

GERMANY TO RETURN 3,000 RUSSIAN ICONS CONFISCATED AT BORDER



3,000 icons of Russian origin confiscated by German customs authorities will be returned from Germany to Russia, the head of the, Police Major General Alexander Prokophuck reported to TASS on Friday.

The icons were found and confiscated by German authorities during an attempt to illegally import them into the country. State authorities decided to return the icons after revieing an expert opinion from the Russian Ministry of Culture and Interpol that confirmed the Russian origin of the crosses, Prokopchuk explained.

Work is already underway to get the icons home to Russia. However, this is usually a long process, commented His Grace Bishop Stephen of Klin, the Chairman of the Russian Church's Synodal Department for Interaction with the Armed Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies.

According to the Major General, over the past 10 years, using Interpol capabilities, more than 250 items of historical and cultural value have been returned to Russia, including icons of the 15th to 19th centuries and several archival documents.

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