

EASTER EGGS TRADITIONS

Prepared by V.Y.Lesnikova
Dzhatiyevskaya Basic School



A Brief Story

The story of the Easter egg is an ancient one. It is a tale that stretches back in time before the life of Christ and the inception of Easter as a Christian festival. Eggs played a spirited role in the mythology of many pre-Christian cultures, where they symbolized the creative and the regenerated forces of life. More than any other object, the egg provided metaphor for the renewal of life.

A Symbol of the Resurrection.

As the early Christian Church spread its power throughout the ancient world, Easter has become a religious celebration of the Resurrection, which commemorated the redemption of mankind from sin and Christ's symbolic triumph over death. As a result the egg has become a symbol of the Resurrection.

Colouring of eggs

It is uncertain when the tradition of colouring Easter eggs began. Many stories, however, related the custom of coloured eggs directly to Christ's crucifixion.

Red Easter eggs, once the most common colour in many countries, were said to have been coloured with the blood of the Christ which he shed to wash away the sins of the world.

Throughout the centuries secular symbolism continued to change the religious veneer, with **red eggs** denoting good health, long life, and power over evil;
green ones representing hope and renewal; **yellow or gold eggs** symbolizing eternity and wealth.

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Tokens of affection

Along with plain-coloured eggs, elaborately decorated eggs have long been exchanged as tokens of affection among friends and relatives, as love gifts between men and women, and as symbols of religious celebration among believers.

Even early kings gave gifts of eggs. Historical records show that in 1290, Edward I of England ordered 450 eggs to be covered with gold leaf and distributed to the members of his court.

Russian Imperial Family

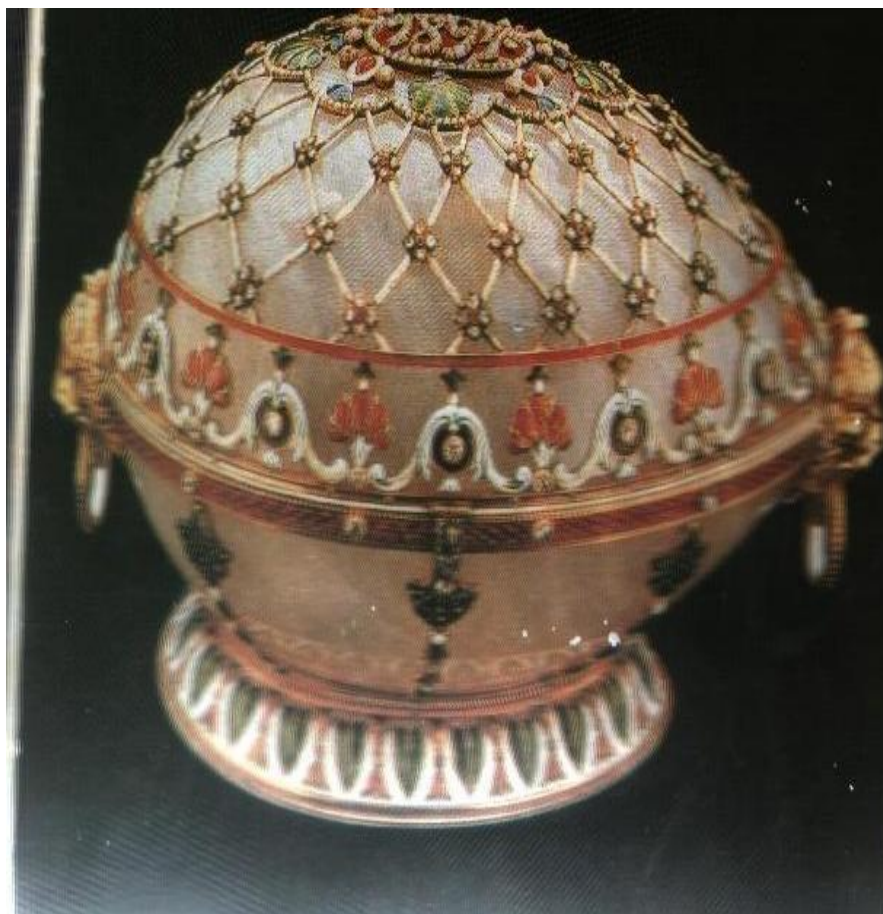
Six hundred years later, a series of eggs were made that became the most famous gift eggs in history. They were the fabulous jeweled eggs made for the Russian imperial family by the House of Faberge.

