



**Sold**

**Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

An authentic Imperial Russian Orthodox cross pendant in solid 56 zolotnik gold (approx. 14ct), a true wearable relic of 19th-century devotion and craftsmanship. Crisp pre-kokoshnik hallmarks place it in St Petersburg in 1864, with the city emblem and the date clearly struck, the “56” gold standard, and an initial mark “??” – the kind of clear, early stamping collectors actively look for because it anchors the piece firmly within the Imperial assay system. The front presents a refined Crucifixion in the slender, icon-like manner typical of Russian devotional art, set against a matte, finely textured ground framed by a neat beaded border. Above the head is the Old Slavonic inscription «????» – the Russian church form of “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews”, far less commonly encountered than the Latin INRI and immediately recognisable to collectors of Orthodox jewellery. The reverse bears the traditional blessing «???? ? ??????» (“Save and protect”), framed with elegant foliate scrollwork. The original suspension ring is also carefully finished, engraved all around with foliage so it reads as part of the design rather than an afterthought. This is a serious antique: un...

