

You are invited for a Fabergé Happening at the Houston Museum of Natural Science on **April 15, 2019**. If you have not seen the new Artie and Dorothy McFerrin Gallery showcasing the Fabergé and Russian decorative arts collection and now connected to the amazing Cullen Hall of Gems and Minerals - you are in for a treat!

Timothy Adams, art historian and a frequent contributor to the *Fabergé Research Newsletter*, is presenting the guest lecture, *Fabergé Imperial Gifts: Private and Official*. An exhibition booklet, *The Art of Presentation*, to coincide with this event has been prepared by the McFerrin Foundation with essays by Mark Moehrke, Fabergé scholar, with a foreword by Ulla Tillander-Godenhielm, Fabergé scholar and author of the book, *The Russian Imperial Award System*, 2005. (The publication for this special exhibition will only be available on-site.)



Fabergé Imperial Presentation Boxes for 1884, 1894, and 1902, Workmaster Mikhail Perkhin (Courtesy McFerrin Collection)

The Houston Museum of Natural Science opens at 9 a.m. Admission details – to purchase a [ticket](#) (A.) which is good for all day to all Permanent Exhibits including the McFerrin Gallery.

4:00 - 4:30/5:00 pm – Walk-through with the McFerrin's, museum docents and Timothy Adams to view the new exhibit, *The Art of Presentation*, in the McFerrin Gallery. Must have HMNS permanent exhibition hall [ticket](#) (A.), free for HMNS members.

4:30/5:00 - 6:15 pm – Afternoon Tea at Cullen Hall of Gems and Minerals hosted by the McFerrin Foundation (invitation below*, RSVP required, please respond by April 8, 2019, to travel@hmns.org (B.)

6:30 - 7:30/8:00 pm – Lecture by Timothy Adams in the Wortham Theater, Houston Museum of Natural Science** Purchase tickets <http://store.hmns.org/DateSelection.aspx?item=4276> (C.)

- Early Bird to 4/8/19 - Members \$10, Tickets \$16
- Regular price starting on 4/9/19 - Members \$14, Tickets \$20

7:30/8:00 - 8:00/8:30 pm – Exhibit Booklet Signing

***Fabergé Enthusiasts - Gallery Tour & Afternoon Tea**

April 15, 4 pm - 6:15 pm

Join Dorothy McFerrin, Jennifer McFerrin-Bohner and Timothy Adams for a special viewing of the McFerrin Fabergé Collection at the Houston Museum of Natural Science at 4 pm on April 15, 2019. The viewing will concentrate on the Collection's presentation pieces. Afternoon Tea to follow in the Museum's Cullen Hall of Gems and Minerals provided by the McFerrin Foundation. Gallery admission for the tour requires a [ticket](#) (A.) to the HMNS permanent exhibition halls, free for HMNS members. Please RSVP by April 8 to travel@hmns.org (B.)

****Lecture - Fabergé Imperial Gifts: Private and Official by Timothy Adams**

April 15, 6:30 pm

Fabergé was the "go to" jeweler for gifts in the late Victorian and Edwardian era. From St. Petersburg to London, society's elite sought out unique gifts of exquisite quality and design to exchange with one another. The Russian Imperial Cabinet and family frequently selected these gifts from Russia's famous jewelry firm Fabergé. Commissions flowed into Fabergé's design studios from the Imperial Cabinet for presentation gifts to present to distinguished persons who had an audience with the Emperor. Heads of state, generals, diplomats, and others were given gifts according to their status or rank in the social order.

The Imperial family also patronized the Fabergé firm. Invoices from the Imperial archives show bills paid from the personal accounts of the Emperor and Empress for personal gifts shared with family members or close friends. From the famous Imperial Easter Eggs presented by the Emperor to the Empress on Easter morning, to simple wood picture frames, Fabergé supplied it all. No commission was too great or small for Russia's largest jeweler. This presentation will explore the many examples of these gifts found in the McFerrin Collection on display at the Houston Museum of Natural Science in Texas.