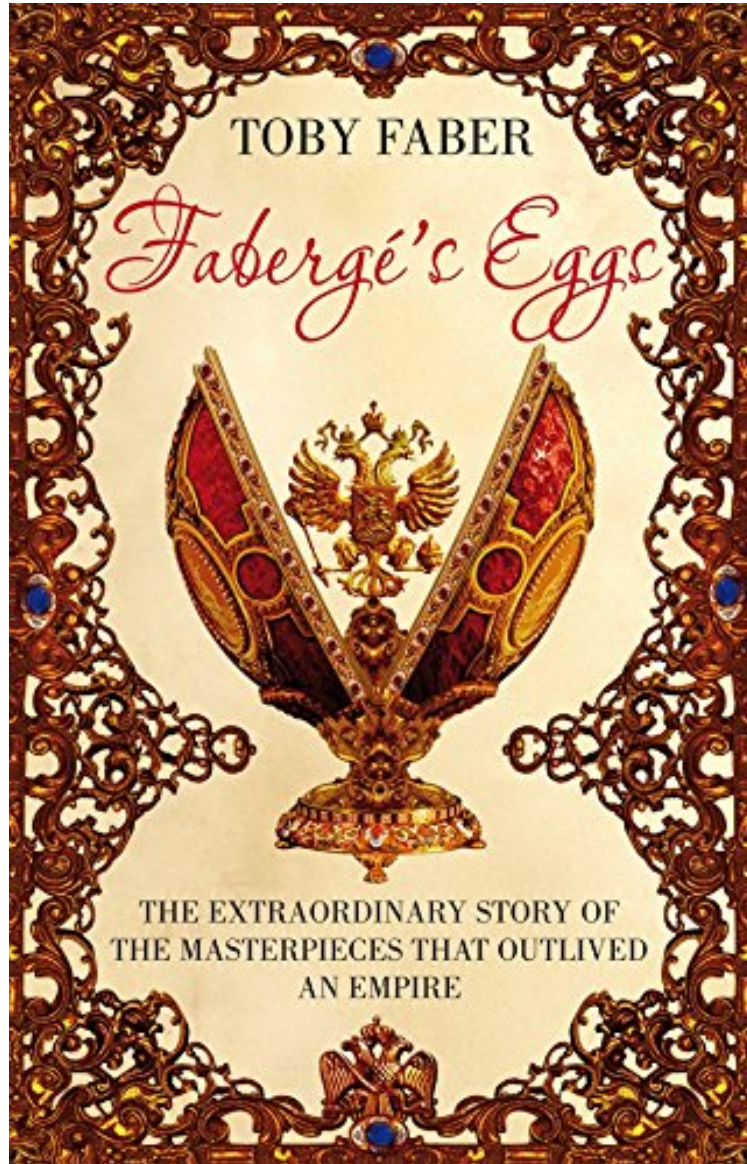


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Faberge's Eggs: The Extraordinary Story of the Masterpieces That Outlived an Empire

Toby Faber

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Toby Faber : Faberge's Eggs: The Extraordinary Story of the Masterpieces That Outlived an Empire before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Faberge's Eggs: The Extraordinary Story of the Masterpieces That Outlived an Empire:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Art parallels history - the eggs that survived the fall of an empireBy

Kirsten Faberge's eggs - intricate, opulent mementos of domestic intimacy - epitomized the last decades of the Romanov dynasty. Nobody except the Tsar of Russia could have commissioned such magnificent jewelled works of art, yet many of them were made to commemorate private celebrations and special places. When the Romanov empire crumbled and the other treasures were dispersed, even the new Communist leaders sought to preserve Faberge's eggs. Ironically the eggs emerged to symbolize the capitalist age of the 20th century, as millionaires collected them like unique trophies of wealth. This book traces the eggs from the earliest inspirations of Carl Faberge and his first Imperial commission to create an egg for Tsarina Marie, as a memory of her childhood. It follows the royal family tradition of a new egg for Marie from her husband the Tsar every Easter for the rest of his life; and how their son Nicholas continued the tradition, commissioning one egg for his wife and one for his mother each year. Faber examines how Faberge designed the eggs to reflect significant historical events in Russia as well as special memories for the Imperial family throughout Nicholas' reign - up until the last unfinished egg of 1917, that Nicholas never saw although he did receive a bill addressed to Nicholas Romanov after his abdication. The story of the eggs did not end with the fall of the Romanovs. Faber traces the fate of each egg, including what is known of those that are missing, and we see how they captivated royalty, con artists, entrepreneurs and millionaires throughout the twentieth century. There are plenty of amusing and poignant anecdotes, such as the millionaire Malcolm Forbes who was determined to "beat" the Kremlin's score of ten Faberge eggs. When he finally collected his 11th egg, he told reporters that his search wasn't finished because most people do buy eggs by the dozen. And after his death, his sons respected his wishes and released the eggs onto the market, so someone else could have the fun of collecting them. The book is an excellent companion piece for anyone who has been fascinated by the Romanov dynasty and its downfall... for anyone who loves reading of intricate and costly works of art... and for anyone who wants to read a simple creative history of the twentieth century from a unique perspective.

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. The Legendary Faberge By Julie Merilatt This was a great comprehensive look at Faberge's life, his work, and his relationship with the Russian Imperial Family. After Alexander III first began the tradition of giving a Faberge egg to his wife every Easter, Faberge's skill and attention to detail flourished each year. Upon Alexander's death, his son Nicholas II would continue the custom, commissioning elaborate eggs for both his mother and his wife. Faber's book details many of these imperial eggs, and traces their histories through the revolution, through the century, and around the world. This book also illustrates the decadence of pre-revolutionary czarist Russia. Faberge's workshops created the most ornate and sought-after jewelry and trinkets in the world until WWI and the communist uprising devastated any market for such frivolities. Regardless, Faberge's eggs were impressive creations, each unique and spectacular in their craftsmanship and originality.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very Good book on Faberge By Red Kat Gives a very good background also into the Romanovs. The ending drags a bit since its info I've already read before but this is still a very good read. I wanted to give it 4 1/2 stars but I obviously can't do that!