

THE FABERGÉ STORY

THE STORY BEHIND THE MOST FABULOUS NAME IN THE HISTORY OF JEWELLERY.



Every lover of fine craftsmanship and beautiful objets d'art, loves the name of Fabergé. You are struck immediately by images of aristocratic good taste, bejewelled and gold encrusted objets d'art, vibrant enamels and tactile carvings - Carl Fabergé was the toast of Europe in the 19th century, employing seven hundred craftsmen. When the House of Fabergé closed in 1917 as a result of the Russian revolution, the factories had produced over 100,000 precious items. The first Imperial Egg, given as an Easter gift from Czar Alexander III to his wife created a tradition which has made the Fabergé name legendary.

Carl Fabergé's youngest son Nicholas arrived in London in 1906 to help run the only branch of 'The House of Fabergé' outside Russia, in Dover Street, London. After 1917 Nicholas remained in London and in 1922 his son, Theo Fabergé was born.

From an early age Theo Fabergé had a passion for making objects of a highly crafted standard. A fascination with the natural beauties of wood led him to explore the techniques of ornamental turning, the art of deep-cut engraving and sculpting woods, ivories and metals using precision lathes. He restored a Holtzappfel lathe originating from 1861, and in the 1950's began to design and make elegant objets d'art from rare wood and ivory, for pleasure and then as commissions.

Theo soon began to receive commissions from notable collectors of Carl Fabergé, and from museums such as the Virginia Museum of

Fine Arts, U.S.A. In 1984, he was persuaded to produce a Collection to be sold on the international market incorporating precious metals, crystal, enamelling, stone-carving, precious gems and porcelain. The St Petersburg Collection was launched to the public at Marshall Fields, Chicago in 1985.

Eminent museums such as the State Hermitage Museum, the San Diego Fine Arts Museum and the St Petersburg City Museum have now catalogued Theo and Sarah Fabergé's creations within their collections. Theo's daughter, Sarah Fabergé launched her first designs for the St Petersburg Collection in 1994. Whilst encouraging his daughter, Theo never pressurised her to follow in his footsteps. However, the birth of her son Joshua in the late 1980's encouraged

Sarah to take stock of her life and goals, and most importantly, to explore her own creativity.

Sarah's creations are distinct from her father's in style. The feminine influence can be seen in the delicacy of her work and in her love of the baroque style – and the humour and sense of surprise remains! Sarah has designed and dedicated creations for a number of charities, including Breakthrough Breast Cancer, the Artificial Heart Foundation and UNICEF.

Sarah and Theo Fabergé have worked on a variety of commissions from the White House Egg for the United States President, to the Brotherhood Egg for Boys' Town. At the time of the establishment of St Petersburg Collection HRH The Duke of Gloucester admired Theo's work at 'The Art of the Master Turner' exhibition at the Science Museum in London. HRH Princess Alexandra received the Presentation Golden Egg. HRH Prince Andrew, Duke of York, came aboard the vessel Shtandart in 1999 when it arrived in the Pool of London bearing the oak for the Shtandart eggs.

The Duke and Duchess of York commissioned the Hole in One Egg in aid of a children's charity. Sarah Fabergé presented the first 'Milestones of Flight' Egg to HRH Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh at RAF Museum Hendon, in 2003.



SARAH FABERGÉ



- 2006** Launches the **George Best Genius Egg**, in tribute to of one of the World's greatest ever players and in support of the George Best Foundation.
- 2005** Launches the **Jimmy Johnstone Egg**, in celebration of Celtic Football Club's greatest ever player and in support of Motor Neurone Disease research.
- 2004** Launches her **Samorodok Jewellery** range, an intriguing re-creation of the 'Samorodok' finish used by her great-grandfather.
- Installed as Freeman of the **Worshipful Company of Turners**.
- Creates the **Diamond Ribbon Pendant** in support of Breast Cancer awareness.
- Co-operates with father Theo in designing creations for the **Red Arrows 40th Anniversary**.
- Performs the opening ceremony of dedicated **Gallery** in St Petersburg - the first presence of the Fabergé family in their city of renown, since the Revolution. 400 VIP guests, all Russia's TV stations and distinguished journalists from throughout the world record the Event.
- 2003** Judges 25,000 design entrants for the **Blue Peter Egg** celebrating the 300th Anniversary of the foundation of City of St Petersburg.
- Creates the **Mustang Egg**, raising funds for RAF Museum Hendon. Presents the first **Milestones of Flight Egg** to HRH prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh.
- 2002** Creates the **Blenheim Trophy** in token of her father Theo's 80th birthday.'
- 2001** Launch of **Neva Ice – Angel of the River** at the Swiss Jewellery & Watch Fair.
- Creates the **Diamond Pearl Pendant** to raise funds for UNICEF.
- 2000** Designs **Dreamtime** in lapis lazuli, plique-a-jour enamel and vermeil.
- 1998** Creates the **Four Seasons Eggs** in guilloché enamel. Matching **Bridal** and **Solitaire Eggs**.
- 1994** **Zodiac Egg** series launched.
- Designs **Triptych Egg** with matching 18-ct enamel pendants.
- 1958** Born to Theo Fabergé and Maureen – only child.