First Imperial Egg

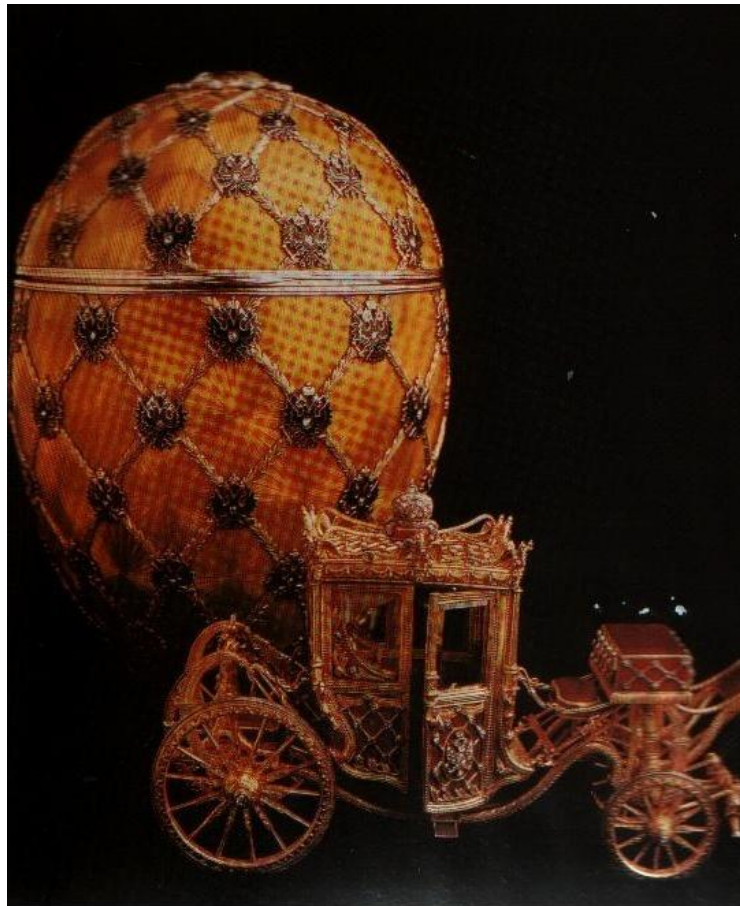
The tradition began in 1885 with an egg presented by Czar Alexander III to his wife Marie Fyodorovna. It is known as the First Imperial Egg.

Each year the best masters of the House of Carl Faberge created beautiful eggs to please the women of imperial family.

“The Renaissance”, M.Perkhin, 1894



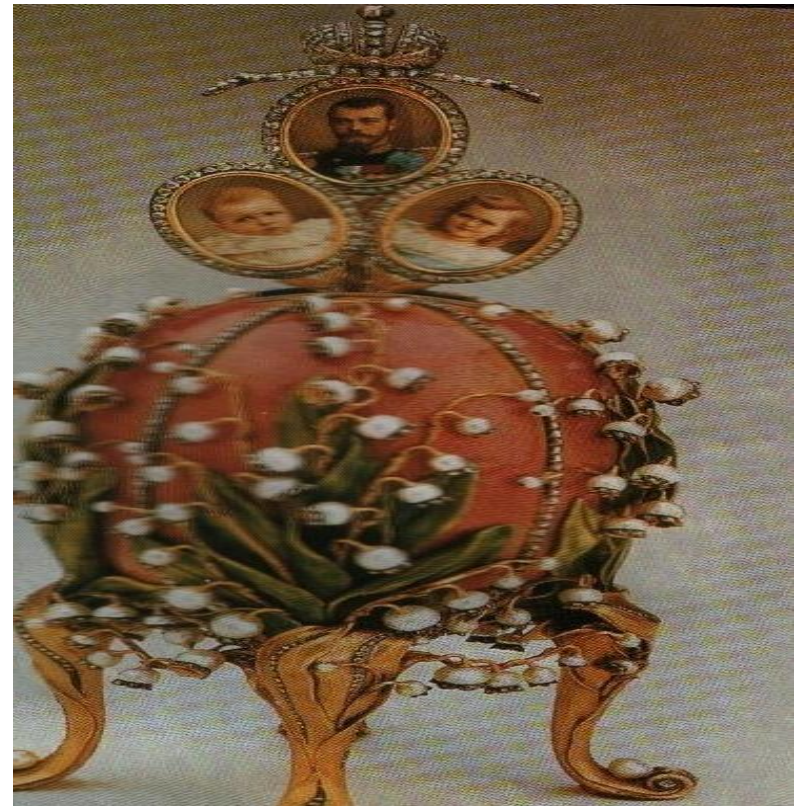
“Coronation” Egg, M.Perkhin @H.Vigstrem, 1897



