



MINT OF
POLAND

SINCE 1766

IMPERIAL FABERGÉ EGGS

The Duchess of Marlborough Egg

SERIES

The Duchess of Marlborough Egg coin is the forth coin of the popular series "Imperial Fabergé Eggs". A low mintage, a unique design with elements in polished finish and zircons, make the coin highly attractive for collectors. The coin is also offered in an attractive presentation case with a Certificate of Authenticity.



REVERSE:

At the top – a semicircular inscription: **IMPERIAL FABERGÉ EGGS**. In the centre – a stylized image of the upper part of **The Duchess of Marlborough Egg** with two pinkish-orange **zircons** imitating the colour of the original egg. The snake at the bottom part has a **polished finish**, as well as the pearls surrounding the egg, which emphasize the splendour of this piece of art.

OBVERSE:

At the bottom – **open Spring Flowers Egg** (1899-1903) with a miniature basket of wood anemones inside. Above – the **Niue Island's Coat of Arms** with the inscription "**ELIZABETH II**" and the mint's mark (m/w) below. Around the Queen's effigy – a decorative neorococo scroll ornament. At the top – the issuer's name: **NIUE ISLAND**. On the right – a nominal value of the coin (**2 dollars**), on the left – the year of issue **2011**.

Issuer:	Niue Island
Nominal value:	2 Dollars
Metal:	Ag 925
Diameter:	Ellipse 41.6 x 55.6 mm
Weight:	56.56 g
Decoration:	Zircons and elements in polished finish
Quality:	Proof
Mintage:	up to 7,000 pcs
Year of issue:	2011
Designer:	Robert Kotowicz



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Previously from this series:

Clover Leaf Egg



Lily of the Valley Egg



Imperial Fabergé Eggs, known also as Tsar's Fabergé Eggs, are considered masterpieces of the jeweller's art and a symbol of extravagance and luxury. Created by Peter Carl Fabergé and his assistants for tsars: Alexander III and Nicholas II of Russia, the eggs were made of gold and silver and decorated with enamels and precious stones.

The Duchess of Marlborough egg (also known as **the Pink Serpent egg**) is a jewelled enameled Easter egg made by Michael Perchin in 1902. This is the only large Easter egg to have been commissioned from Fabergé by an American, is inspired by a Louis XVI clock with revolving dial. The workshop of Michael Perchin created several versions of this model, of which the best known is the blue enamel Serpent Clock egg traditionally dated 1887 and thought to have been presented by Tsar Alexander III to his wife Tsarina Maria Feodorovna.

As attested by the diamond-set initials CM under a ducal crown, the egg was made for Consuelo Marlborough, granddaughter of the American railroad magnate Cornelius Vanderbilt, who was married off against her will to Richard John Spencer-Churchill, 9th Duke of Marlborough, in 1894. In 1902, prior to the coronation of Edward VII at which she had been asked by Queen Alexandra to be a canopy bearer, the Duchess travelled to Russia with her husband. She also visited the Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna at Anichkov Palace and must have seen her Fabergé collection, which probably served as model for the egg which she ordered from Fabergé. After her divorce from Marlborough, Consuelo Vanderbilt Balsan donated the egg to a charity auction in 1926. The Duchess of Marlborough Egg, contains some characteristic features of the Fabergé's Neo-Classical style. It can be seen especially in the design of the triangular pedestal, the fluted base of the egg and his use of acanthus foliage, husks, laurel wreaths and flower swags, all derived from Classical Antiquity.