in the Temple, the Annunciation, the Descent into Hades and the Dormition.

apophatic theology A mode of speaking about God by only declaring what He is not. In Orthodox theology, this is the only fully correct way to speak about God.

apophobic theology The collected sayings of the Desert Fathers.

Apostle 1. One of the disciples of Jesus who saw Him after His Resurrection. 2. Any great missionary.

Apostles, Princes of the Peter and Paul.

apse (апсида, Gk. for “arch”) The externally protruding recess in the east wall of the church building. The Altar is located in front of the apse.

Archangel An order of bodiless power, among whom are traditionally numbered Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salathiel, Jegudiel, Barachiel and Jeremiel.

archetype The pattern image that serves as the basis from which an iconographer designs his own paintings.

archimandrite (архимандрит, Gk. for “chief of the monastery”) The Father Superior of a large monastery or several monasteries. In modern times, the title is often strictly honorary.
architrave (архитрав) Moldings that frame rectangular openings.
argyroketema (ἀργυροκέντημα, “silver stitching”) Silk thread with thin strips of silver foil loosely wound around it such that the colored core is visible. See also chrysokekenma.
Arianism 4th-6th century heresy propagated by and Alexandrian priest named Arius. The heresy denied that Christ is divine in the same sense as God the Father.
artel An association of workshops of a particular trade, similar to a guild.
Ascension (Вознесение) The return to heaven of the risen Jesus and His enthronement at the right hand of God the Father. This event is celebrated as one of the Twelve Great Feasts, forty days after Pascha.
askesis Lit. “training.” The struggle of a person to grow in holiness, esp. applied to monastics.
assemblage (монтировка) Forming an art piece by using odd bits of cloth, metal, or other material.
assist Fine crosshatching of gold and white, used in iconography to provide the effect of light emanating from the saints.
asterisk (звездочка) A cross-shaped arch placed on top of the diskos to keep the veil and aer which are placed over it from touching the bread.
assumption (усиение) The bodily entry a saint into heaven. The assumptions of the Mother of God and of Elijah are common iconographic subjects.
Athos, Mount The center of Greek and Byzantine monasticism and a historically important center of icon painting. Also simply called “The Holy Mountain.”
aureole A radiant light surrounding a holy figure. An aureole is distinct from a halo in that it encompasses the entire figure.
auripigment A golden-yellow pigment, used in painting clothing and background.
avy (синий, голубой)
bochka (бочка) Russian for barrel, referring to an arched crest shape on an icon.
Bogolyubskaya of Moscow Icon type depicting the Mother of God standing full-figure with a scroll in her hand. It originates with a vision seen by Andrei Bogolyubsky, Prince of Vladimir-Suzdal (d. 1174).
Bogoroditsa (Богородица, “birth-giver of God”) Epithet for the Virgin, usually translated “Mother of God.” Dogmatically, the title asserts the hypostatic union of the divine and human natures into one Person.
bone (кость) Usually, bone would be used as a substitute to ivory as it was more readily accessible.
bone black A natural pigment made from scorched boned or ivory.
blackening (чернение)
bonnet (капор) Type of cap used in Orthodox baptisms.  
bracelet (браслет)  
braid (тесьма)  
brass (латунь, желтая медь)  
braze (паять) Soldering using brass.  
brazen (медный, бронзовый) An object made of brass.  
breastplate (нагрудника) Breastplate worn by the High Priest.  
breeches (панталоны) Pants reaching to the knee. An early vestment used by Jewish priests.  
bracade (парча) A woven cloth usually richly decorated with a thick embroidery (possibly of gold thread) and gemstones.  
bronze (бронза)  
burnt sienna (жёная сиена) Brown natural pigment made by burning raw sienna found in clay.  
burin (штихель) Chisel used for engraving.  
bust ( бюст)  
button (пуговица)  
caban An early form of a fitted coat with wide sleeves  
caftan (кафтан) Garment with a fitted back and an open front.  
calyptra The head-dress of the Byzantine Emperor shaped like an arched polygon.  
candle (свеча)  
canon (канон, Gk. for “rule, standard”) 1. A regulatory text produced by a Church council setting down guidelines for Church discipline, liturgy or theology. Icons are governed by canonical regulations. The canonical “correctness” of an icon is also frequently judged by unwritten norms. The “Iconographer’s Canon” (“Podlinnik Ikonopisny”) is a compendium of icon patterns.  
2. An elaborate type of hymn based on the songs of the Bible.  
canvas (холст)  
capuche (капота) Long, pointed hood characteristic of those worn by monks.  
carat (карат)  
carbon black A black natural mineral pigment.  
carnelian (сердолик) Brown-red mineral often used as a gemstone.  
cartouche (картуш) Ornamental inscription.  
carving (резьба)  
casket (лапец)  
cassock (подразник) Ankle-length robe worn by clerics.  
cast (отливка)  
casting (литьё) The metallurgy process by which molten metal is poured into a mold and solidifies to make the desired shape.  
catholicicon (кафоликон, Gk. for “for the whole”) The central church of a monastery.  
cathedra (кафедра, Gk. for “seat”) The bishop’s throne in the church building, in which he may sit during services. The cathedra is located in the apse directly behind the Altar. In countries that were under Ottoman dominion, the cathedron was moved outside the altar.  
catsia (катсия) Church vessel for burning incense with a handle.  
cencer (какило) Church vessel for burning incense suspended with chains.  
chain (цепь)  
chalice (чаша) Cup used to offer Communion. Usually made of precious metal, chalices can also be engraved, bejeweled or decorated with images.  
champleve (выемчатая) High relief, notched.  
charcoal (древесный уголь)
chasing (гравировать) A decorative technique of making small indents in the surface of a metal.

chasuble (риза) See felonion.

Cherubic Hymn (Херувимская Песнь) Sung during the Great Entrance of the Liturgy.

