Daniel Nicolas vintage wooden wall crucifix
MCC-00498

Finding Aid

Total boxes: 1
Cubic feet: .5

Prepared by
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Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes
University of Maine at Fort Kent
Fort Kent, Maine

Daniel Nicolas vintage wooden wall crucifix (MCC-00498)

Shelf List Number: AX-00498

Collection Overview

Creator

Daniel Nicolas

Dates
circa 1930

Extent
1 box (0.5 cubic feet)

Provenance
Material was brought in By Danny Nicolas on June 10, 2009

Language
Latin and English

Conservation notes
Crucifix was wrapped in tissue paper and place in an archival box.

Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions

Access:

None

Physical:

None

Technical:

None

Rights Statement
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Recommended Citation:
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Collection Description

Historical and Biographical Information

The crucifix is first recorded as being used in the fifth century. Prior or this time Christians used the symbol of a lamb to represent Christ. Scholars believe that this was because the cross was still being used as a method of execution and the early flowers of Christ did not want to associate Him with this ignoble death. It wasn't until the Middle Ages that craftsmen began to create intricate crucifixes. Prior to the 1`200s Christ was crafted on the cross with open eyes and little sign of suffering. The artists' emphasis was on His resurrection rather that His death. Slowly this changed and within the next one hundred years the represented body of Christ on the crucifix became twisted in agony and bloody. Part of the reason for this was the split between the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Catholic Church, with its doctrinal emphasis on suffering in order to control the sin nature of man.

Crucifixes are associated with Catholicism. Crosses are common symbols in many religions and cultures but the crucifix is symbolic to Christians alone. The crucifix represents the version of the death and resurrection of Christ and is quintessentially a Catholic icon. Shy is the symbol of the death of Christ so important to Catholics? The image of Jesus on the cross is in itself always a sacred sign. The blessing of the Church bestows uypon the crucifix spiritual power of protection and grace, making the image into a sacramental. Which recalls the victory of Christ on the cross, the redemption through his death.[1]

Scope and Content

This collection consists of one large wooden crucifix. This vintage brown wooden wall cross has a cream colored and highly detailed metal corpus with halo and the letters INRI printed on a scroll pinned above the body of Jesus. (The initialism INRI represents the Latin inscription IESVS NAZARENVS REX IVDÆORVM (Iesus Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum), which in English translates to "Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews")[2]. The ends of the upright post and crosspiece have brown metal inserts.

The crucifix measures approximately 18.5 inches high by 10.5 inches wide on ¾ inch thick wood. The body of Jesus from head to toe is 8 inches. The backside has a metal inlay that holds a paper with phrases Sacred to the Memory of and Requiescat in Pace: Amen. Tribute of. (Requiescat in pace is a Latin prayer meaning rest in peace). This crucifix is quite weighty. There are a few signs of age/use but the crucifix is in very good

[1] https://antiques.lovetoknow.com/Antique_Crucifixes
[2] https;//www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-e&q=inri+meaning

condition. Pictures of the same crucifix on the web are dated 1927-1930 but the actual date for this crucifix is unknown and there are no markings to identify the date nor the artist.

Arrangement

Not applicable.

Separated Materials

Not applicable

Subject Headings

Catholic Church – Customs and practices
Catholic Church – Doctrines
Christian art and symbolism
Crosses

Related Materials

Not applicable.

Collection Inventory

One large wooden crucifix with metal brown inserts on the ends of the upright post and crosspiece. The crucifix measures approximately 18.5 inches high by 10.5 inches wide.