# Statuette - Columbina and Scaramouche

Ceramics and Glass Collection

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| **Accession Nr.:** | 5844 |
| **Artist/Maker:** | Kändler, Johann Joachim (1706 - 1775) / model |
| **Manufacturer:** | Meissen porcelain factory |
| **Place of production:** | Meissen |
| **Inscription:** | alján masszába nyomva: 45; máz alatt kékkel: keresztbe tett két kard |
| **Materials:** | porcelain |
| **Techniques:** | gilded; painted in polychrome overglaze; with cast and shaped parts |
| **Dimensions:** | height: 18 cm<br>base diameter: 8 x 6,5 cm |

The model maker Johann Joachim Kandler (1706–1775) started work in Meissen in 1731. During his long career he made several thousand models for the factory and created a new style in porcelain sculpture. His early works were Baroque figures with powerful, expressive gestures. In the mid-1740s, he developed the classic style of porcelain art, drawing on a wide range of subjects for his sculptures. The most popular were statue pairs, figures of gallants and ladies in splendid clothes, dressed for various court diversions and entertainments, in hunting clothes, dance costumes or – as in the fashionable role play – peasants' attire. For many of his works, he chose well-known figures from French opera or love scenes from Italian Commedia dell'Arte. Columbina and Scaramouche are two servant figures from Italian folk tales. This piece captures the flirtation of the plump, alluring "little dove" Columbina and the crafty servant Scaramouche. The lovers are turning towards each other, Scaramouche gently, teasingly placing his arm on Columbina's shoulder. The girl holds in her hand a cage containing a bird, a reference – in the popular symbology of the time – to the girl's virginity, the door of the cage being closed. In several of the museum's publications, the sculpture bore the name Columbina and Braghella. Braghella and Scaramouche are manifestations of the same character – the lazy, constantly hungry, and very crafty servant, always getting the better of his master – but Braghella was usually portrayed in white clothes and Scaramouche in black.

## Literature


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- Layer Károly: *Országos Magyar Iparművészeti Múzeum. Vezető a múzeum gyűjteményeiben. Porcellánplasztika*. Athenaeum Kiadó, Budapest, 1933. - 7.
- *Sammlung des Königl. ungar. Hofrats Gustav von Gerhardt, Budapest. Versteigerung. I. Kunstgewerbe*. Rudolph Lepke's Kunst-Auctions-Haus, Berlin, 1911. - Nr. 81.


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