

## *L. Jarosinski & J. Vaugoin*

### *A Viennese silver firm with a long tradition*

By Ingrid Haslinger

**J**arosinski & Vaugoin is a manufacturer of silver articles in Vienna which looks back on a long tradition. The firm was founded by Carl Vaugoin (1822-1904) in 1847. (Fig. 1) An ancestor of the Vaugoin family came to Austria during the Napoleonic Wars and decided to stay in Vienna.



The new firm gradually became known



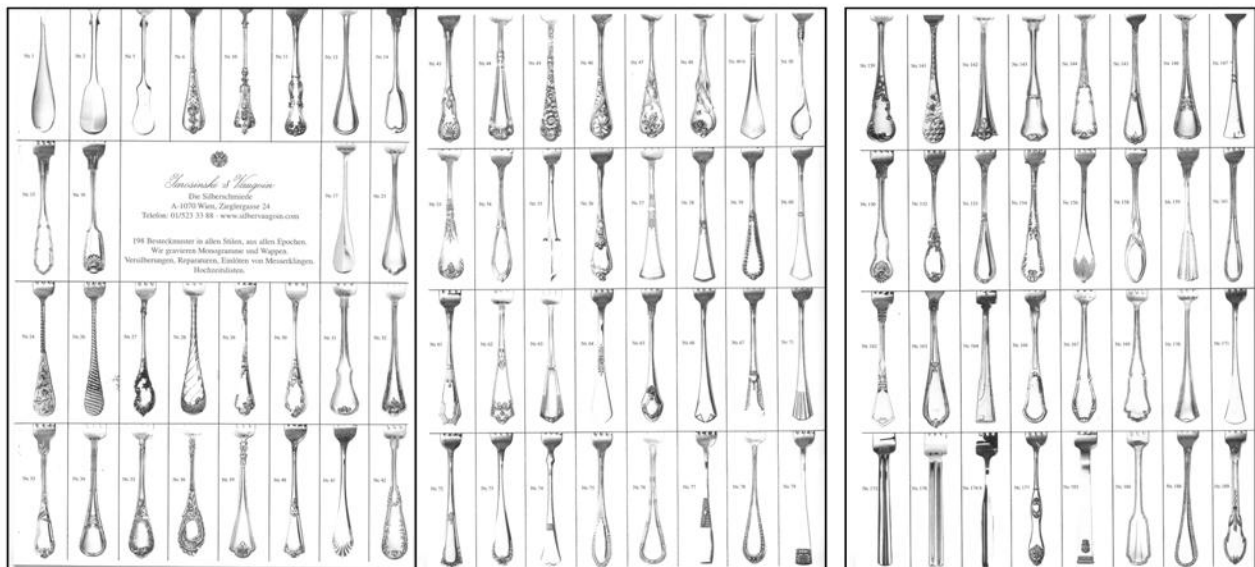
for heavy hand-forged tableware and won members of Vienna's nobility and bourgeoisie as customers. The firm received several awards for its products at the World Trade Fair organised in Vienna in 1873.

Carl's son, Jean Vaugoin (1860-1914), merged his firm with that of Ladislaus Jarosinski, a silversmith who specialised in the production of high-quality flatware. In 1908, the firm moved to Zieglergasse 24 in Vienna's seventh district, where the firm continues to conduct business. Their premises are located in a carefully renovated Biedermeier house. (Fig.2)

Ladislaus Jarosinski seems to have left the firm soon afterwards. The only old design books that have been preserved

in the firm of Jarosinski & Vaugoin date from the years 1902 to 1905. When Jean Vaugoin died in 1914, his son Karl (1900-1967) was only fourteen years old. Unfortunately, it is not known who was responsible for the firm until Karl entered the business in 1919. Maybe his mother managed it as a *widow's enterprise* – an arrangement quite common in Vienna at that time. Anyway, Jarosinski & Vaugoin were able to survive the difficult years of the First World War and the inter-war period.

