

Summary

JACEK WITECKI / A pair of altar candlesticks – the work of Tobias Plackwitz the Elder (a *communiqué*)

In December 2010 the National Museum in Wrocław was informed by one of Warsaw antiquarians about silver candlesticks sale offer.

The offered candlesticks were dismantled into separate elements and kept by their owner in separate places. They lacked stems (most certainly made of iron) which were the construction support for the silver oval segments. The appearance of the preserved parts as well as their decoration and signing encouraged the attempt of a virtual reconstruction of the whole of these historic objects. It proved that we were dealing with two altar candlesticks making a pair, showing Early Baroque style. The signs allowed recognising them as works of an exquisite goldsmith from Wrocław, active at the turn of 17th century, Tobias Plackwitz the Elder.

In October 2011 the works made by Plackwitz were enclosed in the collection of The National Museum in Wrocław, and the studio of conservation began to clean the candlesticks and prepare them for reconstruction and assembly.

Each of the candlesticks is built of eight basic segments made of *repoussé* and engraved silver sheet. Additional decorative elements are silver castings. The central stems (lost-head nails) have not been preserved.

Perhaps the further research will answer the questions about the origins and later history of the candlesticks. Despite this the fact of gaining the candlesticks is an important step in the course of reconstructing the collection of Wrocław Baroque goldsmithing. It also completes the knowledge about the activity of one of the most outstanding Wrocław goldsmith artists, Tobias Plackwitz the Elder whose original oeuvre belongs to the most interesting phenomena in goldsmithing of Wrocław at the turn of 17th century.