

SUMMARY

When Emperor Rudolf II. moved to Prague with his court, city became one of the most important centers in Europe. The cultural aspirations of the new Emperor led to organizing a large collection with the great things from categories artificialia, naturalia, scientifica and to invitation of extraordinary craftsmen from the whole Europe. Masters of art and crafts were also invited on special decrees.

Masters of art and crafts 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. There were also very important handstones (handstein) with the sculpture solution of origin material with sacred themes. Further Emperor very appreciated original mosaics from various kinds of exotic birds with sacred themes from Mexico. This type of work has iris effect. There were also very important pieces of work from glass and mountain crystal. The great skills in this type of work led to famous Czech baroque graved glass. Very well honored were also works of textile. The special type was clocks and automates. Specially automates played very interesting themes from Bible.

Religious belief played an important role in the peoples' life. There were many favorite themes in sacred iconography in works from masters of art and crafts 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 from life of saints. 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 analyses between two groups of insignia and jewels of the Holy Roman Empire. For the first group which is mark as the circle of the crown 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 marked as the circle of imperial orb and sceptre is significant complicated system of minute ornaments decorated with color enamels.

Masters of art and crafts 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 court of the important ruler, they evidently moved there.

The collection of types in sacred works of master and crafts can not be complete, but in present day is a representative list from our knowledge about this period. This works from masters of art and crafts declared, that this very important period of Czech cultural history must be also presented also from the Christian point of view. We can not mark art and crafts on the court of Emperor Rudolf II. as an art of sacred character, but based on world open court and according to examples in types and iconography we can not refuse sacred point of view, because there was Christian stream in the court's taste right next to works of art with character profane and mythological.

