

	<div>Object: The Apostle Paul</div> <div>Museum: Kunsthalle Bremen Am Wall 207 28195 Bremen (04 21) 3 29 08-0 info@kunsthalle-bremen.de</div> <div>Collection: Alte Meister, Gemälde und Skulpturen</div> <div>Inventory number: 326-1911/10</div>
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Description

When Rembrandt moved to Leiden in 1625, he worked closely with Jan Lievens. Both had been pupils of Pieter Lastman in Amsterdam and, for a while, they shared a studio in Leiden. When Rembrandt moved to Amsterdam in 1631, their contact waned. A year later, Lievens went to England, where he subsequently served Charles I. Around 1629, both Lievens and Rembrandt depicted the Apostle Paul several times, sometimes using the same model to sit for them. With careful brushwork and a smooth application of paint characteristic of fine Leiden painting, Lievens portrayed the Apostle in a gray habit, with a quill feather in his hand. In a notebook on a pile of books, Paul has begun to record in Greek Chapter Two of his Second Epistle to the Thessalonians. He has paused to formulate his next thought. The most important dramatic device here is the light emanating from an invisible source, which Lievens has used to pick out the head, hands, and the Apostle’s written word as symbols of his intellectual charisma from the picture’s earthen, gray-brown tones. A sword is visible in the shadows, which presages the Apostle’s later martyrdom.

Basic data

Material/Technique:	Oil on canvas
Measurements:	110.5 x 101.5 cm

Events

Painted	When	1629
	Who	Jan Lievens (1607-1674)
	Where	Leiden
Was depicted (Actor)	When	

[Relation to person or institution]	Who	Paul (10-60)
	Where	
	When	
	Who	Pieter Pietersz Lastman (1583-1633)
	Where	

Keywords

- Painting
- Sword
- Symbol