

p r o v e n a n c e  
r e s e a r c h  
case 1

Lyonel Feininger's Painting  
*Halle, am Trödel* from 1929

Lyonel Feininger (1871–1956)  
Halle, am Trödel, 1929  
Oil on canvas, 100 × 82 cm



© VG Bild-Kunst

In 1979 the state of Berlin purchased Lyonel Feininger's *Halle, am Trödel* (Halle, By the Flea Market) from the Galerie Nierendorf in Berlin and then transferred the painting to the Bauhaus-Archiv (inv. no. 3698 LB) as a long-term loan.

Reverse side of the canvas with indications of the work's provenance on its stretcher and frame



A number of the indications of the work's provenance, including this number on the reverse side, suggested it was necessary to examine the painting's origins and its path to its present location.

This corrected label represents an »EK« («entartete Kunst») number, which was assigned to it in August 1937 during the Nazi confiscation of what they called »degenerate art« at German museums. The »Law on the Confiscation of Products of Degenerate Art« from 31 May 1938 allowed works to be confiscated without compensation and to be turned over to the German state. The law remains in effect today.

# The 1<sup>st</sup> Lead

Halle						
Moritzburg Museum						
	Werk	Techn	Stand	Devis.	RM	
1.	Bötticher (7372)	Idylle	G B			
2.	Grosz (7406)	Abendliche Strasse	A Böhmer	V	4 ₤	
3.	Dix (7364)	Junges Paar	ÖL B			
4.	" (7404)	Straßendirne	A Dr. Gurlitt	V	10 Sfr.	
5.	Eberz (7367)	Sturmangriff	ÖL	X		
6.	Feininger (7350)	Marktkirche u. roter Turm in Halle	ÖL Böhmer	T		
7.	" (7351)	Marienkirche v. Südwesten	ÖL Böhmer	T		
8.	" (7352)	Marienkirche Seitenansicht				
9.	" (7353)	Marienkirche v. Osten				
10.	" (7354)	Roter Turm II	ÖL Böhmer	T		
11.	" (7355)	Dom Breitseite	ÖL Fischer	V	20 Sfr.	
12.	" (7356)	Dom Ostchor	ÖL Böhmer	V	50 ₤	
13.	" (7359)	Bühnengasse	ÖL Dr. Gurlitt	T		
14.	" (7362)	Am Trödel	ÖL Möller	T		
15.	" (7377)	Strasse in Halle	Böhmer	V	3 ₤	
16.	" (7378)	Roter Turm II	"	V	3 ₤	
17.	" (7379)	Dom III	"	V	2 ₤	
18.	" (7380)	Marktkirche u. roter Turm II	"	V	2 ₤	
19.	" (7381)	Marktkirche u. Roter Turm	Fohn	T		
20.	" (7382)	Häuser am Trödel III	Boehmer	V	2 ₤	
21.	" (7383)	Häuser am Trödel II Fassung	Böhmer	V	2 ₤	
22.	" (7384)	Häuser am Trödel I	Boehmer	V	3 ₤	
23.	" (7385)	Roter Turm III	"	V	3 ₤	
24.	" (7386)	Stadtkirche I	"	V	2 ₤	
25.	" (7387)	Dom I	G Fohn	T		
26.	" (7388)	Stadtkirche II	Boehmer	V	2 ₤	
27.	" (7389)	Dom IV	"	V	3 ₤	
28.	" (7390)	Halle II	"	V	2 ₤	
29.	" (7391)	Marktkirche in Halle II	"	V	2 ₤	
30.	" (7392)	Der rote Turm VI	"	V	2 ₤	
31.	" (7393)	Marienkirche in Halle, I	Böhmer	V	2 ₤	
32.	" (7394)	Dom, Halle IV, III Fassung	"	V	2 ₤	
33.	" (7395)	Dom, II, Querformat	"	T		
34.	" (7396)	Dom III	"	V	2 ₤	
35.	" (7397)	Marktkirche	"	V	2 ₤	
36.	" (7398)	Altes Hospital in Erfurt	"	T		
37.	" (7399)	Halle	"	V	3 ₤	

The EK number can be found on the Harry Fischer list, the most complete known inventory list from the »Degenerate Art« campaign. Today the list is to be found in the National Art Library of the Victoria & Albert Museum in London (call no. MSL/1996/7/1-2).

