

## Faberge's Eggs: One Man's Masterpieces And The End Of An Empire

Presents previously unpublished letters and journal entries written by Lady Elizabeth Foster, to shed light on her love triangle with the duke and duchess of Devonshire.

Ralph Steadman: A Life in Ink is the definitive career retrospective of this revered and provocative UK artist. Renowned for his collaborations with iconic American writer Hunter S. Thompson, he formed an unlikely duo that created "Gonzo" journalism. This lifelong collaboration included the now-legendaryFear and Loathing in Las Vegas, originally published inRolling Stone magazine, which has since become a cult classic. \* Explores Steadman's signature ink-splattered style \* Features a diverse body of work that includes satirical political illustrations \* Includes art from award-winning children's books such asAlice in Wonderland
Ralph Steadman: A Life in Ink is a must-have celebration of the artist's important and influential career. This comprehensive monograph on the life and work of Ralph Steadman collects work from his dozens of books from his 50-plus year career. \* Satirist, artist, cartoonist, illustrator, writer—Steadman's prolific and influential career continues to resonate and inspire. \* His work is synonymous with the counterculture of the 1970s. \* The ultimate gift and coffee table book for fans of Gonzo journalism, Hunter S. Thompson, and political satire \* Add it to the shelf with books like.Ralph Steadman: Proud To Be Weird by Ralph Steadman, The Curse of Lono by Hunter S. Thompson, andGonzo: The Art by Ralph Steadman.

In language that is elegant, yet fun, this adventure invites the reader on an emotionally charged trip to the moon—from reminders of what one should pack on a trip to the moon, to the exciting countdown and lift-off.

"This catalog is published in conjunction with the exhibition Strut: the peacock and beauty in art, organized by the Hudson River Museum, October 11, 2014 to January 18, 2015"—Title page verso.

Five Violins, One Cello and a Genius

Faberge's Eggs

Fabergé Rediscovered

Close to the Edge

Fabergé Eggs

The Peacock and Beauty in Art

\* A close-up look at some of the treasures from the Fabergé Museum in St Petersburg, including the world-renowned Imperial Easter EggsHoused in the stunning Shuvalov Palace in the heart of historic St Petersburg, the Fabergé Museum opened in 2013 and is now home to over 4,000 works by the famous Imperial Russian jewelry firm. The most valuable are the nine Imperial Easter Eggs created by Carl Fabergé for the last two Russian emperors, Alexander III and Nicholas II, but the museum is also a treasure trove of objects of fantasy of all kinds, small goods, silverware, and the interior and religious objects. The collection also includes works by Fabergé’s contemporaries, including famous Russian jewelers and silversmiths such as Sazikov, Ovchinnikov, Khlebnikov and Ruckert.

“‘Tis God gives skill, but not without men’s hands: He could not make Antonio Stradivari’s violins without Antonio.” –George Eliot
Antonio Stradivari (1644-1737) was a perfectionist whose single-minded pursuit of excellence changed the world of music. In the course of his long career in the northern Italian city of Cremona, he created more than a thousand stringed instruments; approximately six hundred survive. In this fascinating book, Toby Faber traces the rich, multilayered stories of six of these peerless instruments—five violins and a cello—and the one towering artist who brought them into being. Blending history, biography, meticulous detective work, and an abiding passion for music, Faber embarks on an absorbing journey as he follows some of the most prized instruments of all time. Mysteries and unanswered questions proliferate from the outset—starting with the enigma of Antonio Stradivari himself. What made this apparently unsophisticated craftsman so special? Why were his techniques not maintained by his successors? How is it that even two and a half centuries after his death, no one has succeeded in matching the purity, depth, and delicacy of a Stradivarius? In Faber’s illuminating narrative, each of the six fabled instruments becomes a character in its own right—a living entity cherished by artists, bought and sold by princes and plutocrats, coveted, collected, hidden, lost, copied, and occasionally played by a musician whose skill matches its maker’s. Here is the fabulous Viotti, named for the virtuoso who enchanted all Paris in the 1780s, only to fall foul of the French Revolution. Paganini supposedly made a pact with the devil to transform the art of the violin—and by the end of his life he owned eleven Strads. Then there’s the Davidov cello, fashioned in 1712 and lovingly handed down through a succession of celebrated artists until, in the 1980s, it passed into the capable hands of Yo-Yo Ma. From the salons of Vienna to the concert halls of New York, from the breakthroughs of Beethoven’s last quartets to the first phonographic recordings, Faber unfolds a narrative magnificent in its range and brilliant in its detail. “A great violin is alive,” said Yehudi Menuhin of his own Stradivarius. In the pages of this book, Faber invites us to share the life, the passion, the intrigue, and the incomparable beauty of the world’s most marvelous stringed instruments.