Cherubim (Херувимы; from Hebrew; син. Cherub.) The highest order of bodiless creatures, who carry the throne of God. Often abstractly depicted as semi-transparent wheels with wings and eyes. The vision of the Cherubim in Ezekiel 10 is the basis for the motif of the Four Evangelists portrayed as animals. Singular.

chin (чин) A row of icons in an iconostasis.

china (фарфор) chirothecoe
(литургическая перчатка) Liturgical gloves of the same color as the current liturgical season embroidered with a cross that are used by bishops and cardinals only at pontifical masses.

chiton (хитон) A Greek full-length article of clothing made of linen or wool.

chlamys (хламида) A cape or cloak, fastened at the right shoulder. It is typically military apparel, worn by military saints and Archangels.

choros (корона) A hanging metal ring that surrounds a large chandelier.

chrismation The rite of confirming a Christian and sealing him with the oil (chrism) of the Holy Spirit following Baptism.

Christ in Majesty (Спас в Силах) Icon of Christ enthroned.

christogram An emblem representing the name of Christ, formed from the Greek letters X and P.

chrysography (золотчение, поцзолота) Gold leaf hatching, mainly seen in icons on garments and mandorlas. It is applied in the final stage of icon production.

chrysokentema (χρυσόκέντημα, “gold stitching”) Silk thread with thin strips of gold foil loosely wound around it such that the colored core is visible. See also argyrokatema.

ciborium (киворий) A canopy structure supported by columns covering an Altar or other sacred location. It represents an Altar in iconography.

cinnabar (киноварь) Scarlet colored paint derived from minerals, commonly used in icon painting.

cincture A rope with knotted ends that is tied around the waist of the priest like a belt. The Western equivalent of the Orthodox zone.

clasp (пряжка)
clavus A colored stripe on a tunic, serving to denote rank or office.

clay (глина) A common source of natural pigments such as sienna and umber.

cloisonne (перегородчатая эмаль) See chambleve.

cloth (текань)

coil (змеевик)

colobium (from κόλοβος, “shortened”) A large sleeveless tunic.

colored (цветное)

conch (конха, Gk. for “shellfish”) A semi-dome above the apse of a church, often decorated with images.

confessor (исповедник) Any saint who suffered for the Faith, but was not martyred.

cope (риза) A liturgical garment similar to a felonion or chasuble, but resembling an outer cloak with sleeves and sometimes a hood.

copper (медь; adj. медный)

copper alloy (медный сплав)

cordate (сердцевидные) A heart shape design.

coral (коралл)

cotton (хлопок)

covered cup (ставка)
cowl (капюшон) A long, hooded cloak with wide sleeves usually worn by monks.
crest (гребень) The artistic or architectural shape of an arch. In icons, this refers to the top an icon. See kokoshnik crest or ogee arch.
crosier (епископский посох) The ceremonial and ornate staff carried by bishops and other high ranking members of the clergy.
cross (креста) Decorative motif that surmounts that main body of an art object.
cross-encolpion (пересекают энколпион) Crucifix (распятие) Pectoral folding cross for keeping parts of holy relics.
cruciform (крестообразный) crucifix (распятие) Pectoral folding cross for keeping parts of holy relics. Deisis (Деисус, Gk. for “supplication”) The depiction of the Virgin, John the Baptist and possibly many more saints interceding with Christ on behalf of mankind. The Deisis is the most prominent image on the Iconostasis and is associated with the Last Judgment. Also called “Trimorphon” when only Christ, the Virgin and the Baptist are shown.
Desert Fathers Saints who lived an ascetic life in the wilderness of Egypt and the Levant approximately during the 3rd-7th centuries.
despotic icons (from δεσπότης, “master”) The large icons on the Iconostasis directly flanking the Royal Doors.
diaconicon (диаконикон, “deacon’s place”) The chamber in the south end of the bema, where various liturgical books and items are kept.
diamond (алмаз) dikirion and trikirion Liturgical, ornamental candlesticks holding two and three candles respectively.
Dionysius the Areopagite Pseudo-5th century saint, a Christian Platonist writing under the name of a Biblical personage. His works were highly influential in mystical theology.
dioptase A green natural pigment commonly used in icons.
dipthera A cloak made of pelts that covered the wearers’ shoulders.
diptych (диптих, Gk. for “folded in two”) A pair of icons connected by a hinge, folding like a book.
diskokalymma (дискокальымиа, “disk cover”) A small veil draped over the Eucharistic paten. See also poteriokalymma.
diskos (дискос) The plate used to hold the Eucharist.
divetesion Silk tunic that the Emperor wore on high, state events
Docetism An early heresy that taught that Christ did not have a human body, but had simply appeared as a human.
dodekaorton (двунадесятые праздники, “twelve feasts”) A series of icons representing the Twelve Great Feast Days.
dolichnoye pis’mo (доличное письмо) The painting of landscape, architecture and clothing prior to the painting of faces and exposed parts of bodies.
Dormition (Успение, “falling asleep”) The death of the Mother of God, followed by her assumption into heaven. The Dormition is one of the Twelve Great Feast Days.
doshchannik (дошчаник) The joiner who makes icon panels.
**double-tiered composition**  
(двойнойсоставмногоуровневой)  
An icon with two subjects, one above the other.

**draftsman** (знаменщик) One who sketches initial outlines for icons.

**drum** (барабан) The cylindrical supporting a dome.

**druzhina** An artists’ fellowship, similar to an artel.

**dull** (тусклый)  
**dvoeperistie** The two-fingered sign of the cross formed with the index and middle fingers, used to give blessings. Old Believers always cross themselves with the hand in the dvoeperistie gesture.

**dvuchastnaya ikona** (двучастная икона) An icon consisting of two different subjects.

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**Eagle Rug**  
**eagle rug** (орлецьa) Circular rug embroidered with a picture of an eagle flying over a walled city that the bishops stand on during services.

**Ecumenical Council** A council at which bishops representing the entire Church are present and whose decisions are binding upon the whole Church. The Orthodox Church acknowledges seven, eight or nine Ecumenical Councils. Some Ecumenical Councils are depicted in iconography. The Seventh Ecumenical Council, commemorated in a feast as “The Triumph of Orthodoxy,” formally condemned Iconoclasm as heresy and gave iconography a formal canonical foundation.