Halle						
Moritzburg Museum						
	Werk	Techn	Stand	Devis.	RM	
1.	Bötticher (7372) Idylle	G	B			
2.	Grosz (7406) Abendliche Strasse	A	Böhmer	V	4 %	
3.	Dix (7364) Junges Paar	ÖL	B			
4.	" (7404) Straßendirne	A	Dr. Gurlitt	V	10 Sfr.	
5.	Eberz (7367) Sturmangriff	ÖL		X		
6.	Feininger (7350) Marktkirche u. roter Turm in Halle	ÖL	Böhmer	T		
7.	" (7351) Marienkirche v. Südwesten	ÖL	Böhmer	T		
8.	" (7352) Marienkirche Seitenansicht					
9.	" (7353) Marienkirche v. Osten					
10.	" (7354) Roter Turm II	ÖL	Böhmer	T		
11.	" (7355) Dom Breitseite	ÖL	Fischer	V	20 Sfr.	
12.	" (7356) Dom Ostchor	ÖL	Böhmer	V	50 %	
13.	" (7359) Silbergasse	ÖL	Dr. Gurlitt	T		
14.	" (7362) Am Trödel	ÖL	Möller	T		
15.	" (7377) Straße in Halle		Böhmer	V	3 %	
16.	" (7378) Roter Turm II		"	V	3 %	

The Harry Fischer list informs us that, prior to its confiscation, Feininger's *Halle, am Trödel* was owned by the Museum auf der Moritzburg in Halle an der Saale. It is number 14 on the list of oil paintings and was marked with the letter »T« for »Tausch« (trade), because it was considered to have value on the international art market. The work was entrusted to the art dealer Ferdinand Möller for sale.



Ferdinand Möller (1882–1956) was one of the four art dealers commissioned to »monetise« the art denounced as »degenerate« and taken from German museums. Photo: Berlinische Galerie, Estate of Ferdinand Möller.

The painting's presence in Schönhausen Palace is documented prior to its being placed under the control of Ferdinand Möller. From August 1938 this palace in northern Berlin was used as a depot for those works of »degenerate art« considered to have financial value internationally. The palace was intended to offer an appropriate ambience for negotiations with foreign buyers.

Nr.	Künstler	Werk	Inv.Nr.	Bemerkungen
163	Feininger	Roter Turm 2	7354	31
164	"	Dom, Breitseite	7355	
165	"	" , Ostchor	7356	
166.	"	Bölbergasse	7359	
167	"	Am Trodel	7360	
168	"	Dorfkirche	7596	
169	"	Hafen	8934	
170	"	Segelpyramide	10923	
171	"	Dorfkirche	10929	
172	"	Reglerkirche	10930	
173	"	Gelmeroda	11249	
174	"	Klarissenkirche	11466	50 £ Fischer, Limit
175	"	Schiffsbild	13380	
176	"	Lüneburg 2	13685	
177	"	Grützturm	14148	
178	"	Teltow	15980	
179	"	Zirchow 6	16081	50 £ Fischer, Limit
180	"	Gelmeroda	16082	
181	"	Scheunenstrasse	16083	
182	"	Teltow	16084	
183	"	Marienkirche	16085	
184	"	"	16086	
185	"	Vollersroda	16087	
186	Gauguin	Aus Tahiti	15773	2000 £ Fischer, Limit
187	Gogh, van	Selbstbildnis	16554	7000 £ Fischer, Limit
188	Grosz, George	Porträt Mehring	4856	15 £ Fischer, Limit
189	"	Bildnis d. Mutter	7307	
190	"	Marseille	9679	
191	"	Bildnis Plietsch	13772	
192	"	Abenteurer	15973	
193	"	Der Boxer	16066	
194	"	Blick i.d. Grosstadt	16194	15 £ Fischer, Limit
195	"			

Schönhausen Palace inventory list from c.1939, Bundesarchiv, R55-21015, fol. 31

A b s c h r i f t  
Liste

der sich bei Herrn Ferdinand Möller-Berlin als Commissionsware be-  
findlichen Werke.