A beautifully illustrated book that explores the history and legacy of the House of Faberg , from its origins in Russia--and its role in the glamorous world of the Romanovs--to global recognition The name Faberg has long been a byword for luxury. Combining an entrepreneurial vision for craftsmanship with innovative material sourcing and technical ability, Carl Faberg created an astonishing array of bespoke jeweled and enameled objects at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century. This beautifully illustrated book explores the history and legacy of the House of Faberg , from its origins in Russia--and its role in the glamorous world of the Romanovs--to global recognition. Much of the story is familiar, but less well-known is the important part played by the London branch. Opened in 1903, and the only one outside Russia, it became a choice destination for Edwardian high society and an international clientele. Featuring more than 120 pieces, from delicate flowers to Imperial Easter eggs, and with contributions from leading experts, Faberg A Russian

Love Affair celebrates the enduring fascination with this master craftsman’s works.

Katalog over genstande som tilhører kongehuse

A Retrospective Encyclopedia

Salvador

Faber & Faber

A Comprehensive Reference Book

Stradivari's Genius

From the renowned author of Possession, The Children's Book is the absorbing story of the close of what has been called the Edwardian summer: the deceptively languid, blissful period that ended with the cataclysmic destruction of World War I. In this compelling novel, A.S. Byatt summons up a whole era, revealing that beneath its golden surface lay tensions that would explode into war, revolution and unbelievable change – for the generation that came of age before 1914 and, most of all, for their children. The novel centres around Olive Wellwood, a fairy tale writer, and her circle, which includes the brilliant, erratic craftsman Benedict Fludd and his apprentice Philip Warren, a runaway from the poverty of the Potteries; Prosper Cain, the soldier who directs what will become the Victoria and Albert Museum; Olive's brother-in-law Basil Wellwood, an officer of the Bank of England; and many others from every layer of society. A.S. Byatt traces their lives in intimate detail and moves between generations, following the children who must choose whether to follow the roles expected of them or stand up to their parents' "porcelain socialism." Olive's daughter Dorothy wishes to become a doctor, while her other daughter, Hedda, wants to fight for votes for women. Her son Tom, sent to an upper-class school, wants nothing more than to spend time in the woods, tracking birds and foxes. Her nephew Charles becomes embroiled with German-influenced revolutionaries. Their portraits connect the political issues at the heart of nascent feminism and socialism with grave personal dilemmas, interlacing until The Children's Book becomes a perfect depiction of an entire world. Olive is a fairy tale writer in the era of Peter Pan and Kenneth Grahame's The Wind in the Willows, not long after Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. At a time when children in England suffered deprivation by the millions, the concept of childhood was being refined and elaborated in its way that still influence us today. For each of her children, Olive writes a special, private book, bound in a different colour and placed on a shelf; when these same children are ferried off into the unremitting destruction of the Great War, the reader is left to wonder who the real children in this novel are. The Children's Book is an astonishing novel. It is an historical feat that brings to life an era that helped shape our own as well as a gripping, personal novel about parents and children, life's most painful struggles and its richest pleasures. No other writer could have imagined it or created it.

"Error is the given of the place." The place is El Salvador in 1982, at the ghastly height of its civil war. Didion "brings the country to life" (The New York Times), delivering an anatomy of a particular brand of political colour—its mechanisms, rationales, and intimate relation to United States foreign policy. As ash travels from battlefields to dump dumps, Didion interviews a puppet

president, and considers the distinctly Salvadoran grammar of the verb "to disappear." Here, the bestselling, award-winning author of The Year of Magical Thinking and Let Me Tell You What I Mean gives us a book that is germane to any country in which bloodshed has become a standard tool of politics.

