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REDIGIRT
VON
ALFRED VON SALLET.

ZEHNTER BAND.

BERLIN
WEIDMANNSCHE BUCHHANDLUNG.
1883.

Medal of the Rappold family by Tobias Wolff.

(Plate IV.)

Being the possessor of an important and perhaps unique medal of German workmanship, I have been requested to publish it through the medium of the Numismatic Chronicle of Berlin. The piece represents a whole family of four persons, that is to say, a father, mother, and two children, the latter being of the ages of 6 and 1½. According to an account given in Joecher's 'Gelehrten-Lexicon', Daniel Rappold the father was born at Freiburg (in Silesia?) in 1532, became a councillor of the Prince Bishop of Breslau, and was at one time Syndic of the City of Breslau. He also figures as an author, having written a treatise styled „Historia de illustrissimo Silesiae ducatu“, printed in „Scriptores rerum Silesiarum by v. Sommersberg. He died in 1588. In this medal which bears the date 1574 he is described as of the age of 41, his wife Anna Wincklerin, being ten years younger.

Although no signature can be traced on the medal, it is considered by Dr. A. v. Sallet and Dr. Erman to be the undoubted work of Tobias Wolff, the distinguished goldsmith of Breslau, who left that city for Dresden, at the bidding of the Elector Augustus of Saxony, in the very year in which this particular medal was executed. As Professor v. Sallet has so recently made a special

study of the works of this artist, his decided judgment alone is sufficient authority for the authorship of the piece, but it may be well to draw attention to such points of evidence as the formation of some of the letters in the legend, particularly of the double ω , and the striking similarity of style between the portrait of the mother and that of Victoria Heidenreich (see Taf. III of Part. 2. of the 3. Vol. of the Zeitschrift). The medal is no doubt of exceptional size, measuring nearly 62 *mm*, but the need of space for four portraits is enough to account for this. The relief is low, as in the case of Wolff's signed works, and the general treatment corresponds with his style in all particulars. The medal is of silver gilt and has a ring for suspension at each extremity in addition to the twisted rim. It is said that Wolff was not, as so many of the Italian medallists were, a painter as well as a goldsmith, but the medal is decidedly of a pictorial rather than a sculpturesque character, both as regards the obverse and the reverse. Its excellent preservation is probably owing to the two rings which prevent any rubbing of the surface.

The execution, no less than the composition, is very remarkable: the rich costumes, the fur, the hair, the chains, the jewels, and even the child's doll, being elaborated with a rare perfection of skill, while the portraits are represented with marvellous truth of nature. The work is at veritabe chef d'oeuvre of a medallist of the first order. I am not aware of the existence of a second specimen, but a copy of the obverse in lead may be seen in the Germanic Museum at Nürnberg.

T. Whitcombe Greene.