**eidolon** (εἴδωλον, “image”) 1. An idol (as opposed to an icon, a proper Christian image). 2. The image of the Virgin’s soul wrapped in swaddling clothes in the scene of the Dormition.

**eileton** (илитона) Silk cloth slightly larger than the antimension that is folded around it at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy and remains on the altar.

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**Eleousa** (Елеуса, Gk. for “she who has mercy”) Icon type depicting Virgin and Child. Jesus’ cheek touches His Mother’s face.

**emerald** (эзумруд)  
**embossing** (чеканка)  
**Emmanuel, Christ** Any depiction of Christ as a child, placing emphasis in His Incarnation. “Emmanuel” derives from the name of the child of Isaiah 7-8; the name means “God with us” in Hebrew.

**enamel** (эмаль) Melted powdered glass that is layer coated over a metal surface in order to provide an artistic aspect as well as to provide some protection to the surface.

**enamelling** (эмалирование)  
**encaustic** (энкаустика) Painting with pigments mixed in hot wax. A technique of early icon painting.

**encolpion** (энколпион, ἐγκόλπιον, “on the chest”) A pectoral icon or cross suspended from the neck, esp. that of a bishop. Encolpia often contain relics.

**encrusted** (инкрустация)  
**endyton** (носимого) The second of the three wrappings of cloth that covers the altar.

**engraving** (гравировка)  
**epigonation** (палица) A diamond-shaped vestment worn by priests and bishops that hangs over their shoulder at their side, embroidered with an icon.

**epimanikia** (порутчи) Liturgical vestment cuffs that lace onto the wrists of a bishop to contain the sleeves of the sticharion.

**Epiphany** The feast of the Baptism of Christ. See Theophany.

**epistyle** The lintel of the Iconostasis above the Royal Doors.

**epitaphios** (плащаница) See aer.


**epitracheilion** (епитрахиллион) See stole.

**epitrachil** (епитрахиль, Gk. for “on the neck”; нашейник) Also called “Stole.” A type of apron, part of clerical vestment.

**Equal-to-the-Apostles** (Равнапостольный) A title bestowed upon certain saints, including the Myrrhbearers and great missionaries.

**eschatology** (эсхтология) Pertaining to the end of time.

**etching** (травировка)

**ewer** (кувшин) A type of vessel used for holding wine and water during Mass.

**exapteriga** A fan decorated with seraphim mounted on a staff. When not in use, they are found on either side of the Tabernacle.

**exomide** A short, sleeveless tunic that left the right side open.

**extension** (отросткам)

**Evangelists** The authors of the four Gospels, often symbolically depicted as a human, lion, lamb and eagle, usually representing Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, respectively. The symbolism derives from the vision of Ezekiel 10.

**Exaltation of the Cross** (Воздвижение Креста) A Great Feast Day originating as a celebration of the protection of the Cross over Christendom.

**F**

**facet** (граньone) The flat polished surfaces cut on a gemstone or occurring naturally on a crystal.

**feldspar** (полевойшпат) A type of rock which is common for its use in glass and ceramics making.

**felonion** (риза) Orthodox equivalent of the Roman Catholic chasuble. Nearly full-length at the back, waist-length in the front, and conical in shape, with no sleeves, sometimes with an eight-point star embroidered in the center of the back.

**fibula** A clasp securing a cloak.

**fikovat’** (фиковать) To disperse drying oil by hand while covering the icon in order to prevent it from clumping.

**filigree** (скань, зернь) Small beads of gold or other precious metal soldered on a surface of the same metal.

**flyonka** (филёнка) A thin colored stripe on the edge of an icon.

**finial** (шпиль) Architectural device, typically carved in stone to emphasize a gable or any of the distinctive ornaments of a building.

**finish** (отделка)

**flabellum** See rhipidion.

**flagon** (графина) Church vessel used to hold the wine.

**flange** (фланец) An external or internal ridge or rim for strength.

**flint** (кремень)

**fluting** Parallel grooves.

**foil** (фольга)

**fold** The top or bottom of an encolpion or the left or right panel of a folding or hinged icon.

**fold, face** The top half of an encolpion.

**fold, left** The left panel of a folding icon.

**fold, reverse** The bottom half of an encolpion.

**fold, right** The right panel of a folding icon.

**foliate** A decoration resembling leaf or foliage. **Fool for Christ** (юродивые) A saint who feigned insanity in order to acquire humility.

**forefeast** A period of preparation leading up to a feast day.

**forging** (ковка)

**foundry** (литейная)

**Forerunner** (Претече) Epithet for John the Baptist.

**frame** (поле)
Galaktotrephousa
(Γαλακτοτρέφουσα, “breast-feeder”) Icon type depicting the Mother of God breast feeding Her Child.
gammata Designs in the shape of the Greek letter gamma, the third letter of the alphabet and symbol of the Holy Trinity.
garnet (гранат) A dark red, quartz-like gemstone.
gesso (гипс) A white paint mixture used in artwork as preparation for wood panels, canvas, and sculptures, as well as a base for paint.
gilding (золотые) gilt (золотой)
glass (стекло)
glaucnite A green pigment most used by icon painters.
Glykophilousa (Γλυκοϕιλοῦσα, “sweet-kissing”) Icon type of the Virgin and Child embracing one another. The Child is often touching the Virgin’s chin with one hand.

goblet (кубок, бокал)
gold (золото)
gold thread (сканы) Hand-painted (кистевая роспись)
hatching (штриховка) Technique used to create shading effects by using closely-spaced, parallel lines.

hagounen (игумен, “leader”) Abbot.

helmet (шлем)

hematite A red natural pigment, also called red ochre.

hesychasm (исихазм; from ἡσυχία, “silence”) A tradition of monastic prayer cultivating inner stillness.

hetoimasia (етимасия) Greek for “the Preparation of the Throne”, the depiction of an empty throne symbolic of the wait for the Second Coming of Christ.

hierarch (иерарх, Gk. for “priest-ruler”) A bishop (of any rank).

hieromartyr (священномученик) Priest-martyr.

hieromonk (иеромонах) Priest-monk.

