

Adapted from : <https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-history-faberge-egg>

A Brief History of the Fabergé Egg (Part 2)

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Fill the gaps with a suitable word:

The eggs were each entirely unique and 0) **made** from a range of materials, from three-colored gold 1) _____ rock crystal, and always beset with precious stones and gems, 2) _____ emeralds, pearls, and diamonds. Known to take one to two years to realize, each egg required the work of various craftsmen of differing expertise—from metalsmithing to diamond-cutting, enamel work to painting. Two chief craftsmen oversaw the production of the eggs, but Fabergé was at the helm.

And 3) _____ aesthetic and material considerations were of great importance, the eggs needed to convey a personal touch for the Romanovs. "Fabergé 4) _____ up with ideas or subjects that were meaningful to the tsar's wife and mother," Barry Shifman, curator of decorative arts at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA), explains. As such, several of the eggs 5) _____ emblazoned with (or contained) tiny portraits depicting the imperial family members, painted painstakingly on ivory 6) _____ the Fabergé workshop's expert miniaturists.

And Fabergé was 7) _____ to accomplish such sentimental work while keeping the eggs a surprise each year. "It was the best-kept secret what the following Easter egg was going to be," von Habsburg notes. "Nobody was allowed to know, not even the tsar 8) _____ was informed."

Today, the 43 known eggs 9) _____ scattered around the world, with the largest collections at the Kremlin Armoury and the Fabergé Museum in St. Petersburg. The third largest cluster is Pratt's collection at the VMFA, followed by the trio of eggs that belonged to Matilda Geddings Gray, which is at the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#) in New York. The British Royal Family 10) _____ has three eggs.

The Fabergé Museum, which opened 2013, is home to nine imperial eggs, among a trove of other Fabergé objects, all 11) _____ the collection of Russian businessman Viktor Vekselberg. He had bought the collection in 2004, from American entrepreneur and magazine publisher Malcolm S. Forbes, 12) _____ amassed a cache of Fabergé to rival that of the Kremlin Armoury. Von Habsburg attributes some of the modern-day frenzy over the eggs to Mr. Forbes, whose collecting practices not 13) _____ drove up the prices of the eggs, but also drummed up public attention for them.