

# Collection Josef Rieks



## Backe, backe Kuchen or a Collector's Life Story

Cake makes people happy or creates the basis for a happy and fulfilled life. At least with Josef Rieks, as he was born into a renowned confectioner's family. He was born in 1923 in Lünen. His childhood and youth were marked by the turmoils of the Great Depression, the horrors of the Nazi dictatorship and the Second World War. As a young man he experienced the war first-hand as a fighter on the Western Front. It was happiness in disguise when he was injured in combat and had to spend the rest of the war in a military hospital in Czechoslovakia.

After the war he trained to become a baker and confectioner in order to be able to continue his family's tradition. In the 1950s he took over his parents' business in Lünen. He modernised the business and built a new house to live and work in. The confectionery quickly became one of the most renowned companies in the region and the name Josef Rieks represented the finest bakery products. Due to this success, a branch was opened soon.

Rieks had been interested in art since earliest childhood. In his limited spare time he often visited the museums and castles of Westphalia and the Münsterland. This was the beginning of a great love for sacred art. His most important address on this topic was the nearby Museum Schloss Cappenberg. There he met the legendary

Rolf Fritz, who was director of the museum at that time. A friendship quickly developed between the two of them and the art historian, known far beyond Westphalia, also encouraged him in building up his own collection. Rieks did this with enthusiasm. In the 1960s and 1970s he assembled an important collection of sacred art. Rolf Fritz advised him on the development of the collection.

1982 Josef Rieks not only decided to sell his business, but also considered the thought of parting with his collection to start a new one. This time with the focus on European handicraft of the 18th century and Classical Modern visual arts. Thus, he sold his sacral treasures very successfully. Now as a private man he finally had enough time and leisure for his beloved "hobby" and he devoted himself to this with great passion. He was always a welcome guest at the TEFAF and the Cologne Fine Art & Antiques. And he repeatedly visited renowned art dealers such as Erwin Gierhards, Michael Nolte and Heinz Reichert with enthusiasm. In the following years he succeeded in assembling a collection of extremely high-quality pieces of French furniture, gilt bronze statues, Delftware Wonderware and Chinese porcelain. But he also collected art of the Classical Modern Age, for example works by Othon Friesz and Gerhard Marcks.

The precious pieces found a worthy spot in his newly built house in Selm, where they were combined affectionately and showcased accordingly by the landlord. He enjoyed the exhibits of his collection on a daily basis into old age. Josef Rieks died in February this year at the blessed age of 95.

Christoph Bouillon

約瑟夫·李克斯1923年生於德國西北部呂嫩市的糕點世家，少年時經歷經濟大蕭條和納粹獨裁，並作為士兵經歷了第二次世界大戰。戰後他學習糕點製作手藝，1950年代繼承家業並發揚光大，在當地赫赫有名。李克斯先生自少年起就熱衷於藝術，尤其是教堂藝術，並在卡蓬貝格宮博物館館長兼好友沃爾夫·弗里茨先生的引導下開始建立自己的收藏。1982年他決定出售企業和二十多年來收集的教堂藝術藏品，開始涉足18世紀歐洲藝術品以及古典現代主義藝術，投入更多的時間、精力和熱情發展他對藝術的愛好。他是TEFAF等古董展以及知名古董商的常客，專注於收集高品質的法式家具、鍍金銅像、代爾夫特瓷以及中國瓷器。2019年2月李克斯先生以95歲高齡去世，範漢姆拍賣公司首次將他的藏品進行公開拍賣，以下的2017和2018號兩組拍品即為他的私人珍藏品。