



Peter Mühlbauer



A small German silver mounted Ebony Table Cabinet

Workshop of **Matthias Wal(l)baum** (1554-1632)

Augsburg, c. 1615/20

Ebony, silver appliques with gilded Cherubim

Hidden compartments with spring mechanism

This cabinet, which can be viewed from all sides, is one of the most exquisite pieces of German furniture, for which Augsburg was particularly famous in European courts in the 16th century.

Designed to store small treasures of an art chamber, the cabinet shows the full splendor of Augsburg: the opulent silver decoration is an expression of the wealth gained from ore mining and the prime of goldsmithing, while the ebony symbolizes overseas trade, which was of great importance to the city of the Fuggers.

This cabinet is the result of a collaboration that transcended guild boundaries, bringing together cabinetmakers, goldsmiths, and commercial art agents.

A small travel pharmacy with almost identical silver appliques is in the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg (inv. no. ER07516).

Prov.: Private collection, UK