



*He ain't heavy, Father . . .
he's m' brother!*

It is with sadness that we learn of the passing of Mickey Rooney the actor.

One of the most famous films he was part of was the film 'Boys Town'. The story of Father Flannigan the priest who started the Boys Town movement in Omaha, Nebraska in the U.S.A. Mickey Rooney with Bobs Watson played the leading boy characters in the film.

To coincide with the 75th Anniversary of Boys Town, Theo Fabergé was asked to design an egg to celebrate this auspicious occasion. This Theo duly did and came out with the 'Brotherhood Egg'

The Brotherhood Egg by Theo Fabergé



The Brotherhood Egg was inspired by the memories and dreams of Father Flanagan, founder of Boys Town and commissioned in observance of Boys Town's 75th anniversary (1917-1992). The Brotherhood Egg reminds us not only of Father Flanagan's great achievements and those of Boys Town, but also of our obligations to our fellow men, women and especially to our children. The outside of the Egg is inspired by Dowd Chapel at Boys Town, dedicated to Father Flanagan's memory. The surprise is the uplifting symbol of Boys Town, the statue of Two Brothers, created in vermeil.

To launch this major fund raiser for Boys Town it was decided to have a sumptuous dinner in Boys Town itself. The guests of honour were Theo Faberge, Mickey Rooney and Bobs Watson. Of course whenever Theo travelled I would always accompany him.

We all arrived for the event early and thus the four of us were ushered into a fine room to rest before the event. For those of you who never met Theo Fabergé, he always had a very dry sense of humour and had the ability to say something extremely funny, but without smiling or laughing. This often unnerved collectors as they did not know whether he had made a funny comment or whether he was actually being very serious. Mickey Rooney was able to do exactly the same. Perhaps his training as an actor gave him this ability. Well, within minutes of meeting, Theo and Mickey hit it off and were so extremely funny. Bobs Watson and myself spent the next hour laughing so much that we were both in pain from laughing.

The dinner was a glittering affair and both Theo Fabergé and Mickey Rooney addressed the whole audience.

Towards the end of the evening all four of us were presented with the 'Keys' to Boys Town as a thank you for the fundraising opportunity for Boys Town.

The next day Theo Faberge and I were also given the 'Keys' to the City of Omaha for our fundraising.

As a postscript we are always interested in helping charities, not only for fundraising, but also in providing a very special after dinner speaker. I have done this all over the world and have always had a very good response especially as we have many amusing stories to tell of our travels around the World. Do contact me if you have a charity you think we might be able to help with.

**Philip Birkenstein
Chairman
St Petersburg Collection**