High Priest, Icon type depicting Christ’s heavenly liturgical ministry and role as Head of the Church.

Great Entrance A solemn liturgical procession at the beginning of the Eucharistic service, believed to be accompanied by the angels.

Great Feast Day Besides Pascha, the Eastern Orthodox liturgical calendar counts twelve Great Feasts: the Nativity of the Mother of God, the Exaltation of the Cross, the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple, the Nativity of Christ, the Baptism of Christ (Theophany), the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, the Annunciation, the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), the Ascension, Pentecost, the Transfiguration and the Dormition.

Great Martyr (великомученик) A martyr with a special distinction.

green (зелёный)
green colors (празелень)

grivna (гривна) Piece of jewelry, necklace in the shape of a loop.

habitus (габитус) The external experience, the attitude of the depicted person.

hades (ад) The realm of the dead into which Christ descended. It is theologically but, in Russian, not linguistically distinct from hell, the place of torment after the Final Judgment, i.e. the word “ад” refers to both hades and hell.

hagiographic series A series of icons depicting scenes from a saint’s life, also known as a vita icon.

half-figures (отлечный) The bust and torso of a figure.

hammered (куёт)

hand-painted (кистевая роспись)

hatching (штриховка) Technique used to create shading effects by using closely-spaced, parallel lines.
**himation** (гиматий) A cloak worn over the chiton, similar to a toga. Also, the monastic outer garment.

**hinged-icon** (складе) An icon that consists of multiple panels hinged together.

**Hodigitria** (Одигитрия, Gk. for “directress”) Icon type in which the Virgin points toward her Child with her hand. It is the most common icon type of the Virgin and is believed to have been originally painted by St. Luke.

**hypostasis** (ὑπόστασις, “foundation”) In Greek philosophy, a subject of existence. Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three Hypostases, the Holy Trinity.

**icon box, icon case** (кнот) Box or frame with a glass for preserving an icon.

**icon corner or red corner or beautiful corner** (красный угол) Home Sanctuary located in the East corner of the house.

**icon-encolpion** (иконэнколпион) Pectoral folding icon for keeping parts of holy relics. See *encolpion*.

**Iconoclasm** (Εἰκονόκλασμα, “icon-breaking”) 7th-9th century heresy enforced by Eastern Roman emperors that rejected all imagery as idolatrous. During the iconoclasm period, religious artworks was relentlessly destroyed. The end of Iconoclasm is celebrated annually as the “Triumph of Orthodoxy.”

**iconodule or iconophile** (εἰκονόδουλος, “icon-server,” possibly originally derisive) One who venerates icons; an opponent of Iconoclasm.

**Iconostas** (Иконостас, Gk. for “icon wall”) The wall of icons separating the Sanctuary from the nave, also called the Templon. In the center of the Iconostasis are the Royal Doors; the Deacons’ Doors are located on the flanks.

**imprint** (тиснение)

**incarnadine** (алый) The color of the skin of an exposed body part such as the face or hands.

**incise** Cutting into metal using a burin or graver.

**indigo** (индиго)

**inditia** The ornamental cloth placed on the altar over the strachitsa.

**initial** (буквица) A decorative initial letter in a manuscript text.

**inlay** (вставка)

**inokop** (инокопь) See *assist*.

**inscription** (надпись)

**inset** (вкладка)

**intersection** (пересечение)

**iron** (железо)

**ispahanis** Cloth made in Spain by the Moravids in the 8th to 11th centuries.

**ivory** (слоновнаякость)

**Izbatelnika** (Избавителника) Literally fem. of “savior.” Miraculous Hodigitria icon, in which the Mother of God wears a crown.

**izograph** (изограф, Gk. for “one who paints identically”) A Medieval term for an expert iconographer.

**izvod** (извод) Any canonical icon type.

**j**

**jade** (нефрит)

**jasper** (яшма) A yellow, green, or brown gemstone that when polished is used as decoration on vases and chalices.

**jet** (гагат)

**joint** (соединение)
Kakofniteh (какофнич) Tiara or diadem.
Kamilavka (камилавка) A cylindrical clerical cap.
Kandys A tighter version of a caftan worn by the Emperor.
Karaskik (карасик) A small, four-cornered dowel which is set in the back side of an icon, where two boards come together, for greater security.
Kazanskaya or Mother of God of Kazan (Казанская) A famous wonder-working icon.
Kekryphalos (from κρυφός, “hidden”) The scarf worn by women saints.
Kerykeion (from κῆρυξ, “herald”) A staff shown in the hands of the heavenly messengers, the angels.
Khiton (хитон) See chiton.
Khorugv’ (хоругвь) A banner with a holy image.
Kiot (κίβωτος, “ark”) Display box for icons or other sacred objects to be venerated.
Kleyma (клейма) Border scenes.
Klobuk (клобук) Veil worn by monks and high-ranking bishops. Monks wear a black klobuk; metropolitans and patriarchs wear a white one in Russian tradition.
Klav (клав) A bright stripe on the chiton of Christ or apostles which is a symbol of their ministry.
Kleymo (клеймо) Alternate name for klobuk.
Klobuk (клобук) A tall, black, cylindrical hat worn by priests and monks.
Knop (кнопка) An extension in the top of an icon frame used for hanging it.
Koine (Κοινή, “common”) The universal Greek dialect spoken from the Hellenistic Era onwards, evolving into Byzantine Greek. Greek Biblical, liturgical and iconographic texts are written in Koine. Contrasted with the more literary Attic Greek.
Kokoshnik crest (гребенькошкина) See ogee arch.
Logos (Слово) Word, reason, rational thought. Christ is the incarnate Logos of God.

loros A scarf embedded with precious stones and jewels, an attribute of archangels in attendance on Christ.

lorum (лор, Gk. for “leather strip”) A scarf worn by Archangels and emperors.

luzga (лузга) The border between the kovcheg and the polya.

made without hands (Нерукотворные) An icon type depicting the miraculously created image of Christ. According to Church tradition, when Christ once wiped his face on a cloth, His image was miraculously imprinted onto the fabric. This image is known as the Mandy lion or “the Holy Cloth.” The term may also be applied to other miraculously created images.

mandorla Also called “Doxa” or “Glory.” A circular or almond-shaped geometric shape surrounding the glorified body of Christ or the Mother of God.

