

Fabergé Egg Auction and Private Sale Data

Compiled by Christel L. McCanless

Lowes and McCanless in their book, *Fabergé Eggs: A Retrospective Encyclopedia*, compiled data for 66 Fabergé eggs made by the firm in St. Petersburg between 1885 and 1917, before the Bolsheviks closed the shop permanently in November 1918. The authors in their 2001 book categorized the known Fabergé eggs into four groups:

Tsar Imperial eggs (50 presented, 2 unfinished and not presented in 1917) are those given by Alexander III to Marie Fedorovna between 1885 and 1894, and by Nicholas II to his wife, Alexandra Fedorovna, and his mother, Marie Fedorovna, between 1895 and 1916. The majority of these Fabergé eggs have themes associated with the reign of the two tsars and their families, and some contain automatons or other surprises. Seven eggs are still missing¹ and the ones remaining are in museum and private collections.² Known details for these eggs along with new research findings since 2001 have been uploaded to the *Fabergé Imperial Egg Chronology* on the Fabergé Research Site.

Imperial eggs (2) are eggs known to have been in possession of Marie Fedorovna and probably were given to her by other members of her family, but not her husband, Alexander III, or her son, Nicholas II.

Kelch eggs (7) were made for the wealthy Russian industrialist Alexander Ferdinandovich Kelch who presented them to his wife, Barbara, at Easter between 1898 and 1904.

Other eggs (5) include those made for other high-ranking Russians or foreigners.

Legend for Auction and Private Sale Data

1. Name of the egg, date made, and the original cost followed by auction and private sale details.
2. If known, buyer's premium and/or sales taxes on auction and private sales are listed.
3. FAB followed by a five-digit # is the Forbes Magazine Collection accession number, for further details see Forbes and Tromeur-Brenner, *Fabergé: The Forbes Collection*, 1999.
4. Tsar Imperial Eggs Auction (□) Private Sale (■)
5. Imperial Eggs (◇) (◆)
6. Kelch Eggs (Δ) (▲)
7. Other Eggs (o) (●)
8. Foreign currencies have been converted to U.S. dollars as accurately as possible using a currency converter for a given year.
9. * Not plotted on the graph.

¹ Wintraecken and McCanless, "Empress Marie Feodorovna's Missing Fabergé Eggs", *Royal Russia: A Celebration of the Romanov Dynasty & Imperial Russia in Words & Photographs*, Annual No. 3, 2013, pp. 89-96. The 1887 Third Imperial Egg has been found, *Faberge Research Newsletter*, Summer 2014, since the article was published.

² Whereabouts of Imperial Eggs on the Miek's Fabergé Eggs website <http://www.wintraecken.nl/mieks/Fabergé/eggs/whereabouts.htm>

Tsar Imperial eggs (□ ■), gifts to Marie Feodorovna and Alexandra Feodorovna

First Hen Egg (1885) - 4,151 r. (rubles), 75 kopecks

- 1934. Sold for \$430 at Christie's (London) from the Derek (Editor's note: Frederick?) Berry Collection, UK, to Mr. R. Suenson-Taylor, UK
- 1978. Sold for \$126,250 by A La Vieille Russie, New York, to Forbes Magazine Collection (FAB78001)

Third Imperial Egg (1887) - 2,160 silver rubles

- 1964. Offered by Mrs. Rena Clark of New York at Parke-Bernet's (New York) auction. Sold to a female buyer from the deep south of the U.S. for \$2,450
- (ca. 2004. Bought for \$14,000 by a scrap-metal dealer in the mid-west of the US, and sold privately to an anonymous collector) *Faberge Research Newsletter*, Summer 2014

Diamond Trellis Egg (1892) - 4,750 silver rubles

- 1929. Transferred from Wartski, Llandudno, Wales to Wartski, London, having been purchased for £125
- 1929. Bought from Wartski by T. B. Kitson, UK for £260
- 1960. Sold for \$6,744 by Sotheby's (London) from the Collection of the late T. B. Kitson, UK, to buyer's agent, Drager
- (2003 passed in at \$1.3 million)*