Presented to celebrate Faber's 90th anniversary, this is the story of one of the world's greatest publishing houses - a delight for all readers who are curious about the business of writing. 'The creation story of Faber is a striking drama ... Celebrating its 90th birthday this year, Faber boasts a phenomenal roster of successes ... What stays in the mind are some brilliant vignettes.' Sunday Times
The names of T. S. Eliot, William Golding, Ted Hughes, Sylvia Plath and Seamus Heaney are synonymous with the publishing house Faber & Faber, founded in Bloomsbury in 1929. But behind these stellar literary talents was a tiny firm that had to battle the Great Depression, wartime paper shortages and dramatic financial crises to retain its independence. This intimate history of Faber & Faber weaves together the most entertaining, moving and surprising letters, diaries and materials from the archive to reveal the untold stories behind some of the greatest literature of the twentieth century. Highlights include Eliot's magnificent reading reports, Samuel Beckett on swearing and censorship, the publication of Finnegans Wake, the rejection of George Orwell's Animal Farm, P. D. James on tasting her first avocado, the first reader's response to Heaney's Death of a Naturalist, Philip Larkin's reluctance to attend poetry readings ('people's imaginary picture of you is always so much more flattering than the reality') and the discovery of Kazuo Ishiguro. The result is both a vibrant history and a hymn to the role of literature in all our lives. 'Ingeniously compiled ... one of the pleasures of this book is reading the early correspondences with writers who later became famous ... The very picture of old-school publishing, which, with its lunches and advances and cranky old book-lined offices, is so cheerfully celebrated in this charming and quirky history.' Evening Standard

A rare look at the exquisite world of Russian treasures that lies beyond Fabergé. Imperial Russia evokes images of a vanished courts unparalleled splendor: magnificent tiaras, gem-encrusted necklaces, snuff boxes and other diamond-studded baubles of the tsars and tsarinas. During that time, jewelry symbolized power and wealth, and no one knew this better than the Romanovs. The era marked the high point of the Russian jewelers' art. Beginning with Catherine I's reign in 1725, in the century when women ruled Russia, until the Russian Revolution of 1917, the imperial capital's goldsmiths perfected their craft, and soon the quality of Russias jewelry equaled, if not surpassed, the best that Europes capitals could offer. Who created these jewels that helped make the Russian Court the richest in Europe? Hint: it wasn't Carl Fabergé. This is the first systematic survey in any language of all the leading jewelers and silver masters of Imperial Russia. The authors skillfully unfold for us the lives, histories, creations, and makers marks of the artisans whose jewels and silver masterworks bedazzled the tsars. The previously unheralded names include Pazuizi, Bolin, Hahn, Koehlich, Seftigen, Marshak, Morozov, Nicholls & Plincke, Grachev, Sazikov, and many others. The market for these exquisite masterworks is also explored, from its beginnings to today's auction world and collector demand. More than 600 stunning photos reacquaint the world with the master artisans and their creations.

The Faberge Museum: Directors' Choice

Vintage Nabokov

Ralph Steadman

The British Branch of the Imperial Russian Goldsmith

One Thousand Years of Extraordinary Chess Sets

If You Decide to Go to the Moon

This work presents detailed technical descriptions of 66 Faberge eggs, as well as the stories of people involved in their making or presentation.

Presents 90 outstanding pieces made by celebrated jeweller Fabergé, including two of the famous imperial Easter eggs.

This abundantly illustrated oversize volume presents the definitive account of the sale of Russia's cultural patrimony by the Soviet government in the interwar years Selling Russia's Treasures documents one of the great cultural dramas of the twentieth century: the sale, by a cash-hungry Soviet government, of the artistic treasures accumulated by the Russian aristocracy over the centuries and nationalized after the October 1917 revolution. An astonishing variety of objects, from icons and illuminated manuscripts to Fabergé eggs and Old Master paintings, entered the collections of wealthy Westerners like Andrew Mellon and Armand Hammer in the 1920s and 30s. Written by the leading experts in the field and long regarded as the definitive book on the subject, the original Russian edition of Selling Russia's Treasures is sought after scholars and laymen alike. Now, for the first time, it is made available in English, in a revised and expanded edition that includes a new chapter on the secret files of the Hermitage, previously considered lost, as well as new research on the sale of religious art, and of twentieth-century French masterworks from the Museum of New Western Art. Numerous color plates reunite long-dispersed works in a virtual museum that illustrates the powerful blow inflicted on Russia's cultural heritage by these secretive sales, and rare photographs and archival documents help bring this buried history to light. Distributed by the M.T. Abraham Center for the Visual Arts Foundation