Mandylion See Made Without Hands.

maniakes Collar worn by Byzantine Emperors.

maniple (манипул) A Western vestment made of silk that hangs from the left arm.

Man of Sorrows (Мужа скорбей) Icon type showing the dead Christ descending into the tomb. It is equivalent to the Western “Man of Sorrows.”

mantiya (мантия) A cape worn by bishops when proceeding into a church.

maphorion (μαϕόριον, “shawl”) A light head scarf worn by women.

marramas A golden cloth used for liturgical ornamentation.

mastic (мастика) A putty or resin-like paste.

matte (матовый) A scarf worn by Archangels.

mesnaempthhes A cap which covers most of the head, made to look like a crown.

mesyateslov (месяцеслов, “book of months”) Book of lives of the saints, often illuminated.

metal (металл) A rank of bishop. His precise function varies depending on the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church in which he operates.

Mid-Pentecost () A feast celebrated halfway between Pascha and Pentecost.

milot Hairy garment worn by prophets such as John the Baptist and Elijah.

miter (митра, Gk. for “hat”) A bishop’s crown.

molding (литейная форма) A leaden hanging seal.

Monophysitism Ancient heresy teaching that Christ did not have a full human nature.

monstrance (дароносица) Vessel used to display the consecrated Eucharist.

mother-of-pearl (перламутр) A brown natural pigment which was supposedly made by using ground Egyptian mummy remains.

Myrrh-bearers (Жены-мононосицы) The three women who discovered the empty tomb of Christ, considered equal to the Apostles.

Mysteries, Holy Any one of a number of rites performed within the Church, corresponding to the Latin concept of Sacraments.
nabedrennik (набедренник) A small shield similar to the palitsa.

**Name of God In Hebrew**, “Ehyeh asher Ehyeh” (See Exodus 3) and in Greek, Ω ΩΝ, “He that Is,” inscribed on Christ’s numbus to identify Him as the Eternal God.

naplavit’ (наплывать) To paint the float

narthex The antechamber of a church.

nave (иев, Gk. for “temple”) The largest segment of a church, between the narthex and the bema. Here the congregation stands.

navershie (иавешерие) The top section of an icon.

necklace (ожерелье)

needlework (шитье)

Neoplatonism A school of thought whose intellectual framework was heavily used by Hellenistic Christianity.

nephrite (нефрит) A variety of jade.

Nestorianism Heresy taught by Patriarch Nestorius in the 5th century. The Nestorians believed that Christ consisted of two hypostases, the divine and the human and that only the human part of Christ was born, suffered and died. The Catholic Church responded to this teaching by affirming that Mary is Theotokos, i.e. gave birth to God in the flesh. The Nestorian controversy has had a profound effect on the Orthodox theology of the icon, as well as icon symbology.

Nicene Creed The Creed produced by the first two Ecumenical Councils and the only creed accepted without qualification by the Orthodox Church.

Nicene Miracle The apparition of Christ and the Mother of God to St. Nicholas while he was in prison at the council of Nicaea. They restored his staff and Gospel book, thus restoring him to the episcopate.

nickel (никель)

niello A substance applied to metal artwork to create contrast, composed of silver and sulphur.

Nikopoia (Никопоя, “victory-maker”) The enthroned Virgin with the Child seated on her lap. Their right hands are raised in a gesture of victory.

nimbus Halo.

obozhenie or theosis (обожение, “deification”) The process of becoming a perfect likeness of God, essentially equated with salvation in Orthodox theology. The Saints are those who have attained theosis to an especially high degree.

obron (оброн) A technique of deeply carving the background of an icon around the images to increase the relief work.

obsidian (обсидиан) A black stone that if well-polished can be used as a gemstone.

ochre (охра) A type of clay that can produce not only brown pigments, but also red, yellow, and purple.

Ogee Arch

ogee arch (синус) A reverse curve, often opposed to create an arch, applied to an icon crest or outline of an onion-shaped dome.

oglaviye (from глава, “head”) The upper segment of a metal icon, sometimes attached with a hinge.

okhrenie or vokhrenie (охрение, вохрение) An ochre flesh-color.

oklad (оклад) A metal revetment covering an icon, but showing the figures’ faces. Also called Riza.

Old Believers Schismatic group that was excommunicated from the canonical Russian Church after refusing to accept the liturgical reforms of Patriarch Nikon. Old Believers were severely persecuted by the state, but preserved by far the most conservative forms of icon painting.

Omoporion

Monstrance
Old Testament Trinity (Троица Ветхозаветная) Icon type representing Abraham’s reception of the three Men of Genesis 18, symbolizing the Holy Trinity. 

olifa Protective oil coating applied on top of a completed icon. 

omophorion (омофоръ, Gk. for “scarf”) A white wool cloth worn over the shoulders, a distinguishing part of a bishop’s vestment. 

onyx (оникс) A variety of quartz used as a gemstone. Although the most common onyx color is black, it is found in a wide range of colors; some even with separate bands of color. 

opal (опал) 

open work casting (ажурное литье) Open space in a cast metal icon. 

oplechny obraz (оплечный образ) An image that depicts the face and shoulders. 

orans Praying posture in which the palm of the hands are lifted up. 

orarion (οράριον; орарь) Stole worn by a deacon. 

orlets (орлет) A rug showing an eagle above a city, on which the bishop stands during services. 

orpiment A yellow, orange, or golden mineral used as a natural pigment. 

ozhivky or dvizhky (оживкий, двигкий) Light flesh paint. 

