

# Exclusive Figurative Forms of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Orfevrerie from Sibiu: the Wedding Maiden Goblets of Master Melchior Hermann

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**Abstract:** *While the type of beakers with a cylindrical base (the socle beaker / “Sockelbecher”) became widely popular in Transylvania during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and therefore arbitrarily called “Transylvanian beakers” (because they were less expensive than other drinking vessels – like chalices, goblets or tankards –, still allowing a rich ornamentation by offering to goldsmiths the opportunity to express their fantasy in the use of floral and animal motifs or sophisticated volutes and arabesques, in accordance with the commissioners’ taste and financial possibilities), the drinking vessels with figurative shapes are testimony to the exquisite skill some goldsmiths could access, unmatched by an ordinary master. The two maiden / virgin goblets / wager cups (“Jungfernbecher”) made by the goldsmith master from Sibiu Melchior Hermann alias Stuckart in the third quarter of the 17<sup>th</sup> century are the only ones of this kind known to be made in Romania and both are in the National Brukenthal Museum.*

**Keywords:** *“Jungfernbecher”, maiden goblets, double wedding cups, wager cups, goldsmith, Melchior Hermann*

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