

K0406 - Scientific analysis report, 1988

National Gallery of Art
Science Department

June 7, 1988

Analysis Report

Bellini, Giovanni
Saint Jerome Reading
1939.1.217
Kress Collection

Analysis of the wood used to construct panel 1939.1.217 was requested in order to provide additional information about the artist's materials and methods. The wood identification data is to be incorporated into the NGA Systematic Catalog.

The panel was sampled on the reverse surface along the upper left edge. A small sliver of wood was removed using a rounded scalpel. Subsequent to softening in boiling water, the sample was cut in the transverse, radial, and tangential planes using a razor. The thin slices of wood were temporarily mounted in water on a slide and observed via light microscopy. The identification finding is as follows:

Botanical ¹	Vernacular
<i>Tilia</i> sp.	Linden or Basswood

In conclusion, one typically expects poplar (*Populus* sp.) to be used for constructing Italian panels. Peter Klein, University of Hamburg, states (personal communication), however, that continued investigations into Italian panels have revealed a greater diversity of woods than previously indicated. Members of *Tilia* are distributed throughout the Northern Hemisphere, and would, therefore, have certainly been available for use by the artist.

Date: June 10, 1988 Michael S. Palmer
Michael S. Palmer
Conservation Scientist

Date: 16 June 1988 Stephen H. Bertie
Stephen H. Bertie
Acting Head of Science Department

¹ When the exact species within the genus is unknown a specific author is not given. Instead, the genus is followed by the abbreviation for species, sp.

IDENTIFIER

DOC14635

ARCHIVAL ITEM TYPE

Conservation Report

CREATOR

National Gallery of Art, Washington, District of Columbia

DATE

1988

CITATION

National Gallery of Art, Painting Conservation Department Records

1 RELATED ART OBJECT



K406

Giovanni Bellini

Saint Jerome Reading

National Gallery of Art, Washington, District of Columbia

RECORD LINK

KRESS COLLECTION DIGITAL ARCHIVE

<https://kress.nga.gov/Detail/archival/DOC14635>