

CROSSROADS

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter October, 2014

BOUGHT FOR SCRAP!?

Call it what you will, dumb luck or divine intervention, but a missing Faberge egg has been found in, of all places, America. The history of this fabulous egg began in Tsarist Russia and ended in a house in Mid Western America just across the street from a Dunkin' Donuts outlet.

The egg's finder could not be farther removed from imperial Russian's ostentatious elite class or today's world of fine art and antiques collectors. He is a humble scrap metal dealer who spotted the 8 cm high egg in a bric-a-brac stall while searching for gold and other metals to resell for melting down and recycling.

Tsar Alexander III commissioned Carl Faberge to make the egg in 1887. The Tsar presented it to his wife Maria Fedorovna as an Easter gift. This was the third Faberge egg that the Tsar had asked Faberge to produce for him. The tradition of presenting his wife with one of these



Empress Maria Fedorovna

eggs every Easter continued throughout his reign and into that of his son's, Nicholas II.

One interesting facet of these eggs is that they all opened to reveal a surprise inside; a golden hen, a necklace or various other trinkets often studded with precious gems.

The recently discovered egg was the third of 54 Faberge eggs made for the Russian Imperial family between 1885 and 1916.

However, 51 eggs after this third one was presented to Empress Fedorovna, the Russian Imperial family's idyllic life-style came to a sudden and violent end and in 1917, after the Bolshevik Revolution, the eggs disappeared. The Bolsheviks took most of the eggs to the Kremlin, where some are still kept to this day, others just vanished.

Of the eggs that for the Russian were thought to be lost, including egg. Most of the with the addition recently found are now in private But, the remaining eggs may still be somewhere....



The recently found 3rd Faberge Egg

original 54 Faberge made Tsars, eight have been the third other 45, of the third egg, collections. seven lost out there,

The American scrap metal dealer who found this one had no idea of its value. He paid \$14,000 for it. But, as scrap, he discovered he had over-estimated its value, including the

"surprise" watch and gems tucked inside the egg. The price he needed to ask in order to make a profit was too high and he was unable to find a buyer.

In desperation he turned to the Internet. He typed the name of the watch's manufacturer and the word "egg" into a Google search. It was then that he discovered his exceptional good fortune. Instead of the \$500 profit he had

hoped to make by reselling it for scrap, he was in possession of one of the most sought after items in the art world. How much was his egg worth? "Only" a cool \$33,000,000!!

The difference between the value of the egg's metal content and the finished product is in artistry.



Number 3 and its hidden secret – a small clock

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS? Try our *lessons through the net!*

SITE OF THE MONTH:

For some images of the Imperial Faberge eggs, go here:
<http://www.faberge.com/news/49-imperialeeggs.aspx>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says Traveling overseas to various places can expose us to some interesting experiences. The most unexpected things can happen along the way, and we often get to see not only the world but ourselves in the most unpredictable ways. How we react to different situations can help us learn much about ourselves. Take Taro's experiences in Spain, posted this month on page 3, for instance. I'm looking forward to posting part 2 next month. His adventures should be an inspiration for anyone planning an overseas trip.

Junko Says : In an interview on the 7th, Nobel prize winner Prof Shuji Nakamura warned Japanese business and industry that in spite of the excellent products Japanese companies produce, Japan has failed to keep pace with globalization, and the U.S.A. and China have taken over the lead Japan once had in many areas. He points out that the biggest reason for this is that the Japanese are not good English speakers. He then went on to say that the Japanese economy will shrink even farther unless there is a drastic change in this area. He even recommends that we make English our *first* language!



Kenneth Says: A couple of Nobel prize announcements have been subjects for discussion in many of my classes including the award in physics to Shuji Nakamura, Hiroshi Amano and Isamu Akasaki for their invention of light-emitting diodes (LED). And the Nobel Peace Prize 2014 was awarded jointly to Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai "for their struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education."

Danielle dit: Comme vous le savez, l'automne canadien est magnifique. Les érables sont rois ! Leurs feuilles deviennent très rouges. D'autres arbres sont plutôt jaunes. Toutes ces couleurs mêlées aux conifères verts, c'est un spectacle à ne pas manquer. À l'automne, on peut faire de belles promenades en forêt, les deux pieds dans les feuilles tombées ! Sinon, on peut aller cueillir des pommes en famille et n'oublions pas la fête d'Halloween. Les enfants vont au marché choisir leur belle grosse citrouille orange vif. J'adore l'automne, cette saison très colorée !