Paint (окрашивание) 

palitsa (палица) A small shield, part of clerical vestment, suspended over the right knee. 

pall (покров) A piece of linen used to cover the chalice. 

pallet (поддона) 

Panagia (Панагия, Пресвятая, Gk. for “all-holy”) 1. The Virgin. 2. A small folding icon in which reserves of Holy Communion are kept. 3. A pectoral icon worn by certain ranks of clergy. 

panagiarion A paten depicting the Mother of God. 

panel (панель, филёнка) Element of a multi-element piece of art, such as a triptych. 

Pantocrator (Вседержитель, “almighty”) Epithet for Christ, esp. in His common frontal depiction holding a book. 

paper (бумага) 

paraman (параман) A garment worn over the shoulders of a great-Schema monk. 

parecclesion (пареклесия, Gk. for “side-church”) A side chapel. 

patagium Purple and gold bands that decorate the front of women’s tunics. 

paten See diskos. 

pateritsa (пакерица) A bishop’s staff. 

patina (патина) Change in color due to exposure to the atmosphere. 

patriarch (патриарх, Gk. for “national head”) The highest rank of bishop. 

pattern (узор) 

pavé Many small stones (meles) placed close together 

pavolka (паволка, “sheet, cover”) A sheet of canvas fixed to the face of an icon panel before painting to prevent cracking. 

pearl (жемчуг) 

pectoral (нагрудный) 

Pelagonitissa (Πελαγονίτισσα) Icon type of the Virgin from Macedonia. The Child appears to be pushing against the Virgin’s face. 

pendant (панданги) 

pendoulia Ornaments that hang from a crown. 

Pentecost (День Святой Троицы, “Day of the Holy Trinity”) A Great Feast Day celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles. It is considered to be the beginning of the Church on Earth. 

perevod (перевод) See proris’. 

peritrachelion (эпитетрахиллион) See stole.
pewter (сплаволовасмедью) A metal alloy of tin, copper, and lead.

phelonion (фелон) The sleeveless outer garment worn by priests and bishops during the celebration of the Eucharist. It corresponds to the Western Chasuble.

phylactery An amulet containing a relic.

piadnitsa (пядница) A small replica of a famous icon. Such icons were produced on a large scale in Russia from the 15th c. onward. They typically measure about 25 cm x 23 cm in size or slightly larger. The word derives from the Russian piad’ [пядь] meaning span and is a measure of a man’s open hand between the thumb and middle finger.

piano hinge (рояльшарнира) Two pieces secured by a pin that runs through a series of small cylinders that are alternately attached to each side.

piercing (прокалывать) Cutting away metal in a decorative pattern to create open work casting.

pintle (штырь) Pin or bolt which is used as part of a pivot or hinge.

plaque (дощечка) Plashanitsa (Плащаница, “on the tomb”) An embroidered cloth depicting the dead Christ. The Plashanitsa is used for various purposes during Holy Week services.

plate (лист) A single plate, without side wings or leafs.

plating (покрытие) A thin covering of metal, usually silver or gold.

platytera (платитетра) The icon depicting the Virgin Mary with the Christ Child.

plav’ (плавь) A very thin protective coating that is created during the separation and melding of small amounts of color.

podea A cloth upon which icons are places for display. The podae is often embroidered with its own icons.

podlinnik, ikonograficheski (иконографический подлинник) A compendium of canonical icon patterns.

podrumyanka (подрумянка) The tint of the red color of lips, cheeks and the borders of half-tints.

podryaznik (подрязник) The inner cassock.

podushechka (подушечка) The stretched chamois or suede on a small panel board on which gold leaf is placed during the gilding process. Pokrov (Покров; Надгробный) The Protection of the Mother of God, depicted as herself holding out a veil. polya (поля) The border region of an icon panel, around the kovcheg.

poliment (полимент) Clay placed on an icon before gilding.

polished (полирована) polishing (шлифовать)

polystavrion A liturgical vestment with black crosses on a white background worn by a monk who has reached the order of schema (схема, abbreviated as схи)

pomorskii ornament (поморскийорнамент) Style of ornamenting manuscripts, especially musical with colorful floral patterns, elaborated in Old Believer communities in Pomorsk.

pozd (пуд) Old Russian measure of weight. One pozd = 16.38 kg. = 36 lb avoirdupois.

porcelain (фарфор)

poruchi (поручи) Cuffs worn by clergy.

poteriokalymma (потериокалььма, “cup cover”) A small veil draped over the Eucharistic chalice. See also diskokalymma.

pozas (поясъ) The clerical belt worn over the epitrakhil.

pozem (позем) Stylized representation of the ground at the bottom of an icon.

prazelen (празелен) Green paint used to create the Pozem.

precious stones (драгоценныекамни)

Presentation of Christ (Сретение) A Great Feast celebrating the presentation of Christ in the Temple, where He was greeted by Symeon and Anna.

Presentation of the Mother of God (Введение) A Great Feast celebrating the presentation of Mary in the Temple.

Prestol Ugrotovanni (Престол Уготованный) The Empty Throne, a common object in iconography,
normally with a book upon it and the Cross behind it. The Prestol Ugrotovanni represents the throne on which Christ will sit as Judge. **pridel** (придел) An extension or special part of the basic part of a church having an additional altar for separate liturgical services. **prikrep** (прикреп) A chevron striped embroidery often found on halos. **pripadayushchi** (припадающий) Praying. **pripplesk** (приплеск) **priporokh** (припорох) The transferring of a sketch onto the board by sprinkling charcoal across punctures made in the paper along the contours of the sketch. **pritenenie** (притенение) **probela** (пробела) Highlights. **proris** (прорись) A line drawing for an icon. **proskynes** (проскинеза, Gk. for “kneeling down”) Veneration.

**proskynes icon** See *analoynaya ikona*  
**proskynetarion** A stand for a specially honored icon. **Proto-Gospel of James** An apocryphal work, highly influential on the narratives of the life of the Virgin and the birth of Jesus. **prototype** The person depicted in an image. **protovestarios** The “first keeper of the wardrobe.”

