

Press release

Patek Philippe SA Geneva
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Patek Philippe: The Authorized Biography
The definitive history of the legendary Swiss manufacture

Written by Nicholas Foulkes, an acclaimed specialist in art and horology, and spanning over 500 pages, this work describes the evolution of the independent Genevan manufacture from its beginnings in 1839 to the present. The English edition is being released in November and will be followed by other languages as of 2018.

Drawing on exclusive interviews with the company's owners and with staff and watchmakers past and present, as well as on hitherto unseen documents from the company's archives, Patek Philippe: The Authorized Biography celebrates the history of a unique company. Renowned historian, author, and editor Nicholas Foulkes traces Patek Philippe's history from founder Antoine Norbert de Patek's early life in Poland as a young cavalry officer fighting in a doomed uprising. He recounts Patek's exile, his life in Geneva, his meeting with gifted watchmaker Jean Adrien Philippe, and the 1932 purchase of the company by the Stern family, whose members, over four generations, have turned it into the legend that it is today. His vibrant narrative pays tribute not only to the creations of the Genevan manufacture but also to the gifted individuals who forged its history – especially to the many generations of watchmakers and artisans who can take credit for its success.

Among other notable anecdotes, The Authorized Biography reveals, for the first time, the story of a unique timepiece bought by Queen Victoria for her husband Prince Albert. In addition, Nicholas Foulkes was granted privileged access to interview the widow of famed Swiss jewelry designer Gerald Genta, who was responsible for the design of the first Nautilus model in 1976.

Reflecting the author's eclectic cultural background, the richly illustrated book maps out a fascinating journey that spans the last two centuries. Its focus is on trends in art and the progression of watchmaking within a broader historic context.

Quote from Philippe Stern

"I am very pleased to see the history of my family's company come to life in this excellent volume. This is the first time that the Patek Philippe archive has been accessed and brought to life in a factual and definitive work. Nicholas Foulkes has perfectly recreated the atmosphere and details of our 175-year journey."

Philippe Stern
Honorary President of Patek Philippe



Biography of Nicholas Foulkes

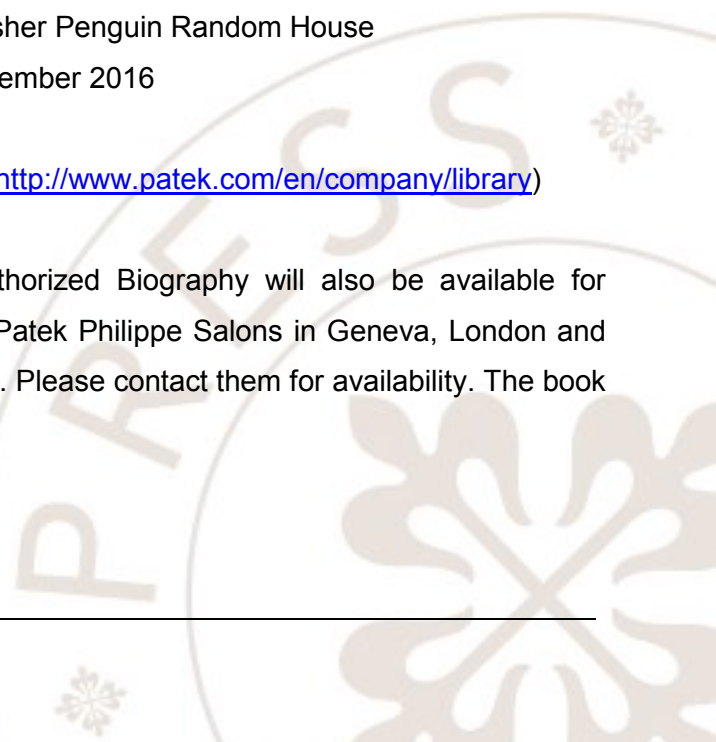
Nicholas Foulkes is the author of around twenty books. He is best known for his critically acclaimed trilogy of nineteenth-century histories: *Scandalous Society: Passion and Celebrity in the Nineteenth Century* (a biography of Count d'Orsay); *Dancing Into Battle: A Social History of the Battle of Waterloo*; and *Gentlemen and Blackguards: Gambling Mania and the Plot to Steal the Derby of 1844*. Foulkes is a columnist for *Country Life* magazine; a contributing editor to the FT's *How To Spend It* magazine; a contributing editor to *Vanity Fair*; luxury editor of *British GQ*; and special horological consultant for the *Patek Philippe* magazine. He is the founding editor of *Vanity Fair On Art*, and he has written about the arts for a wide range of periodicals. In 2009, he was appointed to the board of the Norman Mailer Center. He is a graduate of Hertford College, Oxford, and lives in London with his wife and two sons, who have graciously accepted his obsession with fine watches – a predilection that has possessed him since childhood.

Key facts:

- ✦ Written by renowned historian, author, and editor Nicholas Foulkes
- ✦ Based on exclusive interviews with personalities who played pivotal roles in the history of the company as well as on original documents from Patek Philippe's archives that were entirely re-curated over a period of more than 20 years
- ✦ Contains numerous previously unseen photos including one of a watch loaned to the company by its owner, Queen Elizabeth II
- ✦ Over 600 images, including specially commissioned photography by Andy Barter, Richard Foster, Jonas Marguet, and Jennifer Niederhauser Schlup

- ✦ 544 pages, 25 chapters, including a 40-page watch reference appendix and picture notes
- ✦ Format 289 x 305 mm
- ✦ Published by Preface, part of world-renowned publisher Penguin Random House
- ✦ Print run of 10,000 copies published in English, November 2016
- ✦ Other language versions to follow as of 2018
- ✦ The book can be ordered via [patek.com](http://www.patek.com/en/company/library) as of now (<http://www.patek.com/en/company/library>)

Starting in December 2016, *Patek Philippe: The Authorized Biography* will also be available for purchase at the Patek Philippe Museum Geneva, the Patek Philippe Salons in Geneva, London and Paris, and from local authorized Patek Philippe retailers. Please contact them for availability. The book will also be available from bookstores.





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