



FABER-CASTELL
since 1761



Countess Otilie von Faber-Castell (1877–1944)

Baroness Otilie von Faber was born 6 September 1877, the first child of Wilhelm (1851–1893) and Bertha (1856–1940) von Faber. She had four younger siblings: Sophie (1878–1951), Lothar (1880–1883), Hedwig (1882–1937) and Alfred (1886–1890).



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Her grandfather Lothar von Faber established a foundation to ensure his extensive estate was inalienable and indivisible and thus could be inherited by future generations in its entirety. The eldest male descendant was supposed to be the owner of the foundation.

Should the male line die, the foundation would go to the eldest daughter, who had to be married to nobility. Wilhelm von Faber, Lothar's only son, died of a heart attack in 1893 at only 41. Since Otilie's brothers had died of infectious diseases during childhood, there was no male heir after Lothar's death. As the eldest granddaughter, Otilie became the owner of the foundation despite being underage and unmarried.

The company A.W. Faber, however, was not part of the family foundation. It went into the sole ownership of Lothar's widow Otilie senior. In his will Lothar decreed that the management of the company should remain "unchanged" in the hands of trusted employees.

In 1898 she married Count Alexander zu Castell-Rüdenhausen (1866–1928). To comply with Lothar's will, the couple was called "Count and Countess von Faber-Castell". In 1900 Otilie senior appointed Count Alexander as co-partner to the company. After her death the company was inherited by her granddaughter Countess Otilie who kept the co-partnership with Alexander in place. The couple had five children: Elisabeth (1899–1986), Mariella (1900–1985), Wolfgang (1902–1903), Irmgard (1904–1972) and Roland (1905–1978).

Under the leadership of Count Alexander the company was thriving and celebrated great successes. When World War I started, however, Count Alexander was drafted and stationed in Belgium. Not least because of his long absence, the couple became estranged. In 1918, the marriage of Countess Otilie and Count Alexander was dissolved. Otilie married Philipp von Brand, transferred the family foundation to her son Roland



Countess Otilie von Faber-Castell with her children Elisabeth, Irmgard, Roland and Marielle (f. l.) around 1907.

and received a yearly annuity for life while Count Alexander was the sole owner of the company from then on. He married Margit Countess von Zedtwitz in 1920, his son Radulf (†2004) was born in 1922. His son Roland was instated as the sole heir.