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DARK HEARTWOOD OF ASH

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DARK HEARTWOOD OF ASH

Professor, dr. phil. CARL MAR: MÖLLER and professor, dr. phil. K. GRAM.

The anatomical investigations p. 15—21 were the work of K. Gram, the remainder that of CARL MAR: MÖLLER.

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Is is commonly assumed in our forestry and wood industry that dark heartwood in ash means wood of inferior quality. This assumption has effected the present maximum price agreements, where light coloured heartwood is specified in the case of the better qualities.

It has also been expressed several times in literature.

A. OPPERMAN, in: »Træ« ("Wood"), p. 87 (1911-16) merely states: "Heartwood, which is light brown and irregularly defined, is less valuable than sapwood".

A. KORNERUP goes into more detail. In the Journal of the Danish Forest Society, 1920, p. 3, he states: "Formation of prime quality wood is also dependent on a high standard of nutrition under favourable conditions of growth, leading to regular annual ring formation with a suitable balance between dense summer and autumn wood and the more porous spring wood. There must be the right balance between crown assimilation and transpiration in order to build up wood consisting of thick-walled fibres, i.e. strength tissues. Such wood will be almost white or slightly red in the case of the wide and dominating sapwood, the heartwood being light brown. There does not appear to be any demonstrable difference in quality between the heartwood and sapwood in a prime tree, apart from the fact that the brown colour disfigures the finished product, especially when it appears together with the pleasing white or pale red colour of the sapwood.