

Lot 164



Auction Works of Art & Art Nouveau

Date 12.11.2024, ca. 13:03

Preview 07.11.2024 - 10:00:00 bis
10.11.2024 - 18:00:00

MONUMENTAL SILVER DISPLAY PANEL WITH DEPICTION OF JOSEPH'S INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS.

Mair, Hans Jakob. Augsburg.

Date: Ca. 1665-70.

Technique: Silver.

Description: Large, oval basin shape with a wide, slightly domed ledge. The impressive depiction of the interpretation of Joseph's dream before the pharaoh in an expansive, ancient architectural backdrop takes centre stage. The scene, which is rich in figures, mainly takes place in the foreground. In order to reinforce the impression of plasticity, individual parts of the figures have been fully sculpted and mounted. For example, the figure of the dog at the very front, the arm of one of the soldiers or the head of Joseph.

The scene itself shows Joseph, surrounded by soldiers, standing before Pharaoh and interpreting his dream. In it, the ruler saw seven healthy cows being eaten by seven lean cows and seven thick ears of corn being devoured by seven thin ears of corn. Joseph interprets this as God's plan to send the land seven years of famine after seven years of plenty.

On the broad banner, eight reserves show views of Roman ruins based on engravings by Giovanni Battista Mercati (1591-1645), which were first published in 1629. They show, among others, the 'Tempio di Minerva Medica', 'Terme di Diocleziano', 'Sotto San Giovanni e Paolo' and 'Santa MariaNova' twice. C-sweeps, cartilage and fruit hangings between the vedute.

Weight: Ca. 3.680g.

Measurement: 81x72,5cm.

Mark: Inspection mark Augsburg 1663-1666 (Selling no.660), Maker's mark Hans Jakob Mair (1664-1719, ibid. no.1657).

Provenance:

Private collection Aachen.

Exhibition:

'Baroque silver from Rhenish collections'. 14th Sept. to 29th Nov., 1964 Aachen, cat. no. 272.

Literature:

- Ludwig, Peter (ed.): Exhibition 'Baroque silver from Rhenish collections'. Aachen 1964 Aachener Kunstblätter. Aachen 1964, the present plate described and illustrated cat. no. 272, fig. 204, where the master was still incorrectly identified as Hans Mannhard.

- Seling, Helmut: Die Kunst der Augsburger Goldschmiede 1529-1868, Munich 2007. On the Master see p.326ff. The present plate is described and listed by Seling on p.327f).

In addition to the well-documented display plate shown here, three other showpieces of a similar size are known from the work of the master Hans Jakob Mair. One characteristic of his work is the special place he gives to the depiction of architecture in his compositions. It forms a broad background foil, which develops a great pictorial depth thanks to the skilful perspective depiction.

This also applies, for example, to the large display panel in the collection of the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam. Here, too, the arcade architecture occupies the largest space (ill. see Seling (2007) no. 505).

Estimate: 30.000 € - 50.000 €