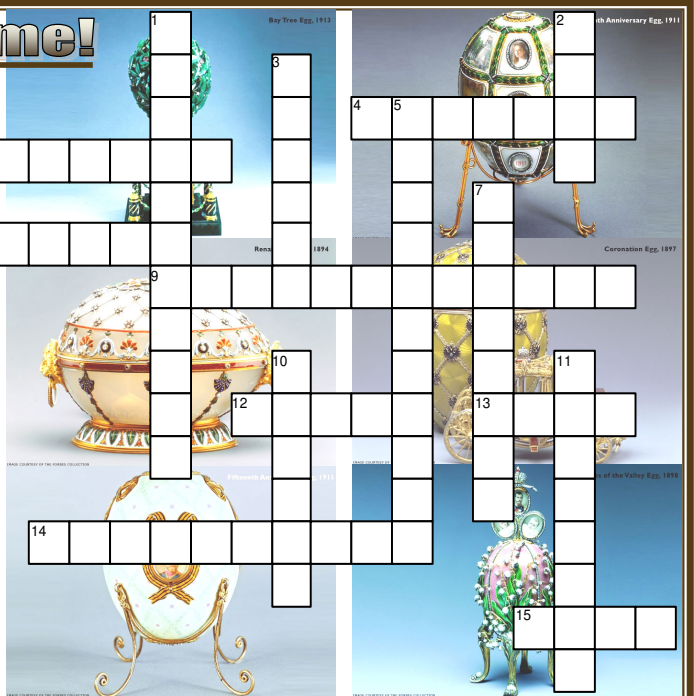
ACROSS

- 4 delightful, charmingly simple and serene
- 6 scattered with or adorned with
- 8 (usually) cheap, showy jewelry or ornament
- 9 action that brings about change
- 12 a distinct feature
- 13 male Emperor of Imperial Russia
- 14 place an order for a service or product
- 15 lacking good sense or understanding

DOWN

- 1 far greater than the usual
- 2 control or rule (usually by royalty)
- 3 meek or modest, not arrogant
- 5 almost no hope left
- 6 nearly worthless material
- 7 skills obtained by study and practice
- 10 disappear
- 11 extremely pleasing

Play A Game!



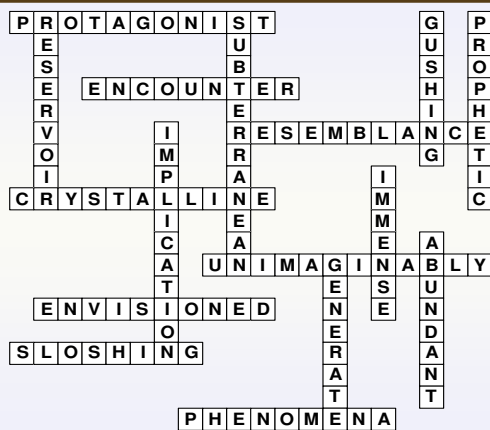
NOTICE BOARD

Carefulness and Boldness by S(A)'s Taro...

During the summer season, many people enjoy their summer holidays. Some may spend their holidays in a foreign country. However, many Japanese people regard this as dangerous. Is traveling abroad such an adventure?

Travel guidebooks published in Japan advise that we must be careful in other countries. I admit these books are, by and large, instructive, but they often include ludicrous ideas. For example, one book says that we should avoid getting on elevators with strange people because they might be robbers. I feel this is ridiculous! When I went to Spain last year, I was sometimes surrounded by people when I used elevators, but no one bothered me.

One day, I got into an elevator in a hotel in Barcelona. There was an Asian couple in the elevator with me. Not judging whether they were Japanese or not, I greeted them affably with, "Hola" (Spanish for "hello"). A Spanish man entered the elevator behind me. The Asian couple talked to each other furtively until we reached the first floor. (They spoke in Japanese so I realized they were fellow citizens of mine.) From what they were saying, I knew they suspected me of being a Chinese burglar (pardon me, I have no intension of insulting my Chinese friends) and they consulted with each other about how to escape! I found it interesting that they were taking one of these guidebooks completely on trust.CONTINUED NEXT MONTH



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 1 the main character in a work of fiction
- 6 come upon or meet as if by chance
- 8 similar in appearance
- 10 having the characteristics of a crystal
- 12 impossible to imagine
- 14 seen in the mind as a mental image
- 15 splashing (usually) water around
- 16 a remarkable experience or event

DOWN

- 2 a large or extra supply of something
- 3 beneath the surface of the earth
- 4 coming out suddenly and rapidly
- 5 predicting events before they happen
- 7 an inference or suggestion
- 9 great in size
- 11 great quantity of something
- 13 bring into existence

Pet's Corner

You might remember Lou Lou, Danielle's Basenji pet dog, from last August's Newsletter.

Well, Danielle has three dogs. Here is number two, Nana-chan.

Nana chan is a 5 year old shiba and we call her "Baby Girl". Although she's an adult dog, she has a baby face and acts like a puppy. She wants a lot of attention and smiles when we tell her that she's cute! She's pretty good at playing soccer with us. Shiba dogs are friendly and playful, the perfect dog! (We'll meet #3, Hana-chan, next month)



Don't forget... Our SPECIAL 1+1 Campaign offer! Up to 50% off!!

See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.