Everyone knows of the legendary quality and unbelievable price tag of a Stradivarius violin. In this, the first popular account of the Stradivari phenomena, Toby Faber explores the life and methods of this unsurpassed craftsman. Following the life of his instruments as they pass through the hands of many of the greatest musicians that have ever lived, we learn how and why they have become objects of such veneration and desire. It is a dramatic tale of grand artistry, fantastic music, shady dealers, forgery and science. "Fascinating, accessible and enjoyable" - Tracy Chevalier 'A captivating book . . . An extraordinary accomplishment and a compelling read' - TE Cahart, author of The Piano Shop On The Left Bank 'An inspired idea for a book' - Telegraph 'Faber has found in the Strad a delightful leitmotif for an original comedie humaine' - Financial Times 'Faber pitches the story just right, neither patronising nor baffling the reader' - Times

Fabergé in the Royal Collection

Faberge Eggs Imperial Russian Fantasies Poster Book

The Recently Discovered Jewelry Designs from the St. Petersburg Archives

Fabergé, Lost and Found

The Life and Times of 17th Century Glassmaker Antonio Neri

Masterpieces from Czarist Russia

"Carl Fabergé (1846-1920), jeweller to the Russian Imperial Court, enjoys iconic stature in the history of the goldsmiths' art. His life's work is still celebrated today, a century after the forced closure of his company in St Petersburg, capital of the then crumbling Russian Empire. Wherever Fabergé's works are shown, whether at exhibitions or in salerooms, they delight and inspire. However no man is an island. Without a host of creative talents behind the scenes - designers, master goldsmiths and silversmiths - Carl Fabergé's business could not have flourished.0'Faberge: His Masters and Artisans' lifts these craftsmen into the limelight; craftsmen who not only deserve our closer attention, but the captivating stories of their lives and careers add appreciably to what is known of the working processes at Faberge. Featured here are names - familiar from the maker's marks on countless Faberge treasures - of men such as Erik Kollin, August Holmstrom, Henrik Wigstrom, Viktor Aarne, Gabriel Nykanen, and many others. The book also explores jewellery manufacturing methods, touches on the company's well known and influential customers, as well as, of course, showcasing Fabergé's very recognisable style and creativity. It contains much new information, including reminiscences, letters, and personal photographs alongside detailed images of Faberge works."—Dust jacket flap.

Journeys through the world of Carl Faberge to explore some of his elaborate and exquisite gold pieces and to provide information on his craftsmen, art, and aristocratic patrons.

Peter Carl Faberge, court jeweler to the czars, is a name synonymous with beauty, craftsmanship, and sumptuous excess. This exciting book features some of the best photographs ever made of Faberge objects. Over 350 illustrations, 80 in full color.

Each known Easter egg is documented with invoice records, correspondence, provenance and correspondence.

The Soviet Trade in Nationalized Art, 1917-1938

Beyond Fabergé

The Children's Book

Fabergé in London

Fabergé Tiffany Lique

The Hunted

A ce jour plus de 3000 livres ont été publiés sur Carl Fabergé, la plupart d'auteurs se contentant de répéter systématiquement les mêmes choses et de mentionner les mêmes légendes et histoires. La majorité de ces ouvrages se basent sur les informations fournies par Eugène Carlovich Fabergé dans les années 30 ou H.C. Bainbridge, le premier à avoir écrit une biographie sur Carl Fabergé en 1949. L'incapacité d'acquérir du matériel conséquent avait comme impact auprès des érudits qu'ils ne pouvaient pas vérifier leur travail. Des lettres écrites par le Tsar, des factures Fabergé, des documents du Cabinet ou des inventaires des Bolchevics ont été cachés en Russie depuis la Révolution. D'autres documents, comme les actes/dossiers de la famille Fabergé passés d'une génération à l'autre, n'étaient pas accessibles aux chercheurs. Ces dossiers contiennent entre autres des livres de caisse, des listes de marchandises confisquées pendant la période soviétique à Saint Petersburg et Moscou, ainsi qu'une collection photographique comprenant notamment le service de table en argent fabriqué par Fabergé Moscou pour le grand industriel Alexander Kelkh. Pendant dix ans, les auteurs de cet ouvrage ont consulté et étudié ces archives inédites. Ce livre extraordinaire comprend une abondante iconographie et des documents approuvés, la plupart inédits à ce jour. Ce manuel est un chef-d'oeuvre. LE livre de référence sur l'histoire fascinante de la Maison Fabergé.