Renaissance Egg (1894) - 4,750 silver rubles

- 1966. Sold for \$78,750 by A La Vieille Russie, New York, to Forbes Magazine Collection (FAB66001)

Blue Serpent Egg (1895) - 4,500 silver rubles

- 1950. Bought by Emanuel Snowman of Wartski, London, from the Australian Pearl Company for £3,750
- 1972. Sold by Wartski to shipping magnate, Stavros Niarchos for £64,103

Rosebud Egg (1895) - 3,250 silver rubles

- 1934. Sold by Wartski, London, to Charles Parsons for £525
- 1985. Sold for \$525,000 by Fine Art Society, London, to Forbes Magazine Collection (FAB85022)

Alexander III Portraits Egg (1896) Formerly the 12 Monogram Egg - 3,575 silver rubles

- 1949. Bought by Marjorie Merriweather Post, General Foods heiress, as Mrs. Joseph E. Davies, from Mrs. Berchielly for the equivalent of \$1739.13

Coronation Egg (1897) - 5,650 silver rubles

- 1934. Transferred from Wartski, Llandudno, Wales, to Wartski, London, having been purchased for £600
- 1934. Bought by Charles Parsons, London for £1,500
- 1979. Sold by Wartski for £532,000 to Forbes Magazine Collection, New York FAB79002

Lilies of the Valley Egg (1898) - 6,700 silver rubles

- 1934. Transferred from Wartski, Llandudno, Wales to Wartski, London, having been purchased for £700
- 1934. Bought by Charles Parsons, London, for £2,000
- 1948. Sold back to Wartski by Mr. Hirst for £1,500
- 1979. Sold by Wartski for £300,000 to Forbes Magazine Collection, New York FAB79003

Cockerel Egg (1900) - 6,500 rubles

- 1932. Transferred from Wartski, Llandudno, to Wartski, London, having been purchased for £150
- 1934. Sold to Mrs. Isabella S. Low for £350
- 1973 Sold by Christie's (Geneva) from the Collection of Robert H. Smith, developer of Washington (DC) to Kenneth Snowman of Wartski, London, bidding for Bernard C. Solomon, president of Everest Records, Los Angeles, for SFr 620,000; \$207,000; £82,666, plus 10 percent buyer's premium
- 1985. Sold by Sotheby's (New York) as part of a divorce settlement between Bernard and Donna Solomon of Los Angeles, to Forbes Magazine Collection, New York, for \$1,760,000; £1,375,000, plus 8 percent sales tax. Presale estimate \$1,000,000 or more (FAB85018)

Flower Basket Egg (1901) - 6,850 rubles

- 1933. Sold by the Antikvariat, Moscow, to an unrecorded buyer, possibly Emanuel Snowman of Wartski or Michel Norman of the Australian Pearl Company, for 2,000 rubles (ca. \$1000) after an earlier Armoury valuation of 15,000 rubles

Peter the Great Egg (1903) - 9,760 rubles

- 1933. Sold by the Antikvariat, Moscow, to an unrecorded American buyer for 4,000 rubles (ca. \$2,000) after an initial Armoury valuation of 20,000 rubles. Unclaimed at U.S. Customs

- 1930s. Purchased by Alexander Schaffer of A La Vieille Russie, New York, after paying import duty of \$1,000-1,500
- 1942-1944. Bought by Lillian Thomas Pratt, Fredericksburg, Virginia, in installments, for \$16,500

Swan Egg (1906) - 7,200 rubles

- 1954. Sold by Sotheby's (Cairo) at the King Farouk Dispersal Sale for £Egyptian 5,800; £6,400 Sterling; \$18,500, plus 5 percent premium, total \$19,400 to Alexander Schaffer of A La Vieille Russie, New York

Love Trophies Egg (1907) - 9,700 rubles

- 1992. Sold by Sotheby's (New York) from a private U.S. collection to Robert M. Lee, millionaire sporting goods retailer, author and conservationist, of Reno, Nevada, for \$3,190,000

