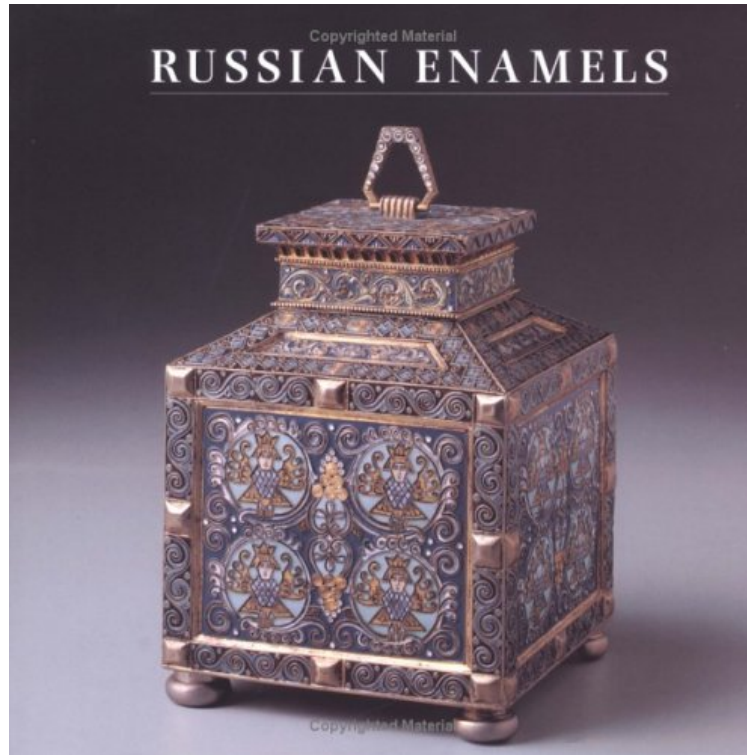


(Free pdf) Russian Enamels: Kievan Rus to Fabergé

Russian Enamels: Kievan Rus to Fabergé

Anne Odom

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Anne Odom : Russian Enamels: Kievan Rus to Fabergé before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Russian Enamels: Kievan Rus to Fabergé:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Russian Enamels by Anne Odom By Robert K. Johnson Jr. One hundred twenty masterpieces of Russian enamel. Beautifully photographed, described and set in historical context. Having this book is the next best thing to owning one of these great enamel works of art.

Within the late tenth century, Kiev produced enamelled liturgical and some secular objects that adhered to Byzantine traditions. During the course of the 17th century the Kremlin Armoury in Moscow and various northern trading centres emerged as major bases for the manufacture of both liturgical and secular enamels while the key to the programme of westernization initiated by Peter the Great in the early 18th century was the attraction of foreign artisans who brought their own techniques to the new capital of St. Petersburg. The nineteenth century closed with a dichotomy of styles: classicizing, courtly traditions that flourished in St. Petersburg, all of which were demonstrated in the art of the pre-eminent master, Carl Fabergé. However, Moscow served as the heart of the Russian revival movement, and it is the vibrantly coloured and exotic-looking revival enamels that are so highly prized by collectors today. Russia drew from many cultures to develop its own distinctive styles and methods of enamelling; its strategic location on the trade routes between western Europe and Asia, and between Scandinavia and the Byzantine and Islamic Near East was particularly relevant. The enamels illustrated in this book are from three sources: Henry Walters, the founder of the gallery in

Baltimore that bears his family's name, visited St Petersburg and patronized the firm of Carl Faberge in the summer of 1900, while Marjorie Merriweather Post's superb holdings of Russian and French 18th and 19th century decorative arts are housed in the Hillwood Museum in Washington D.C. The third source is a private collector who began exploring the entire range of subjects, styles and techniques of enamelling associated with the Russian revival movement.

From the Back Cover Russia's rich and varied tradition of enameling can be placed within the context of one of the earliest and most widely practiced forms of decoration. In the 11th century, Kiev closely adhered to the Byzantine traditions in producing the first Russian enamels. Progress was interrupted by the Mongol invasions in the 13th century. There was, however, a revival of the arts in the 16th century, and during the 17th century the Kremlin Armory in Moscow and various northern trading centers emerged as major bases for the manufacture of liturgical and secular enamels, while the program of westernization initiated by Peter the Great in the early 18th century attracted foreign artisans who brought their own techniques to the capital, St Petersburg. The 19th century closed with a dichotomy of styles: classicizing, courtly traditions flourished in St Petersburg, as demonstrated in the art of pre-eminent master Carl Faberge. However, Moscow served as the heart of the Russian Revival movement, and the vibrantly colored and exotic-looking revival enamels are also prized by collectors today. The enamels illustrated are from three sources: The Walters Art Gallery established in Baltimore by Henry Walters who patronized the Faberge firm in St Petersburg in 1900, the Hillwood Museum in Washington, D.C., housing Mrs Marjorie Merriweather Post's superb holdings of Russian and French 18th- and 19th-century decorative arts, and a private collector who has explored every aspect of the Russian Revival movement. About the Author Anne Odom is Chief Curator of the Hillwood Museum, Washington D.C. William R. Johnston is associate Director and Curator of 18th and 19th century art at the Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore.