



T O B I A S



S C H W A B

Medaillen

Medals

is distinguished by its clarity and the architectural severity and simple objectivity of its form. One is astonished at the balanced accuracy of proportion, betraying the sure and powerful hand of the artist, who scarcely ever makes experiments. In conformity with the best tradition of handicraft, he never deserts the domain in which he has a perfect command of his tools. In none of his work do we find him attempting to achieve a striking effect by cheap means or the exaggerations common in poster work, for this would not be in accordance with his serious, almost stern devotion to his aim.

The nature of his talent shows him to be particularly well adapted for the designing of official black and white work and as a matter of fact, Schwab has been frequently called upon by the Reichskunstwart, the National Custos of Art, to design insignia of state and official documents. These things demand strictest objectivity, and must be incisive without being intrusive. Much of his work in this domain is a pattern of how such things should be done. The peculiar nature of the task and the necessity of conforming to all kinds of objective conditions subjected him to a stern discipline. We would call attention to the admirable lettering on the President's bronze eagle shield (pages 5 and 15), but especially to the national arms (pages 2, 8 and 18), which in the decision with which the heraldic form is characterised breathe forth an atmosphere of completeness and quietude which cause them to appear as final solutions of the problem.

