



FRUIT BOWL

Frame: 4th Moscow Artel,
Moscow, Russia

1899–1908

Bowl: private crystalware
manufacturer, Russia

Second half of the 19th —
early 20th century

*Silver, crystal glass, casting,
embossing, signet, engraving,
brilliant-cut*

About the project

<https://tsaritsyno-museum.ru/events/special/p/lyudi-i-fondy-eng/>





SELECTED BY

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I have been working at the museum since May 2013.

I learnt about this vase in the first days of 2011, when I brought my son to a New Year's show in the Catherine Hall. While the boy was enjoying the show, I had the chance to walk around the Grand Palace. I must say, this was my first visit to the restored palace.

On the minus ground floor, which was then called 'Silver Storehouse', there was an exposition of the same name. My eye was caught by a fruit vase on a heavy pedestal. Having studied it closely, I was amazed at the skill of people who created such masterpieces at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. After all, such fine carving and engraving is not an easy task even today.

I have worked with complex technical systems all my life, both creating and operating them. So, when I see a museum object, I instantly start evaluating not only its beauty and uniqueness but also its technical and technological level. It is interesting to understand how, with what tools and using what technologies the craftsmen made it.

Knowing how glass and metal processing works today, one cannot help but admire the skill of those who did not have either equipment with high-speed cutting tools for glass, nor laser brazing and other modern methods of metal processing.