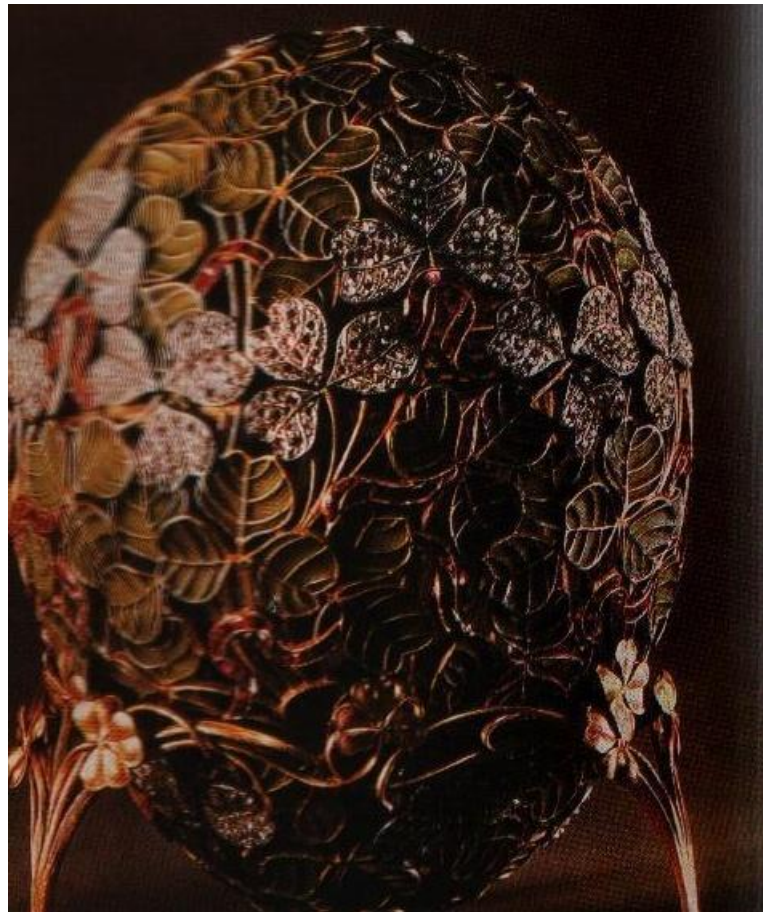
“The Lilies of the Valley” Egg, M.Perkhin, 1899

Delicately crafted of gold, enamel, rose diamonds and pearls it was presented to the Empress Marie Fyodorovna by her son Nikolai II.

Almost all the Faberge eggs contained surprises.



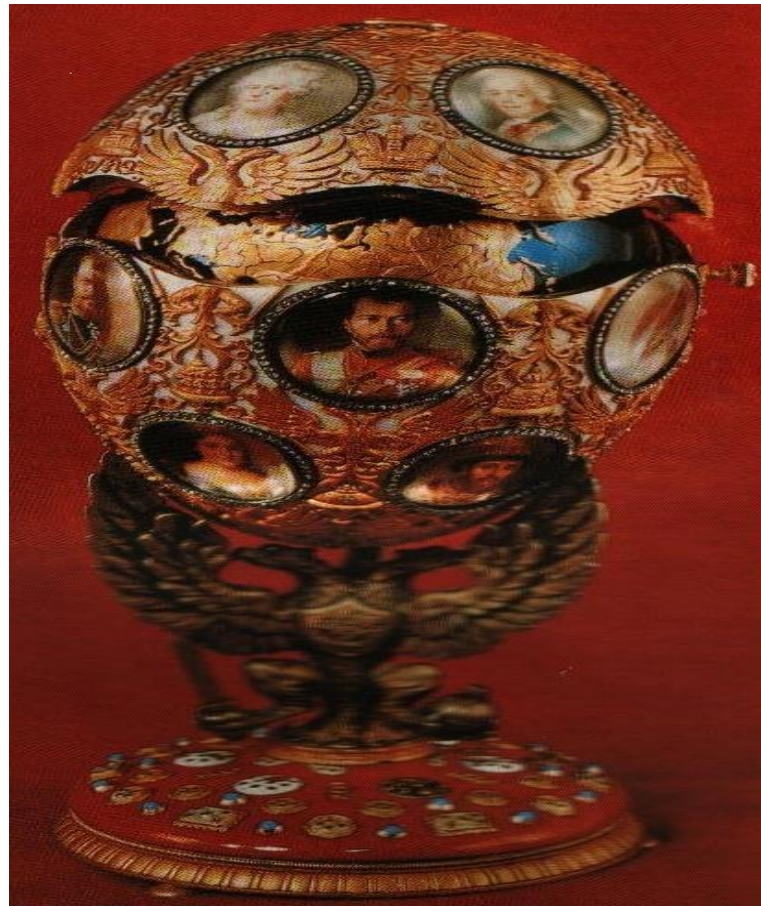
“ The Clover” Egg, M.Perkhin, 1902



**“The Temple of Love” Egg, H.Vigstrem,
1905**



“The 300-th Anniversary of Romanov’s House” Egg, H.Vigstrem, 1913



HAPPY EASTER!