Peacock Egg (1908) - 8,300 rubles

- 1947. Sold by Wartski, London to W. Magalow for £6,000

Orange Tree Egg (1911) - 12,800 rubles

- 1934. Transferred from Wartski, Llandudno, Wales for Wartski, London, valued at £950
- 1934. Sold by Wartski for £950, probably to Allan G. Hughes
- 1947. Sold by Sotheby's (London) from the Collection of Lilian, Lady Cadman, widow of British Petroleum executive Sir John Cadman, to buyer's agent Collins for £1,650 (£1,500 plus 10 percent buyer's premium); \$6,600. Collins acted on behalf of Wartski, London
- 1965. Sold by Mildred Kaplan for \$150,000 to Forbes Magazine Collection, New York (FAB65002)

Fifteenth Anniversary Egg (1911) - 16,600 rubles

- 1966. Sold by A La Vieille Russie for \$111,447 to Forbes Magazine Collection, New York (FAB66023)

Winter Egg³ (1913) - 24,600 rubles (Editor's note: \$299,173 in 2014 dollar terms)

- 1934. Sold to Lord Alington [*sic*], London landowner, UK, for £1500
- 1949. Sold by Sotheby's (London) from the Collection of the late Sir Bernard Eckstein, UK, to Arthur Bryan Ledbrook, UK, for £1,870 (£1,700 plus 10 percent buyer's premium); \$5,236

³In the days of Tsar Nicholas II the cost of Fabergé eggs escalated steadily. New research in 2015 shows the most expensive eggs are 1912 Tsarevich, 1914 Mosaic, 1914 Catherine the Great, and the 1913 Winter egg. For more details, Benko, Riana, "Statistical Cost Analysis of Fabergé's 50 Imperial Easter Eggs", *Fabergé Research Newsletter*, Fall 2015.

- 1994. Sold by Christie's (Geneva) on behalf of an Australian syndicate headed by Melbourne jeweler, Roy Martin to telephone bidder, Gary Hansen of St. Louis, Missouri, acting for a U.S. buyer, for SFr 7,263,500; \$5,587,308; £3,560,539
- 2002. Sold by Christie's (New York) on behalf of an anonymous U.S. vendor to Sheikh Saud Al-Thani of Qatar for \$9,579,500, including a buyer's premium

Catherine the Great Egg (1914) - 26,800 rubles

- 1931. Bought by Eleanor Barzin as a gift for her mother, Marjorie Merriweather Post, for \$12,500

Mosaic Egg (1914) - 28,300 rubles

- 1933. Sold by the Antikvariat, Moscow, to an unrecorded buyer for 5,000 rubles (ca. \$2,500) after an initial Armoury valuation of 20,000 rubles
- 1933. Bought by King George V from Cameo Corner, London, probably as a birthday present for Queen Mary (whose birthday was May 26) for "half cost" of £250. Queen Mary may have paid the balance.

Red Cross Tryptich Egg (1915) - 3,600 rubles

- 1930. Sold by the Antikvariat, Moscow, to an unrecorded buyer, possibly Alexander Schaffer or Jacques Zolotnitsky, for 500 rubles (ca. \$250)
- 1943. Bought by India Early Minshall, widow of Pocahontas Oil Company founder, T. Ellis Minshall, of Cleveland, Ohio, from Zolotnitsky of A La Vieille Russie, New York for \$4,400

Cross of St. George Egg (1916) - no known individual invoice

- 1961. Sold by Sotheby's (London) from the Collection of Prince Vasilii Romanov of Woodside, California for £11,000; \$30,910, to Lumley (Editor's note: Probably Tom Lumley of Sotheby's [London] acting as agent for the cosmetics firm, Fabergé, Inc.)
- 1976. Sold by A La Vieille Russie for \$142,000 to Forbes Magazine Collection, New York (FAB76010)

Imperial eggs, probably gifts to Marie Federovna by family or friends but not her husband, Alexander III or Nicholas II, her son. No known original invoices. (◊ ◆)

Resurrection Egg (1885-1889)