FROM LORD OF THE WING TO PARADISE



It's strange, sometimes, how these things happen.

There we were my friend the film-maker Jamie Doran and myself enjoying a beer at our local pub in Windsor. He wasn't long back from Afghanistan and was already preparing to head for Iraq to cover yet another of this world's tragic stories.

I'd always had this idea in the back of my mind that I wanted to try my hand at the television business. But with three young children, I wasn't about to begin a new career dodging bullets in Baghdad or anywhere else for that matter.

Another beer:

"Why don't we make a film together", I asked.

"On what?" came the reply.

PAUSE.....and another beer:

The key was that, whatever the topic chosen, we both had to be madly passionate about it.

"What about football?", he offered.

As season ticket holders at Parkhead, (Jock Stein Stand, of course – amongst the 'real' people) we both realized immediately that it simply had to be about Celtic. And it didn't take any more beers to remember that we shared the same childhood hero; a man who had mesmerized our formative hearts and minds as we strained and stretched over the shoulders of the inevitable big bloke in front of us in the 'Jungle', blocking our view of the most extraordinary footballer ever to walk this earth.....Jimmy Johnstone.

To make a film on Jinky??? Just think about it. Sure, there had been books and videos produced previously but, with all the kindness in the world, these had tended to be more a collection of archive material than the true story of the man himself. A real biography, that was the challenge.

Now, my friend Jamie has interviewed presidents and prime ministers, admirals and ayatollahs without the slightest hesitation, so surely calling up a mere footballer wouldn't pose a problem?

Not a bit of it. For all the years I've known him, I have never seen him so nervous as the following morning, when he prepared to speak to his hero for the first time. Ordering everyone from his office, in order that they shouldn't hear his stuttered attempt, he dialled the number. Jimmy, of course, wasn't home.

That could have been the end of the entire exercise, for I couldn't see Jamie plucking up the courage a second time. But as luck would have it, Jinky checked his calls and, as he told us later, only contacted us because Jamie's mobile ended with the number '67'. Such is fate.



Meetings in Glasgow followed during which we discovered to our surprise and delight that Jimmy Johnstone was not just an incredible footballer, but an extraordinary human being into the bargain. He is and always will be as Big Billy McNeill puts it so succinctly, "one of them"; a Celtic fan through and through who would have been happy to have stood on the terraces had it not been for his God-given skills.

What to do? We knew that we had to travel far and wide to speak with those whose memories of facing or playing with Jinky would be so important and, with no money, this would be impossible. A film without DiStefano, Cruyff, Eusebio, Ferguson and so many others, not to mention trips to Turin to visit the world's leading researchers into motor neurone disease, would not have been a film at all.

There was only one thing for it and, to cut a long story short, I wish to thank my wife Lizzie from the very bottom of my heart for agreeing to re-mortgage our home in order to raise the necessary finance.

An emotional roller-coaster followed with Jimmy speaking openly about his life, both highs and lows, and his continuing battle against the disease which so cruelly attacked him. To describe his approach to this affliction as 'brave' would be to underestimate him to an astonishing degree. He fought it all the way, and we believe sincerely, that his efforts will result in a cure being found earlier for other sufferers.

Bill Shankly once said of Jock Stein that he was 'immortal'. I'm sure he would say the same about Jimmy Johnstone, only person ever to be honoured by the world famous Fabergé family in this life, as well as the next. I found it difficult to believe, when first approached by Sarah Fabergé, that such an honour could be possible. She had seen Lord of the Wing and been touched to the same effect that Jimmy has on us all. Although not a Celtic fan, nor even a football fan, she realised that this man was something very special.

Along with the Czars and Czarinas of the Russian Imperial Court, only three westerners have received this ultimate accolade. They were President Thomas Jefferson of the United States, Admiral Lord Nelson of Trafalgar and George Best and George's was at the specific wish of the wee man, as he told me at the time, he was

one of my pals: all three were awarded posthumously. As Jinky's son James said recently "for my da to receive this mark of distinction during his lifetime is beyond words to describe". That only a few can own an object of such beauty and history may be sad, but they own them on behalf of us all.

The first of Jimmy's Eggs was unveiled at the House of Commons in July 2006 by Sarah and Martin O'Neill, with many celebrities, Lords, Ladies, MP's and Government Ministers, including the then Health Secretary, Dr. John Reid, a great friend of Jimmy's who used to visit him at home in Viewpark.



I went to visit Jinky just four days before his passing to introduce Abdul Aziz who had donated his own Jinky Egg to raise funds for medical treatment, sadly it came too late. The Egg is to be sold and the proceeds donated to his wife Agnes. The Lord of the Wing Egg has been presented to Abdul in recognition of his amazing generosity, but more importantly in memory of an amazing human being, the greatest ever Celtic player and the only person ever to be honoured by Fabergé twice.

I miss Jinky, as I'm sure we all do, but when all's said and done, I'm immensely proud and privileged to have been able to help my boy-hood hero during his time of need. I'm just so relieved that Jamie's phone number ended in 67!

Jeff Healey