"The first book to be dedicated to the British branch of Fabergé, covering its fascinating history from its opening in 1903, to its closure in 1917.Royalty, Aristocrats, American heiresses, exiled Russian Grand Dukes, Randalros, Maharajas, Socialites and Financiers with newly made fortunes flocked to Fabergé in London to buy gifts for each other. The Imperial Russian Goldsmith's London branch was the only one outside of Russia and its jeweled and enameled contents were as popular there as they were in St. Petersburg or Moscow. Using previously unreferenced sources and a newly discovered archive of papers relating to Fabergé in London, Kieran McCarthy studies the branch's structure, customers and exclusive stock. The book will be of interest to enthusiasts of the decorative arts, the social history of the Edwardian Golden Age and especially of European Royalty. Fabergé's works were and continue to be intimately associated with the British Royal Family. For Violet Treflus, daughter of King Edward VII's mistress, Kestrel and lover of Vita Sackville-West, a Fabergé cigarette case was the emblem of Royalty, as symbolical as the 'bookies' cigar,' or the 'ostler's straw'.

Nowhere to run, nowhere to hide - an electrifying, heartpounding, truly unputdownable thriller - a bestselling debut from talented newcomer, Gabriel Bergmoser. 'A truly terrifying, breathlessly exciting novel. It gut punches you in the first few pages and doesn't let you recover until the final, thrilling climax. An extraordinary book.' M W Craven 'An original and high-octane read, it makes Deliverance look like Picnic at Hanging Rock.' The Times/Sunday Times Crime Club Frank is a service station owner on a little-used highway who just wants a quiet life. His granddaughter has been sent to stay with him to fix her attitude, but they don't talk a lot. When a badly injured young woman arrives at Frank's service station with several cars in pursuit, Frank and a handful of unsuspecting customers are thrust into a life-or-death standoff. But who are this group of men and women who go to any lengths for revenge? And what do they want? Other than no survivors ...? A ferociously fast-paced, filmic, visceral, tense and utterly electric novel, unlike anything you've read before. Set on a lonely, deserted highway, deep in the Australian badlands, The Hunted is white-knuckle suspense matched to the fast-paced adrenaline of a Jack Reacher novel and the creeping menace of Wake in Fright. This is unmissable reading. 'This slice of outbreak noir is ... at once exhilarating, gleefully vicious and totally, race-to-the-finish-line unputdownable' Observer 'An audacious walk on the wildest side of outbreak noir ... a vivid thriller.' Sydney Morning Herald 'A perfectly paced, thrilling read with an unrelenting sense of dread and menace ...building suspense at every turn of the page. Crime and thriller readers will love this savage Rottweiler of a novel that will clamp its jaws around their throat and shake them to the end.' Bookseller+Publisher 'Tough, violent, suspenseful and peopled with great characters. The Hunted could well be the Australian thriller of the year. This is Jack Reacher for adults.' Canberra Weekly

A warm and intuitive portrait of the secret Paris—one closed to all but a knowing few—The Piano Shop on the Left Bank is the perfect book for music lovers, or for anyone who longs to recapture a lost passion. Thad Carhart never realized there was a gap in his life until he happened upon Desforges Pianos, a demure little shopfront in his Paris neighborhood that seemed to want to hide rather than advertise its wares. Like Alice in Wonderland, he found his attempts to gain entry rebuffed at every turn. An accidental introduction finally opened the door to the quarter's oddest hangout, where locals—from university professors to pipettfers—gather on Friday evenings to discuss music, love, and life over a glass of wine. Luc, the atelier's master, proves an excellent guide to the history of this most gloriously impractical of instruments. A bewildering variety passes through his restorer's hands: delicate ancient pianofortes, one perhaps the onetime possession of Beethoven. Great hulking beasts of thunderous voice. And the modest piano "with the heart of a lion" that was to become Thad's own.