**Pseudo-Matthew, Gospel of** An early Medieval Latin apocryphal gospel, from which are borrowed many legends about the Virgin Mary’s life.  
**punching** (штамповка)  
**purple** (пурпуровый)  
**putty** (мастика)  
**pyata** (пята) Literally “heel” Style of drawing mountain peaks in the form of upwardly turned human heels.  

**pylate** (πυλη, “gate”) The veil behind the Royal Doors.  
**pyx** (дарохранительница; pl. pyxes) Ornamental metal receptacle in a shape of a church for the consecrated Elements.  

**quartz** (кварц)

**R**

**Raskolnik** (Раскольник, “Schismatic”) a term used by the Russian Orthodox Church to refer to Old Believers.  
**rason** (дублёнка) See shearling.  
**raw sienna** (натурализированная)  
**realgar** An orange pigment commonly used in halos.  
**recessed** (ниша, альков)  
**red** (красный)  
**rift** (рефть) A grayish color often used in fresco painting as an underlayment under bright colors in order to soften them.  
**relief** (рельеф) A sculpting technique in which the background (typically wood or stone) is lowered, leaving the unsculpted parts seemingly raised.  
**repousse** Raising the surface of the metal by indenting the back side.  
**revetment** (облицовка) Precious metal used as icon frames.  
**rhipidion or flabellum** (рипида) A liturgical fan used in processions, bearing images of Cherubim and Seraphim.  
**ribbon** (тесьма)  
**ring** (кольцо) Jewelry for the finger; (гнутые) Tube.  
**riza** (риза) A metal revetment covering an icon, but showing the figures’ faces. Also called Oklad.  
**rolling** (прокатка)  
**Root of Jesse** Icon type depicting a tree with Christ blossoming out of the center.  
**rospis** (роспись) Fresco.  
**Royal Doors** The central doors in the Iconostasis.
rubashka (рубашка) A piece of fabric on the back side of an icon.
rubellite (рубеллит) A red or pink variety of the semi-precious gemstone tourmaline (crystal compounded with a metal).
ruby (рубин)
ryasa (риса) The outer cassock.
rybiy kley (рыбий клей) A glue made from sturgeon bladder or cartilage.

rubisha (рубища) A piece of fabric on the back side of an icon.

sagion (саккос) A cloak worn by hermits.
sakkos (саккос, Gk. for “sackcloth”) A large vestment for a bishop.
sandals (сандалии) Liturgical sandals worn by bishops, reminiscent of the sandals worn earlier.
sankir (санкирь) Dark underpaint for the face, hands and other body parts.
Sanctuary (Запрестольный) The area behind the Iconostasis.
sapphire (атлас)
scarabicon Outer garment of high Byzantine dignitaries.
Schema (Схима, Gk. for “dress, habit”) The monastic habit, embroidered with the Cross, instruments of the Passion and initials of Christ.
section (раздел)
senmurv (симург) A mythical creature, half bird, half dog or lion.
sepulchre veil (плащаница) A cloth with the scene of Christ’s body and his Mother crying, used to cover the Holy Table on certain holidays.
Seraphim (Сурафим; from Hebrew) Sg. Seraph. Six-winged angels.
serpent amulet (змейамулет) Folding or two-sided pectoral icon with a traditional ecclesiastical image of the face side and a snake-like composition on the back.
sewing (шитье)
sfera (сфера) A circle with the inscription ИС ХС in the hands of angels, symbolizing heaven.
shading (затушёвка)
shearing (дублёни) A sheep or lambskin pelt that has been sheared, usually in the form of a coat or frock.
shponki (шпонки) Literally “spleen.” A cross-beam fixed to an icon’s back to prevent warping.
sienna (сиена) A brown natural pigment derived from clay.
silk (шёлк)
silver (серебро)
skete (скит) A small group of monks living together in isolation from civilization.
skiradion Head-dress worn by Byzantine dignitaries.
skos (скос) A slanted border between the kovcheg and the frame (polia).
skufiya (скуфия) A soft cap worn by clergy.
skladen (складень) Several small icons tied together in a loop, for better security and transportation.
slate (сланец)
slukhi (слухи) Long ribbons that emanate from the ears of angels representing their listening to God.
small (смальта) Glass that is been mixed with cobalt powder to give it a blue color.
Smolenskaya or Mother of God of Smolensk (Смоленская) Icon pattern originating with a wonder-working icon in Smolensk, of the type “Hodigitria.”
smoothed (out) (выравнивать)
soldering (пайка)
solea (σολέα) Originally, a path connecting the Bema to the Sanctuary. In modern usage, the term is essentially equivalent to “Ambo.”
Soudarion See Mandylion.
spear A small spear in the shape of the orthodox cross used to cut the Host.
spika (спика) The three stars depicted on the Virgin’s shawl, symbolizing her perpetual virginity, which was retained before, during and after giving birth.
**spline** (шпонка) A liturgical vessel used to distribute communion.

**spoon** A liturgical vessel used to distribute communion.

**sprue marks** Residual impressions on metal caused by an opening in a mold into which molten metal was poured.

**srednik** (средник) The internal middle part of an icon, limiting the field.

**stamping** (штамповка) An advanced spiritual elder.

**state robe** (платно) A crown sent by the Byzantine Emperor to his vassal kings.

**state robe** (платно) The internal middle part of an icon, limiting the field.

**starets** (старец) An advanced spiritual elder.

**state robe** (платно) A crown sent by the Byzantine Emperor to his vassal kings.

**Sticharion** (стихарион) Full length, white tunic.

**stikhar** (стихарь) A long chiton worn by higher clergy.

**stockings** (чулки) An advanced spiritual elder.

**state robe** (платно) A crown sent by the Byzantine Emperor to his vassal kings.

**srednik** (средник) An advanced spiritual elder.

**spraue marks** Residual impressions on metal caused by an opening in a mold into which molten metal was poured.

**srednik** (средник) The internal middle part of an icon, limiting the field.

**stamping** (штамповка) An advanced spiritual elder.

**state robe** (платно) A crown sent by the Byzantine Emperor to his vassal kings.

**Sticharion** (стихарион) Full length, white tunic.

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**stockings** (чулки) An advanced spiritual elder.

