



Universität Hamburg

UHH • ORDINARIAT FÜR HOLZBIOLOGIE • LEUSCHNERSTRASSE 91 • 21031 HAMBURG

Fachbereich
Biologie



The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
4525 Oak Street

Kansas City

Missouri 64111

Ordinariat für Holzbiologie

Prof. Dr. P. Klein

Tel.: +49 40 739 62 - 424

Fax: +49 40 42891 - 2835

E-Mail: pklein@holz.uni-hamburg.de

Datum und Zeichen Ihres Schreibens

Aktenzeichen (bei Antwort bitte angeben)

Datum

KI/hö

23.05.2003

Report on the dendrochronological analysis of the panel "Portrait of a Man" (L. Cranach, Inv.-Nr. 31-112)

The analysed panel (50,0 x 35,7 cm) is made of three beechwood boards.
Using the master chronology of beechwood following datings could be obtained:

board I	79	growth rings	1529 – 1451
board II	43	growth rings	1451 – 1409
board III	106	growth rings	1531 - 1426

The three boards are made of the same tree as the following boards of the paintings

"Duke John Ernst of Saxony" (Berlin, Inv.-Nr. II 55), I, II

"Martin Luther" (Berlin, Inv.-Nr. 617)

„Philipp Melanchthon" (Berlin, Inv.-Nr. 619)

„The Ill-matched" (Berlin, Inv.-Nr. 1606)

„Lucretia" (Berlin, Inv. Nr. 1832),

„Martin Luther" (Donaueschingen, Inv.-Nr. 727)

„Kurfürsten von Sachsen" (Hamburg, Inv.-Nr. 606), left wing, right wing I, II

"Eve" (Chicago, Inv. Nr. 1935.295) I, II

"The Parting of the Apostles" (Stockholm, Inv. 254), II, III

"Christ Crowned with Thorns" (Bremen, Inv. Nr. B56) I, II

"Frederick the Wise" (New York, Inv. Nr. 46.179)

The youngest ring was formed out in the year 1531.

For the manufacturing of beechwood panels normally only the bark was removed and the entire tree was used. Therefore an earliest felling date can be derived for the year 1531. With a minimum of 1 year for seasoning an earliest creation of the painting is possible from 1532 upwards.

Prof. Dr. Peter Klein