

We cannot be sure how many people owned the third Imperial Faberge egg between 1917 and 2012. What we do know is that some of those who possessed it failed to take the time to notice an important detail about its heritage. Someone sold it to an antiques broker, who then sold it to a scraps metal dealer. After having breakfast with it for the better part of a decade, that man finally took the time to notice its little mark. Ninety-five years after the egg originally disappeared, the owner's wise decision to take a closer look paid off tremendously. If Michael Perkhin were alive today, I imagine he would have been proud.

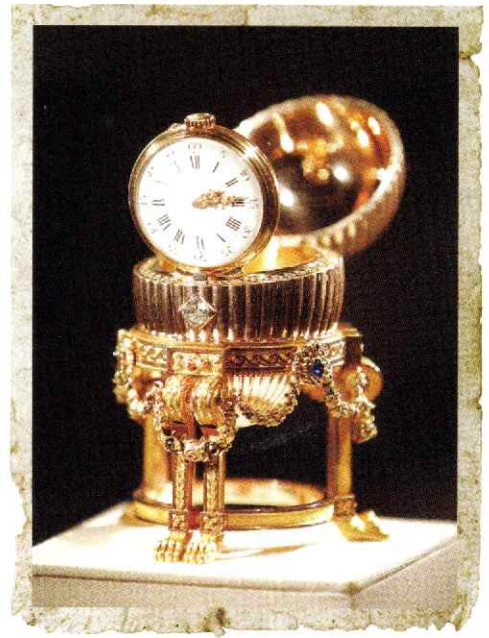
I admire people who appreciate details. I have great respect for those who master them. Much of my admiration stems from the fact that noticing details has never been a strength of my own. Many aspects of this treasure hunt challenged me. Especially detail intensive were the placements of the treasure boxes, creating the clues to find them, and then organizing those within this book. I'd never before tackled such an in-depth and comprehensive project all alone. However, this endeavor has made me more well-rounded for the effort.

Similarly, there is no doubt that one of the main reasons I fell in love with Japan was that the Japanese culture allowed me an opportunity to bask in qualities more refined. It enveloped me. It helped me cultivate a new appreciation for details. Experiences like these have given me a clearer fundamental knowing of how details matter. I now better understand the way the granular makes the whole.

When reading this book, noticing details will help you find our treasures. This point is fairly obvious. But beyond this treasure hunt, valuing details can be rewarding in lots of ways. Simply remembering a name, or a birthday, or a shared moment can make all the difference to someone. Noticing what others need without being told, purposely building the foundations of relationships with integrity, being present, and aware, and alive with one another, these are the types of details that cultivate happiness. Can I master details to become a more capable father, a more compassionate husband, and a better friend? These are all treasures worth pursuing.

I want to thank Seth again for all his hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm in helping me accomplish this project. And for inspiring me. As it turns out, Seth Gould and Michael Perkhin have another thing in common. They both created works which are original and unique, and, to do so, they developed their own techniques as craftsmen. These men blazed their own path.

This theme is very much alive in our next chapter. It's a story about a famous emerald mine, a ninety-six-carat emerald discovered there, and the man who helped me procure it for our treasure. This man's name is Rob Lavinsky. Rob has become a friend of mine, and he is someone whose been a trailblazer his entire life. The track Rob follows is undeniably his own, and, along it, he continually uncovers countless rewards.



The 3rd Faberge Imperial Egg (not in our treasure)