

ally noted for the wealth of their original and artistic conceptions, united with the highest skill and harmony of execution, with which they wrought perfect works of art. The spirit of Albrecht Durer hovered for another century in their midst, and many a one showed himself worthy of following his footsteps.

Wenzel Jamitzer was the chief of all.

He was a scientific goldsmith, especially famed for his several inventions in mathematical instruments, and their use; he wrote several excellent treatises on the subject; he was also one of the most famous clock makers of his times, constructing several complicated movements, etc., and other works.

The great prodigality which had become customary among the nobles, and in different counts, with regard to personal ornamentation, since the day of the crusades, proclaimed the high self-estimation entertained both by knighthood and principedom, and which also passed over to the free, wealthy citizens of the country. "Gold was the word, gold was desired by all." The goldsmith had good customers, and his work was the representation of the period. At first he laid more stress on the solidity of his wares, while gradually, when the people became more refined, he also became more ambitious, stimulated by the growing culture and refined taste, of producing the most admirable masterpieces. Table service proclaimed the wealth of a family, together with gigantic beakers and drinking cups, and overload of ornamentation in attire, necklaces, rings, spangles; the knights were encased in gold and silver armors, beautifully engraved with the most delicate interlacings of arabesques, or inlaid with gold. This prodigality in dishes and personal ornaments was fully sustained by the sumptuousness in eating and drinking.

When Duke Charles the Bold, of Burgundy, in 1473, travelled to the diet at Trer, his suite consisted of 5,000 well armored and mounted men. He himself was dressed in a gold dress, studded with pearls, estimated at \$200,000. He invited the Emperor, Charles V., to St. Maximin, and Hans Sachs, the chronicler of the festivity, says that at the dinner entertainment, all the dishes were of silver, and the beakers and cups were resplendent with jewels and pearls. Four courses were served, the first of which consisted of fourteen, the second twelve, the third ten costly covers; for the fourth,

thirty gold vessels were served with spices and confectionery; the largest dish was estimated at about \$2,000.

Berlepsch says that Electro Moritz caused four hundred and fifty pounds of silver to be weighed out from his treasury, to be manufactured into dishes, intended for the marriage of his son, the future King August of Poland, with a Princess of Denmark.

King Sigismund of Poland and Sweden, in 1606, presented to his bride a dinner set of pure ducaat gold (22.8 karats); the cost of the manufacture alone of the basin with water can (for washing the hands after meals) was valued at \$8,000. The attire of the bridal pair represented a value of \$700,000; the king wore fine diamonds, estimated at \$1,000,000, in his diadem.

The citizens of Paris presented to Charles VI., and his young spouse, Isabella of Bavaria, golden dishes and vessels of a weight of 450 marks, and to the Duchess of Touraine a dinner set 200 marks in weight. So says Froissart.

Berlepsch relates the almost incredible story that toward the end of the 16th century, the prodigality in gold and silver vessels was so great in Spain, that a man called himself poor if he did not possess at least 800 dozen plates and 200 dishes of the noble metals. It is said that many households had as many as 1,200 dozen of heavy plates and 1,000 dishes. The treasures of the recently discovered America was assimilated in this manner in European luxury. According to the chronicles of Sevilla, the Spaniards brought 1,386,000,000 ounces of gold into Spain between the years 1519 and 1617.

Beside goldsmithing, also the working in tin attained its perfection in those wealthy times; a goldsmith, Jean Davet, of Langres, also called Danet, or the Master of the Unicorn, from his stamp, flourished as an engraver of tinware. But as an offset to the luxury of western Europe, all the art pursuits had retrogressed so far in England that the barons had not even tinware upon their tables, but drank out of wood or leather vessels, wherefore it was said in irony, that "the English got drunk out of their boot shafts."

The goldsmiths of western Europe, above all, the French, sought to commingle with this taste for luxury in dishes, an excessive indecency, and combined their productions with voluptuous repre-

sentations, especially their large drinking cups and goblets. Truly wonderful works of their lascivious taste could be found in the court circles of the middle ages. Only to give one instance, Philipp the Good, of Burgundy, caused a female statue of gold to be made, from whose breasts issued the wine at table, and a young girl of enameled gold, in nearly the posture of the Venus of the Capitol, a fountain of the purest wine, caught in a transparent vase, issued from under her modestly folded hands. Other show and drinking vessels were more ingenious and artistic. A bell figure, for instance, held a smaller beaker at a poise, revolving around its axis if it was tipped over to drink therefrom. Else it consisted of a female silver figure, richly enameled with lower dress seam, jacket and head-dress gilt; she held, raised above her head, the drinking cup. A similar beaker of Wurzburg prebendary contained hidden wheel, to be wound up with clock movement; the lady moved from place to place, when set upon the table.

Finally, the extreme was met. The Emperor and the country, the individual princes, knights, nobles and city governments, all resolved to counteract this senseless dissipation and luxury with strict laws. The nobles had generally become impoverished thereby, and they resolved in 1479, at the 28th great tournament held at Wurzburg, to adopt a sumptuary law, by which all gold ornament, both in attire and armor, was prohibited; neither the women were excepted. Charles V. issued a law in 1530, under heavy pains and punishments, with provision forbidding the country people for wearing any jewelry whatever; the citizen might wear a gold ring, without jewel, of the value of five or six florins (35 cents apiece)—and their wives, a girdle up to ten florins; merchants' wives one of 20 florins; their daughters and unmarried ladies, a head-dress, at 10 florins; rich city councilors and partisans could sport a ring of 50 florins; noblemen could adorn themselves with a chain of 200 florins, and real knights, up to 400. Counts and gentlemen might expend 500 florins therefor, and their spouse as much as 600. The goldsmiths also were prohibited from employing the noble metals uselessly for articles of ornamentation, nor could they sell valuable articles to persons of low degree.

Of course, these stringent laws fell