

# Auction Chronology, January-June 2024

Information Current as of February 2025

Some auction houses only share prices realized for the objects under the hammer, if the researcher has completed the required registration. In other cases, if the price realized is not shown on the website it may mean the object did not sell. Sotheby's requires registration to learn the price realized, Christie's does not. A link for a "[Fabergé, a silver dessert spoon, Moscow 1908-17](#)" does not include a price realized on the Bukowski's website purchased by Bonhams in 2022, but includes a series of constantly updating recommendations for advance bids on non-Fabergé flatware. Our thanks to James Hurtt and Timonthy Adams for their patience in gathering and annotating highlights sold by the various auction house methods used today. This chronology informs potential bidders about outstanding single or several Fabergé objects sold recently, alerts researchers of pitfalls to avoid, or data bonuses to capture when available. Before publication of the six months chronology, Christel McCanless used the data gathered for possible research application in the future. Her observations are recorded at the end of each entry.

Shapiro, Mamaroneck, New York, January 27, 2024, offered [10 Fabergé items](#) of which only two miniature pendant eggs sold at reasonable prices of \$2,500 each, but one of the eggs has no Fabergé mark. *Subscription required* can be closed, and the Fabergé search feature becomes available.

Sotheby's, New York, February 3, 2024, *Elegance & Wonder: The Jordan Saunders Collection*. [Lot 1213](#) Fabergé silver bear fashioned as a bell push made in Moscow, ca. 1911. Estimate: \$10,000-15,000/Sold for \$10,795; [Lot 1214](#) Silver-gilt flatware set composed of 118 pieces. Estimate: \$10,000-\$15,000/Sold for \$19,050. Sotheby's stated the gilding was added later. The presence of the Imperial Eagle may point to its original use by a high government official, or a government ministry. Sotheby's requires registration.

Bonhams, London, February 13-14, 2024, [Connoisseur's Library Sale](#) with an eclectic group of decorative arts and paintings which included four items by Fabergé – a jeton, locket (text amended), cigarette case ([Lot 561](#)), vesta case – and one enameled parasol handle attributed to Fabergé, but unsigned. Auction review: Bonhams states its database contains 1213 Fabergé lots which are searchable. The cigarette case has description issues, i.e. "Anders Johan Nevlain, St. Petersburg, 1899-1908". This workmaster is more correctly cited as:

**Antti Nevalainen** – workmaster marks **A N** and **AN** – active 1885-1917

Anders is the Swedish speaking version of the name, but Nevalainen was a purely Finnish speaking person. There are two official languages in Finland, Finnish and Swedish. The clergymen in the old days were almost all Swedish speakers and therefore, on their own initiative wrongly marked Swedish versions of names into church registers when they added confirmation dates, marriage dates, etc. (Source: [Fabergé Workmasters and Marks](#))

Andrew Jones Auctions, Los Angeles, February 28, 2024, Featuring Property from the Dumke Family Trust includes a [bratina by Fabergé](#), Estimate: \$8,000 - \$10,000/Sold for \$18,000.

Sotheby's, Paris, March 27, 2024, *Fine Jewels*. [Lot 33](#) Gold diamond and enamel locket with stock number 66284, dated 1908-1917 by August Hollming. Estimate €10,000-15,000/Sold for €17,780. Auction lot review: Albert, August's son, used his father's mark after he continued the workshop after the death of his father in 1903, so if the date is correct, it is Albert Hollming's creation. (Source: [Fabergé Workmasters and Marks](#))

Sotheby's, London, April 11, 2024, *Classic Design*. Lot 52 (A.) Enamel and silver-gilt clock by Henrik Wigström with stock number 21944 and an English import mark for 1911. Estimate 8,000-12,000 GBP/Sold for 30,480 GBP It had a low estimate due to its ivory back and missing clock hands. However, an illustrious provenance according to the London Sales Ledgers is recorded:

“Purchased by Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild (1862-1937) from Fabergé's London shop on July 25, 1912, for 29 pounds. She purchased it as a gift from herself and her husband, Leopold de Rothschild (1845-1917), for Lady Marjorie Manners (1883-1946) on the occasion of her marriage in 1912 to Lord Charles Paget, 6<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Anglesey (1885-1947) in 1912.”



