

*The Magazine*  
**ANTIQUES**

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# Voydite! An exhibition of rarely seen Fabergé treasures at the new ALVR

Editorial Staff

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(Left to right) A La Vieille Russie. *Photo Credit Poul Ober.* Fabergé  
Cigarette Case, c. 1910. Gold, enamel, rose diamonds

The storefront at the southwest corner of the Sherry-Netherland Hotel, at Fifth Avenue and 59th Street in Manhattan, is covered by a construction shed just now. Whatever is built there will seem weird because whatever it is won't be A La Vielle Russie.



*A La Vielle Russie. Photo Credit Poul Ober.*

Another victim of today's rebarbative New York real estate practices, the venerable gallery of Russian antiques and art was priced out of the space it had called home since 1961. Fortunately, since last November, ALVR and its owners, the Schaffer family, have enjoyed a comfortable—and decidedly brighter—new commercial home a block away at 745 Fifth Avenue, above the Bergdorf-Goodman annex.



A La Vieille Russie. *Photo Credit Poul Ober.*

Even more fortunately, all the hallmarks of the old ALVR are intact, from the splendid jewels and silver to the mind-bogglingly intricate and sometimes strange bibelots that were the presents and playthings of the imperial Russian court.



From May 1 to the 18th, ALVR will hold their inaugural exhibition in the new digs: an array of rarities recently on loan for the *Royal Fabergé* show that closed in February at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts in Norwich, England. The *objets de vertu* on view include the diamond-studded cigarette case shown above, a silver elephant-shaped “stamp moistener,” and—our favorite—a gold-mounted agate box in the form of a potato.

Click through the slideshow to see these and other treasures on exhibit at ALVR.

