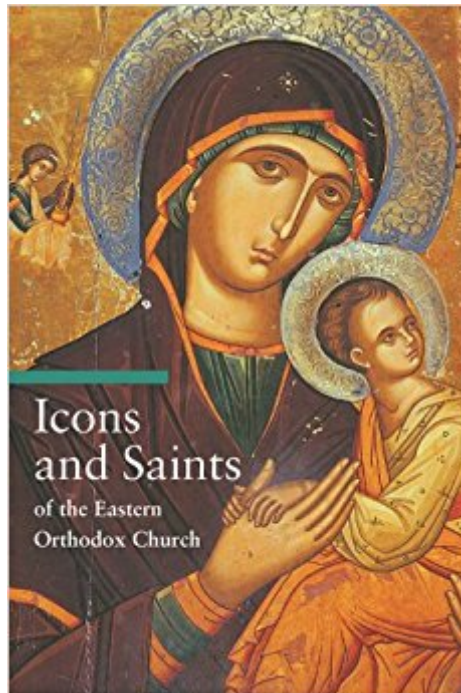




The book was found

Icons & Saints Of The Eastern Orthodox Church



Synopsis

An icon (from the Greek word "eikon," "image") is a wooden panel painting of a holy person or scene from Orthodox Christianity, the religion of the Byzantine Empire that is practiced today mainly in Greece and Russia. It was believed that these works acted as intermediaries between worshipers and the holy personages they depicted. Their pictorial language is stylized and primarily symbolic, rather than literal and narrative. Indeed, every attitude, pose, and color depicted in an icon has a precise meaning, and their painters--usually monks--followed prescribed models from iconographic manuals. The goal of this book is to catalogue the vast heritage of images according to iconographic type and subject, from the most ancient at the Monastery of Saint Catherine in the Sinai to those from Greece, Constantinople, and Russia. Chapters focus on the role of icons in the Orthodox liturgy and on common iconic subjects, including the fathers and saints of the Eastern Church and the life of Jesus and his followers. As with other volumes in the Guide to Imagery series, this book includes a wealth of color illustrations in which details are called out for discussion.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Alfredo Tradigo is the artistic director and art critic for Famiglia Cristiana magazine and has devoted thirty years to research on Christian iconography.

I love this series of books- that offer background to the symbolism of images in art (similar titles for classical mythology, the gospels, holy family, angels, etc).. This volume covers Eastern Orthodox

Icons - which often have ideas and symbolism that are strikingly 'modern' to western readers but really are 'ancient' wisdom.

I was disappointed that I didn't check to see the size of the book. This book is very informative, but I literally have to pull a magnifying glass to see the beautiful pictures. I wish it was bigger, or a closeup of what is indicated in the writing. There are lines to indicate what is being indicated in writing, but I can't tell where they stop to see what they are indicating, even with the magnifying glass. I do wish he would've enlarged it. Beautiful book, though.

Unbelievable that I didn't know about this book before. A very clear guidebook to iconographic theology and history. Every page is crowded with images and caption-text. A must-read, but if you're new to Orthodoxy, best read along with a text on theology to accompany it. The entire theology of the church is contained in our icons, but as the eunuch said to Philip, "How can we understand, unless somebody guides us?" Very impressive publication.

When it comes to the Eastern Church's wealth of Icons, so many are near impossible for westerners to discover. Many were either hidden (and often lost) during the Communist rule of eastern Europe, or many were destroyed by the powers that be during that era. Other Icons in the book come from Lebanon, Egypt (St. Catherine's monastery), and Greece, some dating back to the 6th century. So, for a complete overview of the Orthodox love of Icons, this book has a plethora of icons not seen until now, and never in such a complete overview in one book. The only orthodox Icons not covered, are those from India, and Ethiopia, which are apparently outside the scope of the book. Some of these icons are beautiful beyond imagination. With each icon, all in FULL COLOR, and covering a single page, comes simple little remarks as to what the imagery represents in each Icon. Also, the book is divided into sections, with Icons of Christ, Mary, Saints that lived in towers, Saints who were martyrs, and so forth. This makes it easy to study the iconology of TYPES, and not a simple alphabetical approach, as in the western art book in this series does. (St. Ambrose, St. Boniface, etc.) I sadly have this warning to give however. I had a FIRST EDITION of this book. However, it was "Borrowed" from me against my will, and they refused to return it to me, and I had to replace it. I ended up with a SECOND EDITION of the book, and the color isn't right on the prints. The red plates are supersaturated, and the black plates seem too saturated as well, on many of the pages. I so much enjoyed this book, that I bought the COMPANION BOOK in this GUIDE TO IMAGERY series. If you are interested in the artistic representation of religious figures, the book SAINTS IN ART does

for the western religious art world, what this book does for the eastern religious art world. Both books are from Italy initially, and are printed by the PAUL GETTY MUSEUM in the USA. The big difference, is that the western art, is obviously well known to anyone with college level art history study, and access to big city museums. These icons are art not seen in other books until now, for the most part. My other beefs with this book, are as follows. Besides the problems with the color in the second edition, most of these pictures are just TOO SMALL to really examine properly. This book is about 6 inches by 8 inches, so the pictures are reduced too far, to see the smaller details, where many of the symbolic features of the Icon can be found. Also, when they show what the icon is about, they draw black lines thru the pictures. But the pluses outweigh the minuses, and its well worth the cost. I only hope, that if they go into a third printing, they will fix the color balance to the book. I can highly recommend this book without reservation.

This book was purchased as a gift. I needed it within a week's time and it arrived in 2 days. I had read the reviews for this and still wasn't sure it was what I wanted. I was very pleased with the book when I got it. It was full of beautiful pictures with snippets of information. I liked that since it was for an older woman who probably would not want to do a great deal of reading but would be more interested in the pictures with some explanation of them. Because it was a gift, I did not handle it too much, but it was very, very nice.

This book is a delight and a quick reference into the reverence and purpose of Orthodox icons. Well laid out and easy to use. It's casual museum catalog style makes it an easy read and choice for even the curious reader as well as those who are Orthodox Christians.

Wondrous icons. I have seen many of them in russia and beyond but many are here for first time.

This is a fantastic book that I highly recommend to anyone wanting details and visual guide to the great subject matter in iconography.

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