

SOUTHERN NETHERLANDISH, 15TH CENTURY
SAINT PETER

oak

marked with three bars to the underside

47cm., 18½in.

Provenance:

Gazan Collection, Dilbeek, Belgium;

Hendrickx-Jacobs collection, Belgium

Note:

This sculpture of Saint Peter can be compared to the slightly earlier sculptures of Peter and Paul of Heers by the eponymous Master. The face bears similarities to that of a seated Saint Peter in the Victoria and Albert Museum (Steyaert, op. cit., no. 67a-b), see cat. 36, attributed to the Meuse region, more precisely to Liège.

The figure would probably have been part of a large altarpiece showing all the apostles. The narrow, ball-shaped forked beard on the inclined head can be found in figures of St. Christopher of Mechelen (see, for example, Sotheby's New York, February 29, 1987, lot 26). The hair is arranged in spherical balls and the beard in a "c," a hook, or a fang. The drapery falls downward in wide, U-shaped folds. The nose is broken, and the eyes are half-closed.

This work can therefore be compared not only with a figure of St. Peter in the Victoria and Albert Museum, but also with the figure of St. Peter in the choir of the Basilica of Halle and even with the figure of St. Peter in the altarpiece of the Beguinage of Tongeren.

Bibliography:

- J. Steyaert, *Late Gothic Sculpture: The Burgundian Netherlands*, exh. cat. Museum voor Schone Kunsten, Ghent, 1994, no. 67



Fig. Figure of Saint Peter, front view.



Fig. 2. Figure of Saint Peter, detail.