When Karl Vaugoin joined the firm, it was purveyor to the Royal Romanian Court and looked back on successful cooperation with Wiener Werkstätte artists. At that time, in the years following the First World War, it was thought that many households would no



longer be able to afford valuable tableware as many people were forced to reduce their expenses in the face of economic difficulties.

However, despite the difficult economic environment in the inter-war period, Jarosinski & Vaugoin were able to retain their customers. The firm offered silver articles which were a *must* in upper-class households at the time: table centrepieces, ash-trays, bracelets (which were also made for Tiffany's), meat dishes, bread baskets, *bouillon* cups with saucers, sweets baskets and stands, butter plates, beakers, cups, punch bowls, crumb brushes and trays, porridge dishes (for babies), utensils for American Bars, cream dishes, grapefruit services, dessert plates, egg services, ice pails, fish dishes, bottles, corks, finger bowls, vegetable casseroles, hors d'œuvre dishes and stands, *jour* dishes and services, flower plates, parmesan cheese containers, coffee services, caviar coolers, oil and vinegar cruet frames, children's services (consisting of a small set of flatware, a beaker and a plate), cheese dishes, cookie containers, silverware for churches, chandeliers, liqueur services, cake dishes, mocha services, smoking sets, picture frames,

sauce boats, trays, tea kettles, salt cellars, napkin racks, sandwich dishes, mustard pots, sardine containers, asparagus dishes, soup tureens, tea strainers, toilet sets, grape washers, tea caddies, sugar bowls and casters, toothpick stands, flower vases, rings, bridge sets, etc.

These articles appealed to members of the upper class and the nobility. Wealthy ladies had their *jours*<sup>2</sup> well into the 1930s. For these afternoon parties they needed *jour* services (sandwich and cake dishes, creamers, lemon juice jugs, sugar bowls and rum bottles – mostly tea was served on such occasions, Fig. 3), chandeliers



Fig. 3

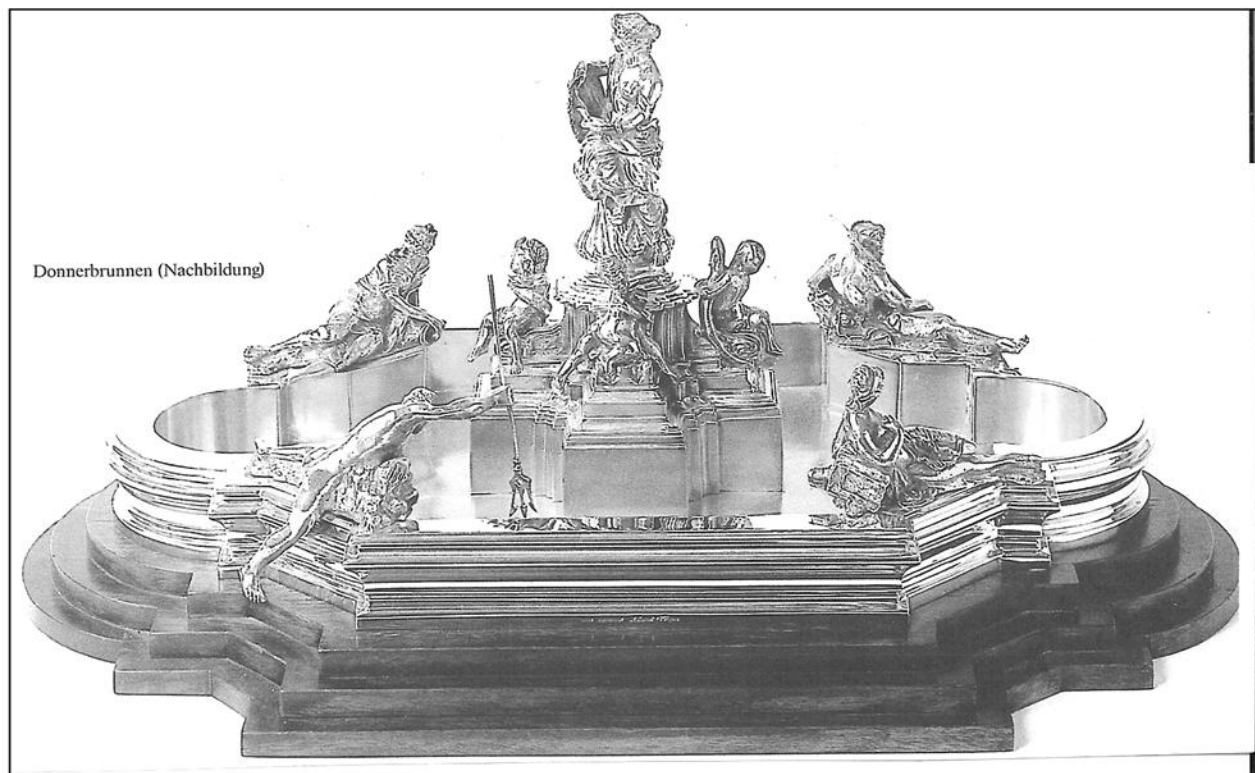
flatware, servers and bread baskets.

