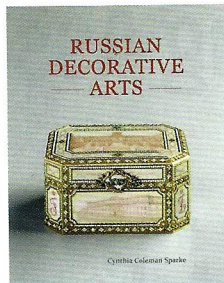


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**Left:** Cynthia Coleman Sparke and her book on *Russian Decorative Arts*, and, **right**, the recently rediscovered Third Imperial Fabergé Easter Egg.



## Russian work is perfectly timed

WITH the discovery of the previously lost Third Imperial Fabergé Easter Egg making headlines last month (ATG No 2134), a new book by **Bonhams'** Russian art consultant Cynthia Coleman Sparke is perfectly timed.

*Russian Decorative Arts* is a guide to Russian artworks and their historical context. Published by Antique Collectors' Club, the book covers a wide range of crafts from Fabergé, jewellery, woodwork, hardstone, glass and porcelain to precious metals, explained against the backdrop of Russian history.

Each topic is detailed with an illustrated chapter which introduces the creative technique, its specific Russian characteristics and an overview of the principal makers. Pre-Revolutionary Russia is explored through the artefacts of the Tsarist era from as far back as

the 16th and 17th centuries and focusing in particular on works created in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries, as Imperial rule gave way to revolution.

Cynthia was born into to a family of Russian art collectors and has lived on and off in Moscow and St Petersburg. After running the Russian department at Christie's New York, she worked with the Fabergé and Imperial porcelain holdings of the Hillwood Museum in Washington D.C. (the largest collection of Russian decorative arts outside Russia). Later, she worked on a project in St Petersburg at the Alexander Palace in Tsarskoe Selo, helping with the restoration of Tsar Nicholas II's last residence – the subject of her Master's thesis from the Bard Graduate Centre.

■ *Russian Decorative Arts* costs £55.  
ISBN: 781851497225