


Universität Hamburg, Ordinariat für Holzbiologie  
Leuschnerstraße 91, 21031 Hamburg

---

The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
1000 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10028-0198

USA

Postadresse: 21027 Hamburg

 (040) 73962 - 0  
(040) 7252 - 2270

Telefax: (040) 7252 - 2835

e-mail: [pklein@aixh0401.holz.uni-hamburg.de](mailto:pklein@aixh0401.holz.uni-hamburg.de)

Datum und Zeichen Ihres Schreibens

Aktenzeichen (bei Antwort bitte angeben)

Datum

KI/Pe

12 May 1997

Report on the dendrochronological analysis of the panel „Venus and Cupid the Honey Thief“  
(Lucas Cranach the Elder, Inv.-No. 1975.1.135)

---

The oak panel (36.4 x 25.3 cm) contains 125 growth rings. The wood concerned is originating from Southern Germany. Using this master chronology the rings could be dated between the years 1561 and 1437.

The youngest heartwood ring was formed out in the year 1561.

Regarding the sapwood statistic of Western Europe an earliest felling date can be derived for the year 1568, more plausible is a felling date between 1574....1578.....1584 + x. With a minimum of 2 years for seasoning an earliest creation of the painting is possible from 1570 upwards. Under the assumption of a median of 17 sapwood rings and a minimum of 2 years for seasoning a creation is plausible from 1580 upwards.

Dr. Peter Klein