The Cleveland Museum of Art
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United States

Report on the dendrochronological analysis of the panel „The Baptism of Christ“ (Lucas Cranach, Inv.-No. 53.143)

The beechwood panel (15.2 x 20.3 cm) contains 115 growth rings. Using the dendrochronology the rings could be dated between the years 1544 and 1430.

The youngest growth-ring was formed out in the year 1544.

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 1544. With a minimum of 2 years for seasoning an earliest creation of the painting is possible from 1546 upwards.

Dr. Peter Klein