



Russian Decorative Arts

Cynthia Coleman Sparke

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- An informative guide to Russian Decorative Arts and their historical context
- Covers a wide range of crafts including Fabergé, jewelry, woodwork, hardstone, glass and porcelain, as well as precious metal
- Explores pre-Revolutionary Russia, discussing various artifacts of the Tsarist era as far back as the 16th and 17th centuries with particular focus on the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries
- Ideal for both novice and established collectors of the field

Russia's last great Imperial celebration took place at the Winter Palace in St Petersburg with the lavish ball of 1913 celebrating 300 years of Romanov rule. The finest gowns, jewels, snuff boxes, and banqueting tableware of the Tsarist era were sumptuously displayed then for the last time. The outbreak of World War I in 1914 and the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 brought such opulence to an end.

Ever since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russians have been eager to repatriate their lost heritage. Works by jewelers and silversmiths to the Tsars are particularly sought after today as status symbols, with the market for pre-Revolutionary decorative arts touching a wide audience - from the curators at the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg, to the predawn bargain hunters at the Paris flea markets.

Russian Decorative Arts offers an introductory guide to porcelain, glass, silver, Tula work and other base metals, orders and decorations, jewelry, objects of virtue, Fabergé, lapidary, woodwork and walrus ivory. Each topic is detailed in an illustrated chapter introducing the techniques, its specific Russian characteristics and an overview of the principle makers.

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