

RESUME IN ENGLISH

Sacred Objects by Goldsmiths at the Rudolf's II. Court – Types and Iconography

When Emperor Rudolf II. moved to the Prague with his court, city became one of the most important centers in Europe. The cultural aspirations of the new Emperor led to an organization of a large collection with the great works and to invitation of extraordinary craftsmen from the whole Europe. Goldsmiths were also invited on special decrees.

Goldsmiths made very specific types in sacred way. Firstly there were small home altars with original *commessi* made by family of Castrucci and Miseroni in combination with other materials and cooperation with the other craftsmen. Further there were portrait medals by family of Abondio, gems - first of all by Ottavio Miseroni and Alessandro Masnago with assemblies by Jan Vermeyen and Andreas Osenbruck, *commessi di pietre dure* with sacred themes in fantastic and real landscapes by Castrucci family, plaquettes by Paulus von Vianen, statues by Ottavio Miseroni, chalices, crucifixes and monstrances.

Religious belief played an important role in the peoples' life. There were many favourite themes in goldsmith's sacred iconography as well as in works by painters and sculptors. There were scenes of New and Old Testament, e.g. Resurrection of Christ and Adoration of the Shepherd and also of saint's life. Paulus von Vianen and Antonio Abondio were authors of patterns, which were often imitated by other craftsmen. On the basis of graphic art patterns with characteristic styles of birds, flowers and other natural motifs, many goldsmiths created their own decoration. One of the most important author of this graphics was Hertzich van Bein. Typical ornament was rollwerk.

The identification of assemblies is based on comparative analyse between two groups of insignia and jewels of the Holy Roman Empire. For the first group around the crown of Emperor Rudolf II. is significant compact plastic decoration, color enamels with motifs of birds, insect, fruit and vegetable, smooth goldfassung, which is covered with strong layer of white enamel. For the second group around imperial orb and sceptre is significant complicated system of minute ornaments decorated with color enamels.

Goldsmiths had two possibilities after Emperor's Death. If they bought houses and had enough orders, they would stay in Prague and work. On the other hand, if they were invited to another ruler's court, they evidently moved there.

Goldsmith's at the Rudolf's II. court – types – iconography – decoration – significant marks

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