Like many of the old Austrian silversmiths, Jarosinski & Vaugoin had a design studio of its own. Many designs for pieces of tableware were made by artists in the firm's studio and have survived. Unfortunately, the names of most of the designers are not known. In the inter-war period the firm exhibited its products at international trade fairs and won various awards.

In the years after the Second World War, Jarosinski & Vaugoin received orders from Austrian Federal Ministries and for Austrian embassies. From 1948

the firm supplied silver articles to the Austrian embassies in Mexico, Madrid, Moscow, Munich, Canberra, Den Haag, Djakarta, Geneva, Düsseldorf, Oslo, Paris, Pretoria, Prague, Tehran, Tokyo, and other cities.

In 1954, the Republic of Austria commissioned Jarosinski & Vaugoin to make a small reproduction of Raphael Donner's fountain in Neuer Markt in the city centre of Vienna. (Fig. 4) The reproduction was given to the Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov as a present after the signing of the Austrian State Treaty in 1955. Another replica of the fountain was made in 2004. Jarosinski &





Vaugoin also made replicas of the famous *saliera* by Benvenuto Cellini. A reproduction of this famous work of art was given to Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her state visit in Vienna in 1969. Another reproduction of the *saliera* was presented to the Mayor of Vienna. The original *saliera* was stolen from Vienna's Kunsthistorisches Museum in 2003 and did not return to the museum until 2006. Jarosinski & Vaugoin still make small reproductions of this masterpiece for interested collectors.



Fig. 5 and 6:  
Reproduction silver, the famous Saliera and a typical Kunst-kammer item

Hans Vaugoin (1939-2003) took over the firm after the death of his father in 1967. Today the business is run by Hans Vaugoin's son Jean-Paul. The firm makes flatware in some 200 different patterns, of which about forty were designed by *Jugendstil* artists. The flatware is still hand-forged. Jarosinski & Vaugoin currently offers a range of about 150 pieces (forks, knives, spoons, serving utensils, cutlery for special dishes) for various flatware services. Jarosinski & Vaugoin cooperates with a glass firm which supplies fitting liners for a variety of articles.

In 2007 Jarosinski & Vaugoin celebrated its 160. anniversary—with the energetic management of Jean-Paul Vaugoin a further success for this firm seems to be guaranteed.

Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup>In Austria, the years from the end of the Congress of Vienna (1815) to the outbreak of the revolution in 1848 are referred to as the *Biedermeier* period. In response to Metternich's conservative policy and censorship system, people withdrew to their homes to lead apolitical, comfortable lives. They indulged in afternoon coffee parties, played music together, went to *Heurigen* wine taverns and made picnics in the Vienna Woods.

<sup>2</sup>*Jour* was a day of the week on which upper-class ladies invited friends and acquaintances to have tea.

Many thanks to Jean-Paul Vaugoin for supplying beautiful photo material. For more information on the product line of this firm, please see the website of Jarosinski & Vaugoin:  
[www.vaugoin.com](http://www.vaugoin.com)



Some of the many contemporary designs now offered by Jarosinski & Vaugoin.

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