Games set - chess, draughts and so caleed hammer and bell game

Furniture Collection

Accession Nr.:	10476
Artist/Maker:	Klinger, Johann Georg
Date of production:	ca. 1810
Place of production:	Nuremberg (presumably)
Materials:	boxwood; mahogany; maplewood veneer
Dimensions:	length: 23 cm width: 11,5 cm height: 3 cm

Like with games sets of today, the box of the set serves as the board, equipped with separate compartments for the figures: the light and dark chess figures are on the two sides, while the dies of the draughts are in the middle. The compartments are placed on a tray, which can be taken out by two gilt serpent handles. Two thin wooden plates fix the five ink-painted plates of the hammer and bell game to the bottom of the box. The pictures of the ink-painted plates are: a putto hammering on an anvil, a putto with a bell, a palace with tympanum and columns, a putto leading a horse among clouds, and a putto hammering a bell. When the plates are taken off, a name appears, written in ink on the bottom of the box: Joh. Georg Klinger. The other side of the box stores the dice box of black leather, in two pockets of green silk. The box, quite ingeniously, can be assembled with two copper rings. The case is covered with red leather the border is lined with gilt, connected by arches. The name - Klinger - was supposed to be a maker's mark however, due to lack of further data, it has not been decided whether it refers to the maker or the owner. The hammer and bell game, invented in the first years of the 19th century proves the modernity of the set. The game of German origin was fairly popular in Hungary as well. As the famous 19th century Hungarian novelist, Mor Jokai said: “It is a nice game because it can be played by as many people as ten squeezed between the window and the fireplace.”

Literature

- Szerk.: Péter Márta: *A klasszicizmustól a biedermeierig. Az európai iparművészet stíluskorszakai*. Iparművészeti Múzeum, Budapest, 1990. - Nr. 2.67. (Maros Donka Szilvia)
- Maros Donka Szilvia: *Táblajátékok*. Iparművészeti Múzeum, Budapest, 1982. - Nr. 18.

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