



GRAF VON FABER-CASTELL

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Pen of the Year 2009

Special edition made of Lippizan hairs raises money for good causes

A special edition of the Graf von Faber-Castell Pen of the Year 2009 is currently attracting considerable sums for good causes at several charity galas. This even more exclusive variant of the unusual magnum fountain pen came about as the result of a joint venture with the Spanish Riding School in Vienna. That institution with a long tradition donated the tail hairs of several of its Lippizan stallions, so as to produce seven exclusive fountain pens to be auctioned in aid of charities.

The first of them was auctioned in October 2009 at a fund-raising gala in the Imperial Mews. The proceeds, amounting to 15,500 euros, benefit the Piper stud farm where the famous thoroughbred stallions are raised.

The second Lippizan pen was presented to an exclusive public at the Emerald Ball in London. To launch the 2009 pre-Christmas season, the famous department store Harrods had invited 250 international VIPs to its fund-raising gala at which some select gift hampers were auctioned. The proceeds were donated to the Elton John AIDS foundation. The pen was among the contents of a hamper that changed hands for the splendid sum of 18,000 euros.

The third one will be auctioned on 8 February 2010 at the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation's "Seitenblicke" charity gala, in aid of Licht ins Dunkel (light in the dark). The remaining Lippizan pens have already been earmarked for further charity events.

Annually since 2003 the Graf von Faber-Castell Collection has presented its Pen of the Year edition: an exclusive magnum fountain pen produced for just twelve months using unique materials in an elaborate setting. Amber, mammoth ivory, and galuchat leather made from the skin of a pearl ray are among the materials that have graced the barrels of these pens. The Pen of the Year 2009 is a further example of master craftsmanship: its barrel is hand-woven from natural horsehair.



Special edition of the Pen of the Year 2009, its barrel made of tail hairs from Lippizan stallions