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## Two Greek Hand-Carved Wooden Spoons

**Left:** The handle of this dark tan spoon is carved in the nearly full-length image of Christ holding an open book in his left hand and giving the blessing with his right. Around his head is a nimbus bearing a cross design, the left and right arms of which have the letters IC and XC respectively. The care, skill and general feeling of the carving strongly suggest a monastic origin of the spoon.

**Right:** The front of the handle of this dark tan spoon is completely covered with intricately carved designs of various kinds, though prominence is given to a cross in its broadest part. This area on the back of the spoon contains a small, lightly incised but quite detailed image of an evzone. There is a small, arrow-shaped protrusion at the end of the spoon's handle. A long, thin, decorated "strut," runs lengthwise along two-thirds of the back of the handle. The carving of this spoon is much cruder than that of the other and represents a very typical example of the kind of folk art created by men with no special skill for the task but following time-honored popular traditions.

Length of the spoons: Left: 7 3/8"; Right: 7 1/8"

Perhaps 1885-1925

Purchased in Athens "flea markets" in the 1960s or 1970s.