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Report on the dendrochronological analysis of the panel "Hercules at Spinning Wheel" (L. Cranach, Inv.-Nr. 727)

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The analysed panel (82,9 x 117,5 cm) is made of four beech wood boards. Using the master chronology of beech wood following dating could be obtained:

board I	34	growth rings	No dating
board II	92	growth rings	1530 – 1439
board III	75	growth rings	No dating
board IV	45	growth rings	1530 - 1486

The youngest ring was formed out in the year 1530.

The board II and IV are made from the same tree.

For the manufacturing of beech wood panels normally only the bark was removed and the entire tree was used. Therefore an earliest felling date can be derived for the year 1530. With a minimum of 1 year for seasoning an earliest creation of the painting is possible from 1531 upwards.

Prof. Dr. Peter Klein