

© *Valentin Safonov, Polina Voronzheva and Anna Tretyakova*

OLD BELIEVERS' TRADITIONS IN CASTING COPPER: RESTORATION OF A 19TH-CENTURY FOLDING ICON

Copper casting is widely used among the Old Believers for creating religious objects, especially those of personal use. The Old Believers' branch of Orthodoxy formed due to church reforms that were followed by the Schism of the Russian Church and tension in the Russian society in the 17th century. The Old Believers, who desired to preserve old Russian religious traditions despite the small number of followers, also influenced some aspects of the Russian culture in general, such as the technology of icons manufacturing. Cast copper objects are also used in jewelry, for clothes fittings, furniture and interior, and create a certain style and entourage up to the present. The authors of this work investigated and attributed the fragment (the second section) of a folding icon found in Transbaikalia and cast in copper in the XIX century. The authors aimed to carry out restoration and conservation work not only to improve the appearance and preserve the exhibit, but also to get the opportunity to continue studying the lifestyle of the Old Believers, and the art of working with metal itself.

Author Info: Safonov, Valentin V. — Dr. of Technical Sciences, Professor, Head of the Department of Restoration and Chemical Processing of Materials, A. N. Kosygin Russian State University (Technology. Design. Art) (Moscow, Russian Federation). E-mail: safonov-vv@rguk.ru

Voronzheva, Polina A. — student, A. N. Kosygin Russian State University (Technology. Design. Art) (Moscow, Russian Federation). E-mail: polinavoronzheva@yandex.ru

Tretyakova, Anna E. — Dr. of Technical Sciences, Professor, A. N. Kosygin Russian State University (Technology. Design. Art) (Moscow, Russian Federation). E-mail: tretyakova-ae@rguk.ru

For citation: Safonov, V. V., P. A. Voronzheva and A. E. Tretyakova. 2023. Old Believers' Traditions in Casting Copper: Restoration of a 19th-Century Folding Icon. *Herald of Anthropology (Vestnik Antropologii)*. 2: 219–226.

References

- Bardina, P. E. 1978. Ob izmeneniiakh v odezhde russkogo naseleniia Tomskoi oblasti [Changes in the Clothing of the Russian Population of Tomsk Oblast]. In *Etnokul'turnaya istoriya naseleniya Zapadnoj Sibiri* [Ethnocultural History of the Population of Western Siberia], ed. by V. I. Matiushchenko, N. A. Tomilov. Tomsk: Izdatel'stvo TGU. 141–159.
- Bolonev, F. F. 2013. *Amurskaia epopeia v XVII i XIX vekakh. Pereselenie staroobriadtsev (semeiskikh) na vostok Rossii (XVIII–nachalo XX veka)* [Amur Epic in the 17th and 19th Centuries. Relocation of Old Believers (Semejskije) to the East of Russia (18th–early 20th centuries)]. Novosibirsk: Izdatel'stvo NGU. 249 p.

- Burganova, M. A. 1998. *Russkie litye kresty i ikony XI–XIX vekov. Voprosy stilistiki i tekhnologii* [Russian Cast Crosses and Icons of the 11th–19th Centuries. Questions of Style and Technology]. Ph.D. diss. abstract: Stroganov Moscow State Academy of Arts and Industry. 24 p.
- Kalish, M. K. 1964. Restavratsiia drevnikh khudozhestvennykh predmetov iz medi i bronzy [Restoration of Ancient Art Objects Made of Copper and Bronze]. In *Sbornik statei po voprosam konservatsii i restavratsii muzeinykh ob"ektov iz metalla* [Collection of Articles on Conservation and Restoration of Museum Objects Made of Metal], ed. by F. Ya. Mishukov. Issue 13. Moscow: Sovetskaja Rossiia. 5–94.
- Nikitin, M. K. and E. P. Mel'nikova. 2002. *Khimiia v restavratsii: Spravochnoe posobie* [Chemistry in Restoration: A Tutorial]. Saint Petersburg: Khimiia. 304 p.
- Nikolaeva, T. V. 1968. *Drevnerusskaya melkaya plastika XI–XVI vekov* [Old Russian Fine Sculpting of the 11th–16th Centuries]. Moscow: Sovetskii khudozhnik. 176 p.
- Skott, A. 1935. *Ochistka i restavratsiia muzeinykh eksponatov* [Cleaning and Restoration of Museum Exhibits]. Moscow: GAIMK. 49 p.
- Shemahanskaya, M. S. 1989. *Restavratsiia metalla. Metodicheskie rekomendatsii* [Metal Restoration. Guidelines]. Moscow: VNIIR. 154 p.
- Timofeeva, N. V., I. V. Kasatonova and F. B. Arakelyan (eds.). 1995. *Restavratsiia monumental'noj skul'ptury. Metodicheskie rekomendatsii* [Restoration of Monumental Sculpture. Guidelines]. Moscow: GosNII R. 65 p.
- Vinokurova, E. P. 1991. Model' mednolitogo skladnya «Dvunadesyatye prazdniki» kontsa XVII — nachala XVIII vekov [The Model of the Copper-Cast Folding Icon “Twentyfold Holidays” of the Late 17th–Early 18th Centuries]. In *Drevnerusskaia skul'ptura. Problemi i atributsiia* [Ancient Russian Sculpture. Problems and Attributions], ed. by A. V. Ryndina. Moscow: NII teorii i istorii iskusstv. 170–171.