(A.) Fabergé Gold, Silver-gilt and Guilloché Enamel Clock, Workmaster Henrik Wigström, St. Petersburg, 1908-1911

(B.) Gold-mounted and Guilloché Enamel Silver Miniature Desk Clock by Fabergé, Workmaster Henrik Wigstrom [sic], St. Petersburg, 1908-1917

*Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild Clock, small, pink enamel. 21944 1912*

July 25, 1912 sold for 29 pounds (Source: London Sales Ledgers)

Fabergé stock number 21944

8,000-12,000 GBP/Sold for 30,480 GBP (Sotheby's, London, April 11, 2024, *Classic Design*, [Lot 52](#))

Fabergé stock number 25559

8,000-12,000 GBP/Sold for 23,940 GDP (Christie's, London, April 10-23, 2024, [Lot 272](#))

Christie's, London, April 10-23, 2024, [The Collector: London](#) with five lots and four of them highlighted here:

Lot 267 Gold mounted and enamel aventurine bowl by Mikhail Perkhin. Estimate 15,000- 20,000 GBP/Sold for 15,120 GBP.

Lot 268 Parcel-gilt silver mounted amaranth wood photograph frame in its original box circa 1905 by Antii Nevalainen with stock number 14736. Estimate 7,000-9,000 GBP/Sold for 35,280 GBP.

Lot 269 Silver table lighter in the form of a seated baboon by the First Silver Artel. Estimate 4,000-6,000 GBP/Sold for 16,380 GBP.

[Lot 272](#) (B.) Gold mounted and enamel desk clock by Henrik Wigström circa 1910 with stock number 25559. Estimate 20,000-30,000 GBP/Sold for 23,940 GBP. Christie's does not require registration before prices realized are available.

Christie's, New York, April 10-25, 2024, [The Collector: New York](#) includes 15 very fine and interesting Fabergé objects, some with Imperial provenance. Lots: 619, 656, 716, 717 and 725 appear to be from the Collection of A La Vieille Russie, a jewelry dealer in New York city. All of the Fabergé lots sold above their estimates.

Sotheby's, Geneva, May 2-13, 2024 [Internet entry is dated May 13, 2024], [Gold Boxes and Fabergé](#). The assortment includes three frames of which two have Imperial provenance, two Henrik Wigström objects (a clock and a table lighter) along with a Hjalmar Armfelt bookmark and two brooches. A Fabergé-style frame is clearly identified.

Christie's Geneva, May 15, 2024, [Magnificent Jewels](#). Gold cigarette case ([Lot 55](#)) by Henrik Wigström with a diamond and sapphire set cypher of Empress Maria Feodorovna estimated at 20,000/30,000, Swiss Francs (\$22,000-\$33,000) did not sell. Lot 56 Silver-gilt enameled clock by Viktor Aarne sold for 113,400 Swiss Francs (\$127,000). [Lot 57](#) Wonderfully enameled clock with an original box by Henrik Wigström was a gift from Empress Maria Feodorovna to Richard Farrer Herschell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Herschell (1878-1929) in June 1910, when the Dowager Empress had paid 550 Rubles (\$275) for it. The high price realized at auction was 535,500 Swiss Francs (\$580,050) with an estimate of 120,000-180,000 Swiss Francs (\$132,000 - \$198,000). The success of the auction lot must be attributed to not only the Imperial provenance but the artistic enamel work – salmon opalescent enamel, painted *en grisaille* with floral garlands and motifs.

Heritage Auctions, Dallas (Texas), May 17, 2024, [Imperial Fabergé & Russian Works of Art](#)



(C.) *Imperial Fabergé and Russian Works of Art Signature Auction*, May 17, 2024 at Heritage Auctions in Dallas, Texas – Starting with the clock and going clockwise the items sold for: Clock \$300,000, Bellpush \$75,000, Rückert Box \$250,000, Cockerel \$300,000, Egg Frame \$750,000 (world record at auction for a Fabergé Frame)

Interested bidders were able to search the Heritage Auctions website, purchase a hard copy catalog, enjoy an elegant [flipbook](#), and/or receive upon request two small booklets for the [Nelkin Collection](#) with Fabergé (May 16, 2024), and the Fabergé and Romanov Family Treasures auction (May 17, 2024). Two very informative Heritage Auctions press releases dated [April 25, 2024](#) and [May 17, 2024](#). Additional details for the two auctions were kindly shared by Nick Nicholson, Heritage Auctions specialist:

1. The prices realized on the website totaling \$5.69 million include the buyer's premium of 25% which reflects then the actual sale price of each object. While the hammer price of the egg-shaped frame ([Lot #82007 C.](#)) was \$600,000, the sale price with 25% buyer's premium was \$750,000. This figure is now recorded as the fair market value of the object.
2. The "make an offer" option is a feature common to coin and currency houses, where the market for objects does not end after a sale. It is unfamiliar to those of us in the fine and decorative arts. None of the Fabergé pieces were affected by this custom at the time this review was prepared.
3. There were 47 Fabergé objects in the sale total, of those 29 had imperial provenances. Only one work by Fabergé failed to sell at auction.
4. Internet publication without a pay wall: Rees, Christina. "[From Exile to Auction: Romanoff Family Treasures Revealed](#)", *Intelligent Collector Magazine* (Publication of the Heritage Auctions, Dallas, Texas)