The Making of the October Crisis

The Untold Story of a Great Publishing House

One Man's Masterpieces and the End of an Empire

Artistic Luxury

Masterpieces from the House of Fabergé

Discovering a Forgotten Passion in a Paris Atelier

*An incredible album of rare, recently discovered drawings from the Carl Faberge workshop in St. Petersburg is reproduced in its entirety. Over 1,000 pieces are illustrated, essential components of Faberge's oeuvre during a period considered to be one of the richest in terms of quality and design. These objects - produced primarily from 1911 to 1913 - are drawn to scale in pencil, pen and ink, nearly all of them beautifully filled in with watercolor. In addition to the album, there are illustrations of 40 objects found by the author's juxtaposed with their original drawings as well as contemporary photographs of Faberge's workshops. The text examines the pieces in both their social and artistic contexts including relevant source materials. Vintage Readers are a perfect introduction to some of the greatest modern writers presented in attractive, accessible paperback editions. It was Nabokov's gift to bring paradise wherever he alighted. —John Updike, The New York Review of Books
Novelist, poet, critic, translator, and, above all, a peerless imaginer, Vladimir Nabokov was arguably the most dazzling prose stylist of the twentieth century. In novels like Lolita, Pale Fire, and Ada, or Ardor, he turned language into an instrument of ecstasy. Vintage Nabokov includes sections 1-10 of his most famous and controversial novel, Lolita; the stories "The Return of Chorb," "The Aurelian," "A Forgotten Poet," "Time and Ebb," "Signs and Symbols," "The Vane Sisters," and "Lance"; and chapter 12 from his memoir Speak, Memory.*

*A definitive, mind-changing history of the October Crisis and the events leading up to it, publishing in paperback for the 50th anniversary of the Crisis. The first bombs exploded in Montreal in the spring of 1963, and over the next seven years there were hundreds more bombings, many bank robberies, six murders and, in October 1970, the kidnappings of a British diplomat and a Quebec cabinet minister. The perpetrators were members of the Front de libération du Québec, dedicated to establishing a sovereign and socialist Québec. Half a century on, we should have reached some clear understanding of what led to the October Crisis. Instead, too much attention has been paid to the Crisis and not enough to the years preceding it. Most of those who have written about the FLQ have been ardent nationalists, committed sovereigntists or former terrorists. They tell us that the authorities should have negotiated with the kidnappers and contend that Jean Drapeau's administration and the governments of Robert Bourassa and Pierre Trudeau created the October Crisis by invoking the War Measures Act. Using new research and interviews, D'Arcy Jenish tells the complete story-starting from the spring of 1963. This gripping narrative by a veteran journalist and master storyteller will change forever the way we view this dark chapter in Canadian history.*

*A colorfully illustrated celebration of an elegant art form features 120 pieces from the Forbes Faberge collection in New York, along with genealogies of the European royal families who commissioned most of the pieces.*

Chess Masterpieces

Drawings and Objects from the Wigström Workshop

Olga's Egg

Elizabeth & Georgiana

Stradivarius

Imperial Russian Jewelry

Origins of chess - Islam's influence - Medieval Europe - Materials - War as a theme - France - Germany - The British Isles - Mediterranean countries - Central Europe - Russia - The Far East - Western hemisphere - Twentieth century - Twenty-first century.

