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The Face of Martin Luther

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Item Type	Article
Authors	Brunie, William
Publisher	Andrews University
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Download date	2026-07-06 22:10:15
Link to Item	http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/237602

THE FACE OF MARTIN LUTHER

WILLIAM H. BRUNIE
Glendale, California

Editor's Note: The fifteen portraits of Martin Luther shown in reduced size in the *Frontispiece* are herein presented in the larger scale in which these pictures were provided to us by William H. Brunie, and they also carry here his accompanying captions. Brunie is a practicing physician, with specialization in psychiatry; and he also teaches psychiatry to medical students. His home and offices are in Glendale, California. Martin Luther has been one of Brunie's special interests for many years, and in 1983 (during the Luther Quincentennial) he appeared on NBC Los Angeles television for an interview about the great sixteenth-century Reformer.

Author's Introductory Note: The fifteen portraits of Martin Luther which I here present have been selected from more than 200 paintings, engravings, woodcuts, and drawings of the Reformer. They picture his face at intervals from age 36 to 62—or from the earliest detailed pictorial likeness of him to a painting made shortly before his death in 1546.

Luther's contemporary, Martin Polich von Mellerstadt, Chancellor and one of the founders of the University of Wittenberg, described Luther vividly, in terms which have been paraphrased as follows by Hartmann Grisar: "His strange eyes, with their pensive gleam, ever ready to smile on a friend, and, in fact, his whole presence, made an impression upon all who were brought into close contact with him" (in English ed., *Luther*, 1 [St. Louis, Mo., 1913]:86).



1



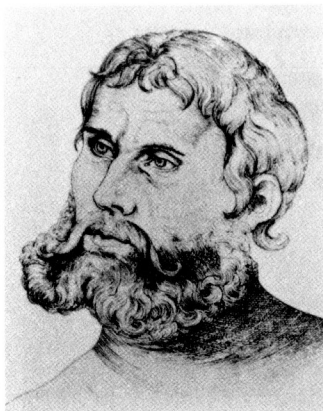
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3

1. Age 36. Copper engraving, the earliest detailed likeness of Luther*
2. Age 37. Woodcut by Daniel Hopper; a slightly modified mirror image of a Cranach engraving which sold by the thousands when Luther was in Worms for his historic confrontation with Emperor Charles V in April of 1521
3. Age 38. Painting made by Cranach during Luther's secret trip from the Wartburg to Wittenberg during December of 1521.

*Unless otherwise indicated, the portraits reproduced on this page and the following pages are by Lukas Cranach the Elder, a close and trusted friend of Martin Luther.



4



5



6

4. Age 38. Woodcut, probably made from the painting in no. 3
5. Age 41. Miniature wedding portrait, painted within a 10-cm. circle
6. Age 42. Painting after a year of marriage



7



8



9

7. Age 44. Copper engraving by Jakob Bink, probably made from the Cranach painting in no. 8; this photograph is mirror-imaged from a Bink print
8. Age 44. A painting which Cranach had his studio assistants copy many times; a more melancholy version now hangs in the Uffizi in Florence
9. Age 47. Miniature painting from the title-page of the University of Wittenberg students' registration book



10



11



12

10. Age 48. From a painting with Duke John Frederick as the central figure, and including Philip Melanchthon, Georg Spalatin, Chancellor Gregory Brück, six other men, and a cherub; the original is now in the Toledo, Ohio, Art Museum

11. Age 49. Drawing, now in a private collection

12. Age ca. 50. Woodcut by Hans Brosamer



13



14



15

13. Age ca. 58. Drawing by Reifenstein while Luther was lecturing

14. Age 59. From a miniature painting in Cranach's "Memory Album"

15. Age 62. Painting, shortly before Luther's death in 1546