

Buttons are absolutely Faberge

A SET of Faberge buttons goes under the hammer today – thanks to eagle-eyed Nick Granger. The auctioneer was checking the contents of a box of costume jewellery for a client when he spotted the six gentleman's dress studs.

The owners had kept them in the loft of their home, in a village near Tewkesbury, and had no idea how valuable they were.

While not as prestigious as Faberge's famous eggs, the studs are expected to sell for more than £2,000 when the auction takes place at Tewkesbury Auction Rooms in Church Street.

Telephone bids are expected, included two from America, for the tiny gold and enamel buttons. One of Carl Faberge's leading craftsmen, Erik August Kollin made them between 1870 and 1886. He said: "For me, finding a piece of



■ **HIDDEN TREASURE:** Nicholas Granger with the Faberge buttons. Inset, a close up of one of the buttons

Faberge is like finding the Holy Grail. It's so rare.

"The last set like this sold for £4,000 in London but who knows what they're going to sell for?"

"These are handmade. They're bespoke studs made especially for wealthy and influential people at the time."

Jeweller Faberge made 50

intricately-designed eggs made of precious metal and gems. They were created for the last Russian emperors, Alexander and Nicholas II.