Color photographs illustrate dazzling, jeweled Easter eggs made for the Czar of Russia by Carl Faberge's craftsmen

History:

*Morning rush hour on the London underground and Laurie Bateman is on her way to work when she witnesses a terrible accident. The elderly gentleman next to her on the platform falls onto the tracks and is fatally injured. With the police uninterested, Laurie is drawn to investigate and soon finds herself breaking into the tube network in the dead of night searching for a clue dropped by the dead man, only to be pursued by two unknown assailants whom she narrowly escapes. But Laurie's troubles are far from over and soon she loses her job, has her phone stolen and discovers her flat has been burgled and her flatmate assaulted. It takes her father to persuade her that everything might be connected. Laurie starts to dig deeper, unaware that as she gets closer to the truth, she is endangering not only herself, but also everyone she loves*

Selling Russia's Treasures

Carl Fabergé, Goldsmith to the Imperial Court of Russia

The Piano Shop on the Left Bank

Golden Years of Fabergé

Five Violins, One Cello, and Three Centuries of Enduring Perfection

The Duke of Devonshire and His Two Duchesses

Faberge's EggsOne Man's Masterpieces and the End of an EmpirePan Macmillan

In Stradivari's Genius, Toby Faber charted the fascinating course of some of the world's most prized musical instruments. Now, in this enthralling new book, he tells the story of objects that are, to many, the pinnacle of the jeweler's art: the Fabergé imperial eggs. The Easter presents that Russia's last two czars gave to their czarinias have become synonymous with privilege, beauty, and an almost provocative uselessness. They are perhaps the most redolent symbols of the old empire's phenomenal craftsmanship, of the decadence of its court, and of the upheavals that brought about its inevitable downfall. Fabergé's Eggs is the first book to recount the remarkable story of these masterpieces, taking us from the circumstances that inspired each egg's design, through their disappearance in the trauma of revolution, to their eventual reemergence in the global marketplace.

In 1885, Carl Fabergé created a seemingly plain white egg for Czar Alexander III to give to his beloved wife, Marie Fedorovna. It was the surprise hidden inside that made it special: a diamond miniature of the Imperial crown and a ruby pendant. This gift began a tradition that would last for more than three decades: lavishly extravagant eggs commemorating public events that, in retrospect, seem little more than staging posts on the march to revolution. Above all, the eggs illustrate the attitudes that would ultimately lead to the downfall of the Romanovs: their apparent indifference to the poverty that choked their country, their preference for style over substance, and, during the reign of Nicholas II, their all-consuming concern with the health of the czarevitch Alexis, the sickly heir to the throne—a preoccupation that would propel them toward Rasputin and the doom of the dynasty. More than a superb new account of a classic tragedy, Fabergé's Eggs illuminates some fascinating aspects of twentieth-century history. The eggs' amazing journey from revolutionary Russia features a cast of characters including embattled Bolsheviks, acquisitive British royals, eccentric artifact salesmen, and such famous business and society figures as Arm and Hammer, Marjorie Merriweather Post, and Malcolm Forbes. Finally, Toby Faber tantalizingly suggests that some of the eggs long thought lost may eventually emerge. Darting from the palaces of a besieged Russia to the showcases of New York's modern mega-wealthy, Fabergé's Eggs weaves a story unparalleled in its drama and extravagance. Praise for Stradivari's Genius "Fascinating . . . lively . . . more enthralling, earthy and illuminating than any fiction could be." —The New York Times Book Review "A celebration of six instruments and the master craftsman who made them . . . [Faber] brings to the subject an infectious fascination with Stradivari's life and trade. . . . He writes with clarity and fluency." —Chicago Tribune "An extraordinary accomplishment and a compelling read.

Like strange totems that cast an irresistible spell, these instruments bring out the best and the worst of those who would own them, and Faber deftly tells the stories in all their rich and surprising detail." —Thad Carhart, author of The Piano Shop on the Left Bank "A worthy contribution to the ongoing legend of Stradivari." —Minneapolis Star Tribune "Fascinating, accessible, and enjoyable." —Tracy Chevalier, author of Girl with a Pearl Earring For more than 25 years Carl Faberge and his firm served as jeweler and goldsmith to the tsars of Russia and other influential people. Here, straight from the St. Petersburg archives, jewelry expert Snowman reproduces hundreds of drawings and photographs (most in full color) from two newly discovered Faberge design books.

Featuring forty-eight magnificent close-up views of each piece, a collection of stunning photographs and informative essays shows the variety of original variations of the "shells" of the Faberge7a eggs, as well as the delightful surprises hidden inside.

Strut

A Life in Ink

The Fabergé Imperial Easter Eggs

The Extraordinary Story of the Masterpieces That Outlived an Empire

Conciatore

His Masters and Artisans