

EXHIBITION OF RUSSIAN IKONS PLANNED BY  
CORONA MUNDI INTERNATIONAL ART CENTER

The art of the Russian Ikon-masters is to be shown in many parts of this country next season in a touring Loan Exhibition of Russian Ikons which is now being planned by Corona Mundi, International Art Center, 313 West 105th Street, New York. The tour of the exhibition is to begin in October in the Rochester Memorial Art Gallery, thence going on a route which will take it through various cities in the United States.

Perhaps no art has reflected so intimately the spirit of the early Christians as do these Russian Ikonographic creations painted by the Russians. This will be apparent in the various examples of this unique art which will be in the exhibition, including "Veronica's Veil;" the Ikon of "St. John the Baptist," which is painted by a master from the Old Believers Sect--so bold in relief that it is like a wood carving and the scroll bears the inscription: "This is the Lord's Lamb, To earth is he descended for Man," in ancient Russian characters; "Immanuel the Boy Jesus"; and "Neopaimaya Kupina". This Ikon tells a comprehensive story of the Holy Virgin with the life of her Son. The central section of the Ikon resembles a revolving star, the star of the Mother of the World according to Russian understanding. A very powerful Ikon in the collection is that of "Elijah and Elisha." Each figure tells of some special event in their wonder-working lives.

In all these paintings is apparent the one quality which has never been surpassed in the history of painting-- the complete reverence and devotion to the subject. Today when the cycle of modern art once again seeks to express itself in simple terms we can look back to the first great masters with renewed respect. In the art of the Russian Ikonographic artist there is a deep sacred aspect and an entire moral code which surrounded the life of the artist. In this Touring Exhibition will be examples of the great Ikon schools, which differed in their expression, but not in the spirit of their work. Historically, the Russian Ikons are important in that they became one of the greatest weapons in the proselytizing of religion in Russia.

