

Byzantine Encolpion Crosses.

Double sided reliquary cross formed in two halves, depicting the crucifixion of Christ on one side, and the Virgin Orans (Virgin Mary) 6th -10th centuries AD



During the holy days of Christmas I got the inspiration to realize my old project - Byzantine Encolpion Crosses

This is my Byzantine bronze encolpion reliquary pendant with hinged suspension loop, with a low-relief Corpus Christi to one face and a saintly figure to the reverse.



Such crosses would have held secondary relics in them (pieces of Saint's clothing, pieces of the True Cross, hair fragments, bone etc), to offer protection to the wearer.

The length together with the hanger is 73 mm.



The images on this subject (Byzantine Encolpion Crosses) are pretty stylized but this is typical of this period.

These objects of this period have their own characteristic form and iconography.

Inside Encolpion Crosses are hollow like boxes to hold secondary relics in them.

My creative waxwork:



Sources used:

https://antiquities.co.uk/index.php?option=com_eshop&view=product&id=3715&catid=27&Itemid=281

https://www.antiquities.co.uk/index.php?option=com_eshop&view=product&id=3715&catid=27&Itemid=281

<https://www.lostgalleon.com/shop/8615-Byzantine-Encolpion-Bronze-Cross-Pendant.html>

<https://www.lostgalleon.com/shop/8383-Byzantine-Encolpion-Bronze-Cross-Pendant.html>

<https://www.google.bg/search?q=Byzantine++Encolpion+Crosses&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiJuZXCvarYAhXKB5oKHfluANsQsAQIJg&biw=1280&bih=669>