- 2 -

Lfd. Nr.	Künstler					
1.)	Kirchner	Gutsho				
2.)	Kirchner	Arte i				
3.)	"	Landsc	25.) Kirchner	Der Kranke u.d. Nacht	Hannover	16024 50 ♂
4.)	"	serfal	26.) "	Bildnis des Malers Schlammer	Essen	16025 30 ♂
5.)	"	Stille	27.) "	Kartenspielender Knabe	Halle	16028 40 ♂
6.)	"	Landsc	28.) "	Vater und Sohn	Halle	16039 50 ♂
7.)	"	Selbst	29.) "	Der Meister d.Brücke	Berlin Nat.Gal.	16040 200 ♂
8.)	"	Tannen	30.) "	Fünf Frauen	Essen	16041 120 ♂
9.)	"	Blick	31.) "	Russische Tänzerin	Breslau	16043 60 ♂
10.)	"	Stille	32.) "	Bahnhof in Aonigstein	Essen	16094 40 ♂
11.)	"	Ins Me	33.) "	Das Wohnzimmer	Lübeck	16192 70 ♂
12.)	"	Frau i	34.) "	Tänzerinnen	Berlin	16230 100 ♂
13.)	"	Staffe	35.) Schmidt-Rottluff	Figürl.Darstellung Mosaik	Hamburg	6013 70 ♂
14.)	"	Mondla	36.) "	Legende	Mosaik-Halle	15026 70 ♂
15.)	"	Knabe	37.) Heckel	Flandrische Ebene	Mün.Gladbach	1301 40 ♂
16.)	"	Wohnra	38.) Modersohn-Becker	Selbstbildnis	Lübeck	11475 100 ♂
17.)	"	Frau m	39.) "	Akt mit Hut	"	14241 80 ♂
18.)	"	Artist	40.) Feininger	Am Trödel	Halle	7362 50 ♂
19.)	"	Bootsk	41.) "	Gelmeroda	Weimar	11249 50 ♂
20.)	"	Wirkus	42.) "	Marienkirche	Halle	16086 50 ♂
21.)	"	Selbst	43.) Marcks	Mädchenfigur (Plastik)	Lübeck	11661 50 ♂
22.)	"	Die Ma				
23.)	"	Sich K				
24.)	"	Artist				
	"	Die Ga				
	"	Kunst				

This »List of works consigned for sale to Mr Ferdinand Möller, Berlin, and in his possession« (Berlinische Galerie, Estate of Ferdinand Möller, call no. BG - GFM - F, I, 40) also lists Feininger's *Halle, am Trödel* under number 40 and with the EK number 7362. The list is not dated, but it has to have been created after the list from the Schönhausen depot.

The list of consigned goods is the last trace of the painting among Ferdinand Möller's business documents.

# The 2<sup>nd</sup> Lead

HAUS DER KUNST MÜNCHEN

Ausstellung: „ENTARTETE KUNST“ 18.10.-16.12.1962

Name des Künstlers: FEININGER

Titel des Werkes: Am Trödel 1929

Leihgeber: Frau S. Hildebrand, München

Technik: Öl/wpd. Maße: 100x82 Kat.-Nr.:

Transp.-Firma: Transp.-Weg: Reg.-Nr.:

HAUS DER KUNST MÜNCHEN

Ausstellung: Lyonel Feininger

Name des Künstlers: Halle, am Trödel, 1929

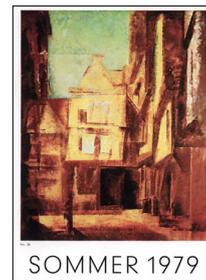
Titel des Werkes:

Leihgeber: Frau Senta Hildebrand, München

Technik: Öl Maße: 100x82 Kat.-Nr.: 128

Two exhibition labels on the reverse side of the canvas show that Senta Hildebrand, of Munich, was the owner of Feininger's painting from at least 1962 to 1973. She loaned it to the Haus der Kunst in Munich for the exhibition »Entartete Kunst: Bildersturm vor 25 Jahren« (Degenerate Art: Storm on Images 25 Years Ago, 25 October to 16 December 1962). In 1973 she loaned the painting for the exhibition »Lyonel Feininger 1871–1956« (24 March to 13 May 1973), which was also presented at the Haus der Kunst.

