Overview of Russia in 1900

- Russia's land mass consists of 6.6 million square miles (17.1 million km$^2$)
- Population: 128 million of which 102 million are peasants (former serfs freed by the 1861 Emancipation Act) working in agriculture, moving from the country to the city
- 1.8 million are nobility

Strong Hierarchies in Russian Society

- Upper classes: Royalty, nobility, higher clergy (13%)
- Middle classes: Merchants, bureaucrats, professionals (2%)
- Working classes: Factory workers, artisans, soldier, policemen, sailors (5%)
- Peasants: Landed and landless farmers (80%)

Fabergé Firm

- Move into larger quarters at #24 Bolshaya Morskaya, St. Petersburg, with a main trade counter, a large safe, and Fabergé family living quarters on the top floor
- Principal jewelry workshops under one roof: Holmström, Hollming, Perkhin until 1903, Wigström after 1903, Thielemann, Armfelt after 1916

**Emperor Nicholas II in 1908, His Sixth Year on the Throne**

- Avid collector of a new Fabergé genre of Russian Types hardstone carvings purchased from April 1908 - February 1916
- 1909-1915 Commission granted by Nicholas II to photographer and chemist, Sergei Prokudin-Gorsky (1863-1944), to document Russia and its people in colored images

![Nicholas II, Collector of Russian Types of Fabergé Hardstone Figures](image)

- Sir William Seeds (1882-1973), British diplomat, and Ambassador to both Russia and Brazil

Top Row: Policeman*, Carpenter, Merchant*, House Boy, Nobleman,

Second Row: Ukrainian Peasant, Soldier of the Emperor’s Preobrazhensky Regiment,

Peasant Playing Balalaika, Peasant with a Shovel, Coachman

*Not owned by Emperor Nicholas II, who owned 20 figures.
Fabergé scholar, A. Kenneth Snowman (1919-2002), describes the genius of Fabergé in stone carvings.

- Unerring instinct for the RIGHT MATERIAL and meticulous TREATMENT OF DETAIL
- Vigorous SENSE OF MOVEMENT, and perhaps, above all,
- An obvious AFFECTION FOR and SYMPATHY WITH THE SUBJECT

Painstakingly carved pieces of stone of a suitable color and texture, each playing their appointed part, were carefully - and invisibly - fitted together … *(Art of Carl Fabergé, 1953, 65)*

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Invoice (House Boy, Red John Bull, Carpenter), August 8, 1908, No. F16462, 545 Rubles to Nicholas II *(Fabergé Invoice Research Published by Dr. Valentin Skurlov in 2009)*

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Body Guards from the Emperor Nicholas II Collection

Kamer-Kazak Alexei Alexeievich Kudinov, Personal Body Guard (1878-1915) to Dowager Maria Feodorovna, 7.5 in. | 19 cm
(Courtesy State Pavlovsk Museum, Russia)

Portrait Figure of Kamer-Kazak N.N.Pustynnikov (1857-1918), Personal Body Guard to Empress Alexandra Feodorovna
(Photographs Walter Hill, Courtesy Stair Galleries, Hudson, New York)

Provenance: 1912 Purchased by Nicholas II. Soles of the boots are engraved "Fabergé, 1912. N.N. Pustynnikov, Kamer-Kazak since 1894" in Cyrillic
Emperor's hardstone figures traded after the 1918 Russian Revolution by dealers: Armand Hammer, Agathon Fabergé, Wartski, etc.
1934 Hammer Galleries, New York, sold the figure for $2,250 to Mrs. George H. Davis of Manhattan and Rhinebeck, New York
2013 During a 15-minute auction 79 years later at Stair Galleries figure sold for $5,980,000 to London jeweler Wartski. (Pre-sale estimate $500,000 - 800,000)

Our research has uncovered ca. 50 Russian folkloristic hardstone figures, many of which require extensive further study.