Bukowskis, *Helsinki Spring Sale*, May 17-29, 2024. [Lot 1555295](#), a Fabergé cut-glass bowl raised on a four-leg stand, stock number 21405. Estimate €13,000-15,000/Sold? Price realized not available unless the interested party is registered with the auction house. Fabergé bowl was announced and briefly described on the Bonhams website of which Bukowskis auction house is a subsidiary. Regretfully, it was only illustrated with a Bonhams logo, and not the actual Fabergé bowl at auction. Later corrected!

Elmwood's, the British auction house in London announced an auction of 20 Fabergé carved gemstone animals in the Internet press with two different dates for the sale, May 29 and May 30, 2024. *The Fabergé Masterpieces – An Important Private Collection* occurred on May 30, 2024. The unfortunate mishap also included:

1. No advance bids were available to potential interested bidders. The bids were revealed as the object was under the hammer at the auction.
2. Two auction consolidators, [the saleroom](#) and [liveauctioneers](#), participated.
3. Hammer prices are still not available on the [Elmwood's archives website](#) instead an exact copy of the website announcing the auction is shown. Impressive bibliographic and research data consisting of the object's description, provenance, literature, exhibitions, catalog notes, and a large variety of illustrations appear for each auction lot.
4. Buyer's premium was 34.8%.
5. Internet articles without pay walls, and heavy advertising address the actual auction date confusion:
  - Published on May 22, 2024 for the May 29, 2024 auction – Magsino, Isiah. "[Fabergé Carvings Previously Owned by the Romanovs Head to Auction](#)", *Town&Country*. Excellent illustrations and Fabergé expected to sell for over \$1 million.









"This collection has been amassed through a pure love of Fabergé's inimitable animals," the anonymous British collector who is selling these items said in a release. "For their craftsmanship, quality, and the unique personalities that they convey. While I'm sad to be parting with them, I hope that they will go on to be treasured in the same way as I have loved them over the last eight years."

- Published May 24, 2024 for the May 29, 2024, auction – An article by Holly Black, "[Here's Your Chance to Grab Tiny Fabergé Animals Once Owned by the Romanovs](#)" has large illustrations courtesy of Elmwood's in London. Unfortunately, the author calls Fabergé creations "ostentatious eggs". Headline suggestion in the article concerning "Romanovs" does not match the descriptive literature in that only two animals had royal or imperial provenance – one owned by King Paul of Greece and the other gifted to a Danish princess, Thyra of Denmark (1853-1933), who married Crown Prince Ernest Augustus of Hanover from



her niece Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna of Russia (1882-1960). There is an original note attesting to this gift in the original box.

- May 29, 2024, auction now announced with a May 30, 2024 date – An article by Julia Binswanger, “[Miniature Fabergé Animals That Enchanted the Romanovs and Other Royals Are Up for Sale](#)”, *Smithsonian Magazine*. Headline suggests “Crafted around 1900, the charismatic carvings were inspired by Japanese decorative pendants.” Timothy Adams in an article in an earlier edition of the *Fabergé Research Newsletter*, Spring 2024, addresses “[Fabergé’s Use of Netsuke Prototypes](#)”.
- And finally, the good news! The 20 Fabergé gemstone animals sold for £2 million (\$2.5 million) in the Elmwood’s auction on May 30, 2024. The website *artnet.com* published a selection of pieces with prices realized in its article, “[These Tiny Fabergé Animal Carvings Made a Big Splash at Auction](#)”. A dedicated Fabergé auction enthusiast shared the illustrated chart below. Thank you! The sparrow (Elmwood’s Lot 15) with the highest yield had an estimate of £40,000-60,000 and sold for £420,000.