	56.	57.	58.	59.	60.	
	Auf Anfrage	28000,—	22500,—	18000,—	20000,—	
<b>CORINTH</b>	41. Selbstbildnis					Lithographie, signiert, Schwarz 161c, 165×135 mm 1914
	42. Christus am Ölberg II					Radierung auf Japan, signiert, Schwarz 214, 299×200 mm 1915
	42a. Christus am Ölberg II					Radierung auf Kupfertiefdruckpapier, einfache Ausgabe
	43. Schachspiel					Radierung auf Japan, signiert, num. (25 Expl.), Sch. 338, 97×146 mm 1918
	44. Bildnis Andreas Weissgäuber					Radierung, signiert, Schwarz 376, 342×232 mm 1919
	45. Der Waldensee					Radierung a. Jap., sig., num. (25 Expl.), Sch. 432/II, 247×197 mm 1920
<b>DIX</b>	46. Schlafender Jüngling (2 Studienköpfe)					Silberst. u. Rötel, monogr., dat. 560×475 mm 1939
	47. Einäugiger Bauer					Litho, signiert, bez., num. (30 Expl.), Karsch 145, 550×455 mm 1948
	48. Blindes Kind					F.-Litho, Prdr., sig. (Papierecke m. Wasserfl.), K. 184/b, 337×415 mm 1949
	49. Das Ende des Johannes des Täufers					Litho a. J., signiert, Karsch 249, 287×220 mm 1960
<b>DRESSLER</b>	50. Der Strumpf					Aquarell, monogrammiert, datiert, bezeichnet, 435×325 mm 1914
	51. Das Paar					Radierung, signiert, 232×190 mm um 1920
	52. Werft an der Havel					Aquarell, signiert, datiert, bezeichnet, 404×523 mm 1924
	53. Am Stößensee					Öl, signiert, bezeichnet, 500×600 mm um 1950
<b>FEININGER</b>	54. Die grüne Brücke					Radierung (I von 150 Exemplaren), Prasse 22, 270×199 mm 1910/11
	55. Hansflöße					Original-Holzschnitt (aus FEININGER, Prasse 115, 164–218 mm 1918)
	56. Halle, am Trödel					Öl, signiert, datiert, Werkverzeichnis Hess 317, 1000×800 mm 1929
	57. Gestrandeter Segler					Feder u. Aquarell, signiert, datiert, 23. I. 51, 260×395 mm 1951
	58. Strand, mit Dampfer am Horizont					Feder u. Kohle, sig., dat., 10. 3. 51, 315×473 mm 1951
	59. Lüneburg (mit schlankem Kirchturm)					Feder, signiert, datiert, 22. 8. 51, 387×315 mm 1951
	60. Dorfkirche und Häuser (Oberweimar)					Aqu. u. Fed., sig., dat., 17. 6. 55, 235×316 mm 1955



The Hildebrand family parted with the Feininger painting in 1979. That summer *Halle, am Trödel* adorned the catalogue of Berlin's Galerie Nierendorf. It was purchased by the State of Berlin, which entrusted the work to the Bauhaus-Archiv as a long-term loan.

# Question

How did Lyonel Feininger's *Halle, am Trödel* go from being under the control of Ferdinand Möller to becoming the property of the Hildebrand family?

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Lead



This label from the Galerie Nierendorf is also to be found on the stretcher. It is not, as one would expect, from the sale in 1979; instead, the reference to the currency as »RM« (Reichsmark) demonstrates that it must be from an earlier date. The Reichsmark was only used until 1948.

The seller from 1979 had offered the painting for sale through the same art dealer from whom she had purchased it. During a visit to the Bauhaus-Archiv, the Hildebrands' children reported that their parents, Wilhelm and Senta Hildebrand, had bought the Feininger painting in 1940 from Meta Nierendorf in the Tempelhof district of Berlin. At that time Meta Nierendorf was keeping artworks from her husband Josef Nierendorf's closed gallery in a small storage room next to her book and gift shop. It is still unknown how Feininger's *Halle, am Trödel* made its way to Meta Nierendorf.

# Provenance According to the Current State of the Research

<b>1929–1931</b>	Lyonel Feininger (1871–1956), Dessau or Halle an der Saale
<b>1931–21 Aug 1937</b>	Städtisches Museum für Kunst und Kunstgewerbe, Halle (now Kulturstiftung Sachsen-Anhalt, Kunstmuseum Moritzburg), acquired by purchase directly from the artist (inv. no. I.459)
<b>21 Aug 1937–1939</b>	Germany, Reich Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda, Berlin, confiscated from the Städtisches Museum für Kunst und Kunstgewerbe, Halle, in the context of the »Degenerate Art« campaign; initially brought to the Viktoria warehouse in Köpenicker Straße, Berlin, and later to the Schönhausen Palace depot (EK no. 7362)
<b>1939–1939/40</b>	Galerie Ferdinand Möller, Berlin, received on consignment
<b>c. 1939/40</b>	Galerie Nierendorf, Berlin
<b>1940–30 Nov 1979</b>	Private collection of the family of Wilhelm and Senta Hildebrand, Munich, purchased from and later sold through the Galerie Nierendorf, Berlin
<b>since 1 Dec 1979</b>	State of Berlin, purchase, long-term loan to the Bauhaus-Archiv (inv. no. 3698)