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### Faberge Grandson Presents an Egg

The Associated Press  
ST. PETERSBURG -- An exquisite Faberge Easter egg made by the 80-year-old grandson of the famous Russian jeweler Carl Faberge was presented to the residents of St. Petersburg in commemoration of the city's 300th anniversary.

Theo Faberge, who crafted the \$35,000 egg, was unable to attend the presentation ceremony Monday due to health reasons, but addressed the imperial-era capital's residents in a letter.

"My Easter egg is dedicated to the jubilee of your city, with which my family has numerous connections," he wrote.

The crystal egg is decorated with hand-engraved images of nine St. Petersburg palaces, each accompanied with an engraving of a Russian emperor or empress and crowned with a three-headed golden eagle.

Faberge eggs traditionally contained secrets or surprises inside. When the new egg was opened to the public it revealed a miniature figure of St. Petersburg's famous Bronze Horseman -- a monument to the city's founder, Peter the Great.

Theo Faberge is the only surviving grandson of Carl Faberge, the official jeweler of the Russian court. The family firm was founded in the mid-19th century and was revered for its unique techniques and beautiful style.

Theo Faberge spent two years completing the gift, which is part of a collection of his work dedicated to the city, said the chairman of the collection's managing foundation, Philip Birkenstein. "Theo spent thousands of hours making all those engravings," Birkenstein said.

Each item in the collection is dedicated to a St. Petersburg landmark and will be put on display at that location when completed. The crystal egg will be displayed in the Peterhof Palace.



Dmitry Lovetsky / AP

Birkenstein opening the Faberge egg at a ceremony in St. Petersburg on Monday.