

About the Cover

Marie Nau Hunter

Interim Director, Museum of Art and Archaeology
University of Missouri



Portrait of Martin Klostermair: Attributed to Hans Meilich (German, 1516-1573), *Portrait of Martin Klostermair*, 1561, oil on wood panel, Gilbreath-McLorn Museum Fund (2015.14)

Looking out at you from the cover of this issue of *Missouri Health*, is Martin Klostermair, a physician and humanist whose portrait was painted in 1561 by German artist Hans Meilich (attributed). The painting entered the Museum of Art and Archaeology's permanent collection in 2015 when it was purchased at auction from a lot of Old Master paintings.

The artist was known for his portraiture and was an accomplished manuscript illuminator in the mid-sixteenth century. Meilich likely first learned to paint from his father, later studying with accomplished artists, and spending time in Italy where he would have been exposed to the work of many, including Michaelangelo.

Meilich's portrait of Klostermair would have been a common commission for him to have undertaken. The composition is similarly very standard: a half-length portrait with the sitter positioned in a three-quarter pose to the viewer's right, his gaze outward. The pose is familiar to us all as it is how we sit to be photographed for school or work.

Museum records detail the inscriptions that are painted in yellow on either side of the sitter's head. At the left: 'Ao M D LXI / HM' serves as the artist's signature. And at the right: 'SIC OCVLOS DOCTOR MEDICO, / SIC ORA FEREBAM / VT PICTA HEC GRAPHICA / MONSTRAT IMAGO / MANV, / MK D AETATIS / Ao LX.' Our files also address the inscription on the cover of the book held by Klostermair that reads:

'APHORISMI. / HIPPOCRATIS' (at lower center). Klostermair's coat-of-arms is included at the upper right of the composition.

Translated from Latin, the lines read as follows: "Such are the eyes of the physician, such does the mouth appear, as here the artist shows, by his hand, the medicus aged 60". And the book: "Aphorisms of Hippocrates".

Records from Christie's auction house when the painting was purchased provide some insight on the subject:

Born in 1502, Martin Klostermair studied medicine at the University of Ingolstadt between 1528 and 1530, which had been founded by Louis the Rich, Duke of Bavaria, in 1472. He is recorded in Munich from 1547 until 1561 as one of three personal physicians during the reigns of William IV and Albert V, Dukes of Bavaria. Klostermair seems to have been in close contact with the humanists of his time and well-versed in Latin; in 1576 he published his *Chronographia partialis* and *Arithmologia* about the founding of Munich and other events of Bavarian history. The inscription underlines the faithful representation of the sitter's physiognomy.

While the *Portrait of Martin Klostermair* is not currently on view in our galleries, there are so many other beautiful, thought-provoking, and sometimes surprising works to see. Please take a study break and stop by the museum for some inspiration. In addition to hundreds of objects on display in our four galleries, we have a variety of free program opportunities: Drop in and Draw (we provide the materials so you can sketch), Clear Your Mind (mindfulness activities); and Midday Music (live music performed while you stroll our exhibitions). We do not charge admission to our events; visiting the museum is always free.

The museum is located in the heart of campus, in the lower east side of Ellis Library, with entrances off Hitt Street, Lowry Mall, and from within Ellis. It is just a short walk from the Mizzou Medical School and University and Children's Hospitals. Our regular weekday hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and noon to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Admission to the museum is always free.

Please ask for me at our visitors services desk if you come by. It would be my pleasure to welcome you to the museum, and to take you back into our storage to show you the *Portrait of Martin Klostermair*. Art is always best experienced in person.

We are grateful that *Missouri Health* editors continue to partner with the museum to provide cover images for this publication. It affords us the important opportunity to introduce new audiences to the museum.

For more information about the Museum of Art and Archaeology, including a calendar of events and a searchable database of the museum's permanent collection, visit maa.missouri.edu.