**state robe** (платно) A crown sent by the Byzantine Emperor to his vassal kings.

**Strastnaya or Mother of God of Strastnoi** (Страстная) Icon pattern originating with a wonder-working icon in the Strastnoi Convent, Moscow, of the type Eleousa.

**tabletka** (таблетка) A two-sided icon prepared on both sides with thick canvas.

**tarnish** (тусклость) A crown sent by the Byzantine Emperor to his vassal kings.

**tablion** A silk square on the edge of a chlamys, denoting rank.

**tempera** (темпера) Paints made with the yolk or yolk and white of chicken eggs. In Russia it was often the yolk with a bit of kvass, a beer made from bread.

**Templon** See Iconostasis.

**thaumaturgus** (чудотворец) A wonder-working saint, esp. a particular St. Gregory.

**Theophany** (Богоявление; Теофания, Gk. for “appearance of God”) Any visible appearance of God the Son. Also the name of a Great Feast Day, celebrating the baptism of Christ and His public manifestation as God’s Son. Also called “Epiphany” in Eastern tradition.

**Theosis** See obozhenie.

**Theotokos** See Bogoroditsa.

**thread** (низание) A crown sent by the Byzantine Emperor to his vassal kings.
three-parted composition  
(трехчастной композиции) See triptych.

three-quarter turn  
(головотатричетверти) The position of the secondary figures in an icon which they are in a three-quarter turn facing the central figure.

thurible (кадило) See censer.

Tikhvinskaya or Mother of God of Tikhvin (Тихвинская) Icon pattern originating with a wonder-working icon in Tikhvin, a cross between the types Hodigitria and Eleousa.

tin (олово)

tinsel (блестки)

titulus An inscription on an icon.

topaz (топаз)

toptynic (риасса)

trabea Brocaded scarf worn by Roman consuls.

translation (перенесение) Moving, usually of relics.

Transfiguration (Преображение) One of the Twelve Great Feast Days, commemorating the revelation of the divine glory of Christ to three disciples on Mount Tabor. The event is considered to have eschatological significance.

triptych (триптих, Gk. for “folded in three”) A set of three icons connected by hinges and folding together.

Trisagion (Трисвятое, “thrice-holy”) The Trinitarian hymn, “Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.”

Triumph of Orthodoxy The end of Iconoclasm under the Empress Irene in 843, celebrated as an important feast day.

troparion (тропар) A short hymn or a stanza.

Troyeruchitsa (Троеручица, “three-handed”) Icon pattern based on an Athonite icon, depicting the Virgin with three hands.

tsata (цата) A crescent-shaped pectoral decoration attached on an oklad.

tsir’, tsirovka (цирь, цировка) A mixing of colors applied on top of gilding for the purpose of creating a gold ornament or text.

turquoise (бириоза)

tvorenoye zoloto (твореное золото) Leaves of gold leaf that are ground to a powder and then mixed with a binding agent. A gold paint used for fine lettering.

tyablo (тябло) A shelf on an iconostasis on which icons are positioned.

typicon (богослужебный устав) A book of liturgical rubrics and protocol.

U

ubrus (убрус) The towel with the image of Christ.

umber (умбра) A type of brown clay natural pigment.

Umilenie (Умиление) Variant of Eleousa in which the Virgin holds her Son in the right arm.

velvet (бархат)

veloum (велум) A large red cloth drawn in icons as a canopy over characters, representing that they are inside a room.

venets (венец) An applied halo on an oklad.

verdigris (медянка)

vermeil Plating of gold over sterling silver.

vermillion (вермильон)

vernicle (Спас Нерукотворный) The “holy face,” the image not made by hand.

vita icon An icon that pictures the life of a saint.
Vladimirskaya or Mother of God of Vladimir (Владимирская) A highly celebrated wonder-working icon of the Mother of God originally painted in Constantinople in 1131.

Voskresenie (Воскресение, “Resurrection”) The Resurrection of Christ and the icon type of the subject, also known as the “Descent into Hades.” The risen Christ is depicted trampling the doors of Hades, resurrecting Adam and Eve and leading the captive saints of the Old Testament to Paradise.

Vozdukh (воздухъ, “misty air”) A large veil carried in solemn procession during the Great Entrance, then draped over the Eucharistic elements on the altar.

Vrezok (врезок) The practice of inserting part of an old icon into a new one, developed by Old Believers.

W

Wash, gold (наводка)
Waxen (восковая)
Wing (крыло) One of the two lateral panels of a triptych.
White (белый цвет) Symbol of God’s holiness, cleanliness and eternity. Angels and martyrs are also often shown in a white tunic.
Wood (дерево)
Wrought (кованный)

Y

Yellow (желтый)

Z

Zastavitsa (заставица) Compositional outline.
Zertsalo (зерцало) A transparent globe held by Archangels.
Zhertvennik (жертвенник) The northern part of the Sanctuary, where the Eucharistic Gifts are prepared.
Zhitiynaya ikona (житийная икона)
See vita icon.

Zhivki (живки) Small gaps that enliven an image.
Zinc (цинк)
Znamenie (Знамение, “the Sign”) Icon type depicting Christ Emmanuel in the womb of the Mother of God, who stands in the orans position.
Znamenie Novgorodskaya (Знамение Новгородская) Icon pattern originating with a wonder-working icon in Novgorod, of the type “Mother of God of the Sign.”
Znamenitel’ (знаменитель) Master iconographer.
Znamenshchik (знаменщик) The head iconographer in a team of iconographers, who makes the sketch for a prospective icon.
Zolotoprobelnoye (золотопробелное) Application of gold powder on an icon as highlighting.
Zone (зона) Cloth belt worn by priests and bishops over the epitrachelion.
Zubok (зубок) A small piece of polished agate, boar or wolf tooth, used in polishing gold.