

THE £119,000 EGG

Fabergé created his fabulous jewellery originally for the Romanovs, but now one of the world famous firm's latest and most significant pieces is for sale in Shrewsbury . . . at a price.

Words: Henry Carpenter

The name Fabergé is to jewellery what Steinway is to pianos, Stradivarius is to violins and Roux is to cooking.

In short, it's a legendary title, one which is synonymous with the highest possible standard of workmanship and to see a Fabergé piece, let alone touch or even possess one, is an experience not easily forgotten.

These occasions do not come around often but the man at the helm of a jewellery shop in Shrewsbury has recently reached his own personal Shangri-La by acquiring one of the most significant pieces of jewellery to become available on the market in recent times – the Fabergé Phases of the Moon Clock Egg.

Graham Smith, managing director of Nicola Smith Fine Jewels, says the egg represents the single most prized work of art he has ever had the privilege to be associated with.

Furthermore he has it in the shop for sale and, even though it stand at little more than 24 centimetres, a purchaser would have to be prepared to part with £119,250.

Mr Smith almost purrs with contentment as he talks about the egg and he confesses to be rather reluctant to sell it. For the moment anyway.

He can barely conceal his excitement as he lifts the egg, extraordinarily heavy given its size, from the top of one of Nicola Graham's glass display cabinets. His enthusiasm is understandable given that it is the first, and ▶

The Fabergé Phases of the Moon Clock Egg on sale at a Shrewsbury jewellery shop.