- 1934. Sold by Christie's (London) from the Derek (Editor's note: Frederick?) Berry Collection, UK, to Mr. R. Suenson-Taylor, UK, for 110 pounds; \$560
- 1978. Sold for \$300,000 by A La Vieille Russie, New York, to Forbes Magazine Collection (FAB78002)

Spring Flowers Egg (1899-1903)

- 1933. Sold by the Antikvariat, Moscow, to an unrecorded buyer, perhaps A La Vieille Russie, Paris, for 2,000 rubles (ca. \$1,000)
- 1966. Sold for \$25,000 by Lansdell K. Christie, Long Island, New York to A La Vieille Russie, New York, to Forbes Magazine Collection (FAB66004)

Kelch eggs, gifts to Barbara Kelch by her husband Russian industrialist Alexander Kelch. No known original invoices. (Δ ▲)

Hen Egg (1898)

- 1954. Sold by Sotheby's (Cairo) at King Farouk Dispersal Sale to Alexander Schaffer of A La Vieille Russie, New York, for 3,800 Egyptian pounds; \$14,500; 4,200 pounds, plus 5 percent premium
- 1966. Sold for \$42,000 by Lansdell K. Christie, Long Island, New York to A La Vieille Russie, New York, to Forbes Magazine Collection (FAB66006)

12 Panel Egg (1899)

- 1933. Sold by Zolotnitsky, A La Vieille Russie, Paris, for \$850, probably to a UK buyer (Editor's note: Wartski?)
- 1933. Bought from Wartski by King George V for 275 pounds as a Christmas present for Queen Mary

Pine Cone Egg (1900)

- 1989. Sold by Christie's (Geneva) from a private U.S. collection to Daniel Grossman, acting for Joan Kroc, widow of Ray Kroc, McDonald's fast food chain founder of San Diego, California, for SFr 5,280,000; \$3,140,000; 1,872,340 pounds
- 1997. Offered by Christie's (New York) from the Collection of Joan Kroc, of San Diego, California. (Passed in at \$2,800,000)*

Apple Blossom Egg (1901)

- 1994. Sold by Christie's (Geneva) from a private U.S. collection to an anonymous Russian businessman for SFr 1,213,500 (including buyer's premium); \$861,585; 582,480 pounds
- 1996. Sold by Sotheby's (Geneva) from a private Russian collection to Adulf Peter Goop of Vaduz, Liechtenstein for SFr 1,433,500 (including buyer's premium); \$1,128,740 or 676,179 pounds

Bonbonnière Egg (1903)

- 1990. Offered by Christie's (New York) from a private U.S. collection but passed at \$900,000* Sold immediately after to an anonymous buyer for a sum described by Christie's as "a little less than \$1,000,000"

Chanticleer Egg (1904)

- 1966. Sold for \$125,000 by Lansdell K. Christie, Long Island, New York to A La Vieille Russie, New York, and then Forbes Magazine Collection (FAB66005)

Other eggs, made for high-ranking Russian or foreigners. No known original invoices. (o ●)

Blue Enamel - Ribbed Egg (1885-1891)*

- 1921. Bought by Alexander Tillander, Helsinki jeweler, from Bagge-Petersen for 1,500 Finnish marks (ca. \$550)
- 1924. Sold to Herr Popper (or Poppar) of Budapest for 3,000 Finnish marks (ca. \$1,100)

Duchess of Marlborough Egg (1902)

- 1965. Sold by Parke-Bernet (New York) from the collection of former opera singer, Mme. Ganna Walska (one-time wife of International Harvester millionaire Harold Fowler McCormick), of Santa Barbara, California, to Forbes Magazine Collection, New York, for \$57,000 (FAB65001)

Nobel Ice Egg (1910-1914)

- 1994. Sold by Christie's (Geneva) from a private U.S. collection to an anonymous Russian businessman for SFr 311,500, including buyer's premium; \$221,165; 149,520 pounds
- 1996. Sold by Sotheby's (Geneva) from a private Russian collection to Michael Kroger, Fabergé Boutiques, New York, for SFr 421,500, including buyer's premium, \$331,890; 198,820 pounds
- 1998. Sold to Forbes Magazine Collection for \$440,000 (FAB98007)