 <p>0001: FABERGE, A RARE JEWELLED GOLD MOUNTED J... Est. £30,000 - £50,000</p> <p>Sold for £70,000</p>	 <p>0002: FABERGE, A JEWELLED NEPHRITE STUDY OF A BEAR,... Est. £20,000 - £30,000</p> <p>Sold for £22,000</p>
 <p>0003: FABERGE, A JEWELLED AVENTURINE MODEL OF A LIO... Est. £20,000 - £30,000</p> <p>Sold for £25,000</p>	 <p>0004: FABERGE, AN IMPORTANT IMPERIAL BOWENITE MODEL... Est. £25,000 - £35,000</p> <p>Sold for £26,000</p>
 <p>0005: FABERGE, A JEWELLED AVENTURINE QUARTZ MODEL... Est. £20,000 - £30,000</p> <p>Sold for £22,000</p>	 <p>0006: FABERGE, A JEWELLED AVENTURINE QUARTZ MODEL... Est. £15,000 - £20,000</p> <p>Sold for £24,000</p>
 <p>0007: FABERGE, AN EXTREMELY RARE AND HIGHLY IMPORTAN... Est. £80,000 - £120,000</p> <p>Sold for £115,000</p>	 <p>0008: FABERGE, A JEWELLED AGATE MODEL OF AN OWL, S... Est. £30,000 - £50,000</p> <p>Sold for £32,000</p>

 <p>0009: FABERGE, AN EXCEPTIONAL JEWELLED AGAT... Est. £60,000 - £80,000</p> <p>Sold for £85,000</p>	 <p>0010: FABERGE, A JEWELLED BOWENITE MODEL OF TWO P... Est. £30,000 - £50,000</p> <p>Sold for £50,000</p>
 <p>0011: FABERGE, AN IMPORTANT IMPERIAL JEWELLED GOLD MO... Est. £30,000 - £50,000</p> <p>Sold for £46,000</p>	 <p>0012: FABERGE, A RARE ROYAL JEWELLED GOLD MOUNTED S... Est. £25,000 - £35,000</p> <p>Sold for £38,000</p>
 <p>0013: FABERGE, A RARE JEWELLED AGATE MODEL OF... Est. £40,000 - £60,000</p> <p>Sold for £55,000</p>	 <p>0014: FABERGE, A JEWELLED BOWENITE FIGURE OF A HIPPO... Est. £30,000 - £50,000</p> <p>Sold for £60,000</p>
 <p>0015: FABERGE, A LARGE AND IMPORTANT JEWELLED OBSIDI... Est. £40,000 - £60,000</p> <p>Sold for £420,000</p>	 <p>0016: FABERGE, A JEWELLED AND GOLD MOUNTED AGATE... Est. £30,000 - £50,000</p> <p>Sold for £100,000</p>
 <p>0017: FABERGE, AN IMPORTANT JEWELLED CHALCEDONY MO... Est. £50,000 - £70,000</p> <p>Sold for £85,000</p>	 <p>0018: FABERGE, AN IMPORTANT IMPERIAL JEWELLED GOLD MO... Est. £30,000 - £50,000</p> <p>Sold for £80,000</p>
 <p>0019: FABERGE, A JEWELLED AGATE MODEL OF A RABBIT, S... Est. £35,000 - £55,000</p> <p>Sold for £92,000</p>	 <p>0020: FABERGE, A VERY FINE JEWELLED AGATE FIGURE OF... Est. £35,000 - £55,000</p> <p>Sold for £95,000</p>

Million Auctions, Paris, June 7, 2024 [Important Russian Art Auction](#) contains 11 Fabergé objects of which the standout offering was a silver and crystal jardiniere made in the Moscow workshop between 1908 and 1917. [Lot 111](#) sold for €22,000 against an estimate of €6,000-8,000. The other items had condition issues or were insignificant.

Bukowskis, Stockholm, June 11, 2024 [Fine Art & Antiques](#) yields five hits. A closer look identifies a [Fabergé brooch](#) and a [Fabergé bookmark](#), two Bolin pieces (gun metal case similar to an object in a 2010 Fabergé publication, and a mantle clock in which the description mentions the Fabergé firm as a business active at the same time as Bolin), and an Alexander Treiden Imperial presentation box for the Hahn firm, a competitor of Fabergé. Why this confusion when the word *Fabergé* was the search term for auction lots? The connection of the Hahn piece by Treiden citation connects to enlightening research done by Ulla Tillander-Godenhjelm, “Master’s Mark AT Variations in the World of St. Petersburg’s Goldsmiths: Solving an Old Puzzle”, *Fabergé Research Newsletter*, [Fall and Winter 2020](#).

Auktionsverket, Stockholm, June 12, 2024 highlights an irresistible little [Winter Egg Pendant](#) (Lot 765 sold for €15,651) by Fabergé ... “The pendant was made by master craftsman Albert Holmström for Fabergé around 1913-1914 from sketches by Holmström’s then 23-year-old apprentice and niece Alma Pihl.” First-hand account by Ulla Tillander-Godenhjelm, who knew Alma Pihl, “[Rare Fabergé Winter Egg by Hidden Gem Alma Pihl Up for Auction](#)” (and a similar [press release](#)) were published.



Fabergé Egg with Decor of Frost Flower  
(Courtesy Stockholms Auktionsverk)