Report on the dendrochronological analysis of the panel „Samson and Delilah“ (L. Cranach, Inv.-No. 1976.201.11)

The analysed panel (57,0 x 37,50 cm) is made of two beech (Fagus sp.) boards. Using the Cranach master chronology following datings could be obtained:

- board I: 86 growth rings, 1524 - 1439
- board II: 75 growth rings, no dating

The youngest heartwood ring was formed out in the year 1524.

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 1524. With a minimum of 1 year for seasoning an earliest creation of the painting is possible from 1525 upwards.

Prof. Dr. Peter Klein