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## **Courtly Pleasures**

## **Table Decorations as a Reflection of Baroque Society**

## **Gun-Dagmar Helke**

## Hela Schandelmaier

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- Showcases beautiful table decorations from a southwest German collection
- Exquisite porcelain decorations highlight Baroque-era artistry and elegance
- The publication shows how these table decorations completed interiors as cohesive works of art

Scenes of gardens and of love, idyllic hunting parties, picturesque farms, and lifelike animal figurines in porcelain were popular motifs in table decoration from the Baroque to the beginning of the 19th century. These 'worlds in miniature' were intended to initiate conversation among the table guests – and of course attest to the discerning taste of the hosts. The decorative pieces were, for all intents and purposes, part of the furnishing scheme and finished off the room's interior as a total work of art down to the last detail. Central to this was the artisanal sophistication and the perfect mastery of the latest techniques, which breathed new life into the miniatures.

Following on from *Courtly Companions: Pugs and Other Dogs in Porcelain and Faience*, now *Courtly Pleasures* presents the most beautiful table decorations produced by a variety of manufacturers, all from the abundant treasures of a southwest German private collection.

Text in English and German.