

Sándor Wolf Collection, Eisenstadt¹

Jewish Ritual Objects

Cup: Foot in cinquefoil style with chased volutes and Hebrew letters; the curved stem branches out into 13 leaves with Hebrew inscriptions; spherical *cuppa* without base cup, the whole, including the lid, gilded, with Hebrew inscriptions. Silver, humped knop (*nodus*). The inscriptions on the leaves and the foot are of the first words in the Book of Genesis. Kabbalistic inscription on *cuppa*. Indistinct hallmark. Worn master craftsman's mark. Height: 21.5 cm. Probably 17th century (fig. 161).

Cup: Kiddush cup over which the blessing is given on Saturday evening. Completely gilded. Round foot with shell ornamentation, hexagonal vase-shaped *nodus*; *cuppa* humped at base, octagonal above, with engraved floral embellishment and citation from the bible in Hebrew. Mark on the *cuppa*: floral spray in elongated oval field, master craftsmans mark "H," hammered separately. Height: 13 cm. Mid 17th century.

Three tower-shaped besamim boxes:

A. Filigree silverwork. Six-part, profiled foot; hexagonal bellied *nodus*; spice container in slender tower shape with three balconies, gilded weathervane, bell and shield-like humps in the place of windows, no hallmarks. Height: 34 cm, 17th century. According to family tradition, it was given to the owner's ancestors by Count Illéházy in the 19th century (fig. 162).

B. Filigree silverwork. Four-sided foot on four paws, baluster-shaped stem. Spice container in the shape of a square tower with miniature columns on the corners, crowned with spheres, gilded pole with weathervane. Low balconies around the tower. Belfry with gilded bell, balcony surrounding on all sides. Curved helmet with gilded sphere and rampant lion above. Height: 28.5 cm. 17th century.

C. Square, arched foot with pierced bridge, open corners. Chased flowers. Baluster-shaped stem, square spice container pierced by strapwork, gilded weathervanes and bells at the corners. Curved, pierced ending with clock face, engraved embellishments with gilded sphere and weathervane. No hallmarks. Height 23 cm. Early 18th century (fig. 162).

¹ Sammlung Sándor Wolf in Eisenstadt, in: Csatkei, André; Frey, Dagobert (ed.): Die Denkmale des politischen Bezirks Eisenstadt und der freien Städte Eisenstadt und Rust (= Österreichische Kunsttopographie XXIV), Vienna 1932, p. 143–46.

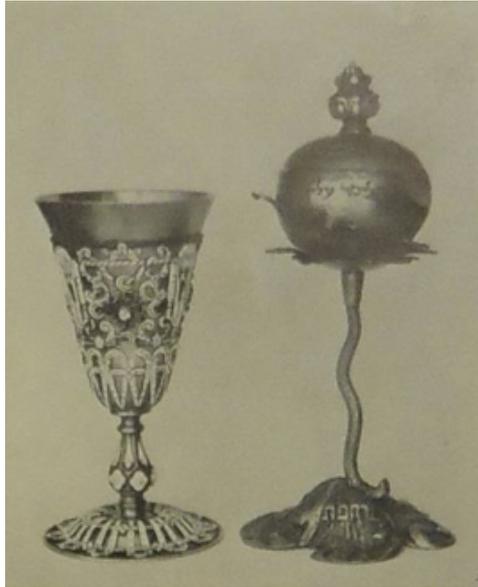


fig. 161. Oberberg-Eisenstadt, Wolf Collection, Jewish ritual cup no. 1 and secular cup no. 1



fig. 162. Oberberg-Eisenstadt, Wolf Collection, besamim towers A and C



fig. 163. Oberberg-Eisenstadt, Wolf Collection, Torah shield and finials

Torah shield²: Partly gilded. Small casket in middle with Torah scroll, flanked by two twisted columns. Beveled edges, top finished with balustrade, rich rocaille ornamentation. Pronounced, chased top section with crown and lions. Framed at sides with boldly chased acanthus embellishments; reliefs with stylized animal figures on base. No hallmarks. Height 34 cm. Width 22 cm. Sound work. Mid 18th century (fig. 163).

Two Torah finials³: Silver, partly gilded. Round, profiled feet with chased strapwork, pierced latticework on rounded shaft comprising two trees and strapwork. Top: large hoop crown with pinecones and bell. Breslau hallmark; master craftsman's mark: GK (George Kahlert the Younger). R., 1449. Mid 18th century. Height 29 cm (fig. 163).

Torah shield: Chased depiction of two lions on a high pedestal with the Tablets of Stone. Framed with laurel festoons. Top: crown with rocaille ornamentation. No hallmarks. Height 27 cm. Folkloristic tradition. Third quarter of 18th century.

² Hebrew: *tass*.

³ Hebrew: *rimonim*.

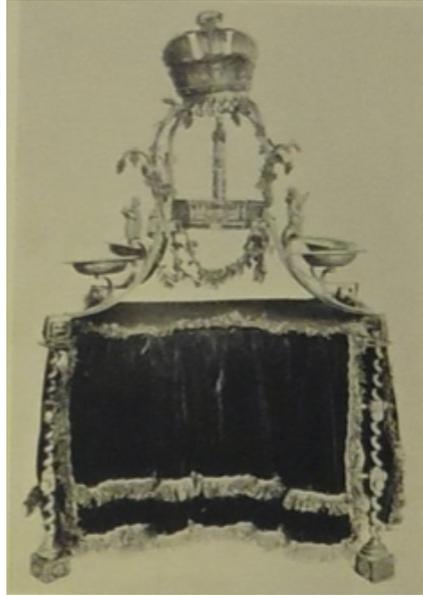


fig. 164. Oberberg-Eisenstadt, Wolf Collection, Seder plate

Seder plate: Frame on four twisted columns: upper part supported on four curved, meandering volutes, hexagonal, with pierced walls; column in middle with figure of a high priest giving the sign of the blessing. Curved arms from the volutes bearing four gilded plates and the miniature figures of the kings David, Solomon, Aaron, and Moses. The volutes are covered with festoons of foliage, among other things, from which a bower of vine tendrils is growing, supporting in turn a gilded crown with the sacrificial lamb. Viennese hallmark 1774 on plates. Master craftsman's mark LBK. Height 67 cm (fig. 164).

Two Torah finials: Classicistic. No marks. Height 25 cm. Poor quality.

Three besamin boxes: Urn-shaped with two handles. Mark: 11. Master craftsman's mark Height 13 cm. Cube-shaped spice container on four inwardly arched feet, covered with helmet pierced on four sides. Viennese hallmark 1848. Worn master craftsman's mark Height 15 cm. Simple work. Round foot, balustrade-shaped stem, cube-shaped container for spices with pierced silver filigree work. Hallmark: Wage, BP 84 Height 22 cm.

(Translation: Christopher Wynne)