Architectural ceramics - Facade ornament, with tendrils and flowers

Ceramics and Glass Collection

Accession Nr.:	80.203.1-12
Artist/Maker:	Buch, János / designer
Manufacturer:	Zsolnay factory (Pécs)
Place of production:	Pécs
Inscription:	hátlapján masszába nyomva: ZSOLNAY, felette öttorony közös keretben, 4038 A (építészeti „terracotta” formaszám)
Materials:	pyrogranite
Techniques:	handpressed in an impressed mould; painted with polychrome glazes
Dimensions:	height: 5 cm length: 41 cm width: 25 cm

The rectangular tiles are decorated on the front with highly protruding pattern against a plain, turquoise base: a thick zinnia flower heads among a dynamically curving, coiling, split ribbon motif. The blossoms are grouped in three triple and two double bunches. The green colour of the ribbons and the red petals created a shaded effect over the relief base, due to the transparent glazes. As far as it could be defined from the pollution, these elements were built in vertically on the front of a building, six elements in a row under each other, as a border decoration on the sides. It was listed under No. 4038 in the Zsolnay "Terracotta" book 14, in 1:5 measurements. It can be identified with drawing A. Drawing B, according to the remark, were the corner elements, placed above the curved window decorations marked with C. The coded price was given for meters, which means that these tiles were produced in large quantities, transported to Budapest ("frco Bpest, elhelyezés nélkül". The subject of the architectural work was "BERTOK MIHÁLY ÉPÍTKEZÉSE / Bpest. Ferencz tér 4 sz. műépítő Buch" (the construction of Mihály Bertók, lead by arch. Buch), the date was "1911.VII.4.". There is no remark in the book as to any reorders. The place where the elements were used has not been identified yet. There is a square tile of similar pattern in the courtyard of the building at 4. Ferenc tér, in the 9th district (see Terracotta book 14, No. 4048, Bertók Mihály építkezése / 1911 VI.2.), but the outer decoration of the house is different. A variant of smaller elements and different colouring can be seen on the front of the building at 19 Villányi út, in the 11th district of Budapest, mentioned under No. 3839 in Terracotta book 14 as "1910 VII.2. Buch János műépítész / Feith József villa építkezés I. ker. Villányi u. 13. sz.".

Literature

- Balla Gabriella, Kida Takuya: *Japonism and art nouveau*. Art Impression Inc., Tokio, 2020. - Nr. 146.
- Szerk.: Csenkey Éva, Gálos Miklós: *Tiffany & Gallé e i maestri dell'art nouveau nella collezione del Museo di Arti Applicate di Budapest*. Iparművészeti Múzeum, Budapest, 2013. - Nr. 5.4.
- Szerk.: Szilágyi András, Horányi Éva: *Szecesszió. A 20. század hajnala. (Az európai iparművészet korszakai.)*. Iparművészeti Múzeum, Budapest, 1996. - Nr. 9.118 (Csenkey Éva)

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