

## \$33 million Fabergé egg found at market

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An extremely rare antique, decorative egg designed by the legendary Russian jeweller Peter Carl Fabergé has been unearthed at a

second-hand goods market in the USA. A scrap dealer bought the golden egg at a bric-a-brac stall for \$13,000. The unnamed trader intended to sell the egg for the scrap metal value of the gold. Fortunately for the antiques world, no one could match his asking price so the egg was not scrapped. The egg had a small watch inside it. One evening the dealer typed the name of the watch's manufacturer and the word "egg" into Google. It was then he discovered he was in possession of a priceless gem. The London-based Fabergé experts Wartski valued the egg at \$33 million.

The egg was made by Fabergé for Russian Tsar Alexander III in 1887. It was last seen in public in March 1902 at an exhibition in St Petersburg. Its whereabouts since has been the cause of considerable speculation. Kieran McCarthy, director of Wartski, told reporters: "It's the most incredible discovery. We have so many discoveries but none of them are as momentous as this." He added: "For the Fabergé community...it is a wondrous event because the Easter egg is the ultimate target for every antique dealer and every enthusiast." Unfortunately, the egg might once again vanish from public view. Mr McCarthy said: "It may disappear into the deepest, darkest vaults of a collector somewhere."

Sources: Sky News / Fox News / UPI

## Writing

*If something is priceless, it should be in a museum, not someone's house. Discuss.*

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*extremely rare / antique / egg / market / scrapped / dealer / manufacturer / priceless / in public / whereabouts / speculation / incredible discovery / enthusiast / vaults*

## True / False

- A rare egg-shaped jewel was found that was designed by Coco Chanel. T / F
- A dealer bought the egg for \$13,000. T / F
- The dealer could not sell the egg for the price he wanted. T / F
- He found out the egg was priceless after searching Google. T / F
- The egg was made for a British queen in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. T / F
- An expert said the egg is the king of thing antique dealers most want. T / F
- The egg will be on permanent display at a museum in Moscow. T / F
- An expert said the new owner will not keep the egg locked up. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. extremely    | a. expensive     |
| 2. unearthed    | b. maker         |
| 3. unnamed      | c. significant   |
| 4. manufacturer | d. discovered    |
| 5. priceless    | e. display       |
| 6. exhibition   | f. greatest      |
| 7. whereabouts  | g. exceptionally |
| 8. momentous    | h. cellar        |
| 9. ultimate     | i. location      |
| 10. vaults      | j. anonymous     |

## Discussion – Student A

- Is priceless jewellery always extremely beautiful?
- What would life as an antique dealer be like?
- What jewellery would you really like to have?
- Should the egg go to a museum for the public to see it?
- How sad would it be if the egg ended up in a vault?
- What kind of antique objects interest you most?
- What things that are made today will become antiques?
- What questions would you like to ask a Fabergé expert?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. designed by the                      | a. speculation                |
| 2. sell the egg for the scrap           | b. of a priceless gem         |
| 3. no one could match                   | c. for every antique dealer   |
| 4. he discovered he was in possession   | d. public in March 1902       |
| 5. London-based Fabergé experts Wartski | e. his asking price           |
| 6. It was last seen in                  | f. momentous as this          |
| 7. the cause of considerable            | g. legendary Russian jeweller |
| 8. none of them are as                  | h. vaults                     |
| 9. the ultimate target                  | i. valued the egg             |
| 10. disappear into the deepest, darkest | j. metal value of the gold    |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Fabergé eggs?
- Do you think any antique is worth \$33 million?
- How interested are you in jewellery?
- How can something that is "priceless" be valued at \$33 million?
- Do you like antiques?
- How will the scrap dealer's life change?
- How do you become an expert in valuing priceless objects?
- Have you ever been very surprised after a Google search?

## Spelling

- An extremely rare aiqetun, decorative egg
- designed by the radnyeelg Russian jeweller
- rehtdneau at a second-hand goods market
- the egg was not spdrcae
- the name of the watch's aefrcuunrtam
- he was in oposssien of a priceless gem
- at an iinbiexoht in St Petersburg
- the cause of considerable ncalueotspi
- It's the most incredible rcedoviys
- none of them are as momountse as this
- every antique dealer and every tsanihsute
- ihnsva from public view

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. a
6. e	7. i	8. c	9. f	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – Vintage wine

You think vintage wine would be the most valuable to thing to own in 500 years from now. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why they're things won't be so valuable. Also, tell the others which will be the least valuable of these (and why): Ming dynasty china, the Beatles autographs or the first Olympics torch.

### Role B – Ming dynasty china

You think Ming dynasty china would be the most valuable to thing to own in 500 years from now. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why they're things won't be so valuable. Also, tell the others which will be the least valuable of these (and why): vintage wine, the Beatles autographs or the first Olympics torch.

### Role C – the Beatles autographs

You think the Beatles autographs would be the most valuable to thing to own in 500 years from now. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why they're things won't be so valuable. Also, tell the others which will be the least valuable of these (and why): Ming dynasty china, vintage wine or the first Olympics torch.

### Role D – The first Olympics torch

You think the first Olympics torch would be the most valuable to thing to own in 500 years from now. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why they're things won't be so valuable. Also, tell the others which will be the least valuable of these (and why): Ming dynasty china, the Beatles autographs or vintage wine.

## Speaking – Rare things

Rank these with your partner. Put the things you would most like to have at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- vintage wine
- 18th-century art
- Ming dynasty china
- the Beatles autographs
- the first English textbook
- an Olympic gold medal
- a 1,000-year-old poem
- Henry VIII's wedding rings)

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.