



# Ancestral remains from colonial contexts in the Van der Hoeven skull collection in Germany

2-year-project: Provenance research on *ancestral remains* from African as well as Central and South American contexts at the Institute of Anatomy Leipzig

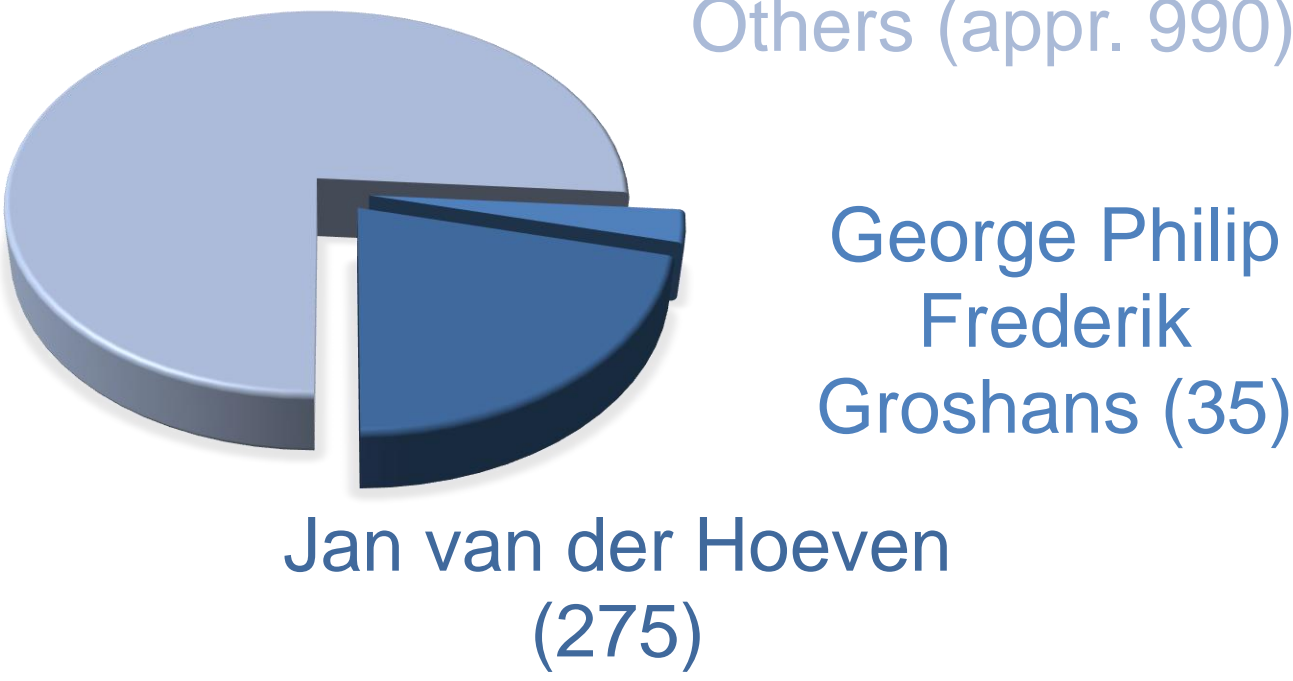
**Team:** Prof. Dr. Martin Gericke, Dr. Ulrike Löttsch, Isabelle Reimann, Mandy Wagner, Janine Fröba  
**Aims:** Provenance research in collaboration with countries and communities of origin to prepare and carry out the repatriation of *ancestral remains* and their burial  
**Funding:** German Lost Art Foundation (August 2024 – August 2026)

## HUMAN SKULLS, MUMMIFIED HEADS AND PLASTER CASTS AT THE INSTITUTE

Paul Julius Möbius (appr. 200)  
Carl Gustav Carus (appr. 300)



## COMPILATION OF THE COLLECTION OF LEIPZIG ANTHROPOLOGIST E. L. SCHMIDT (1837-1906)



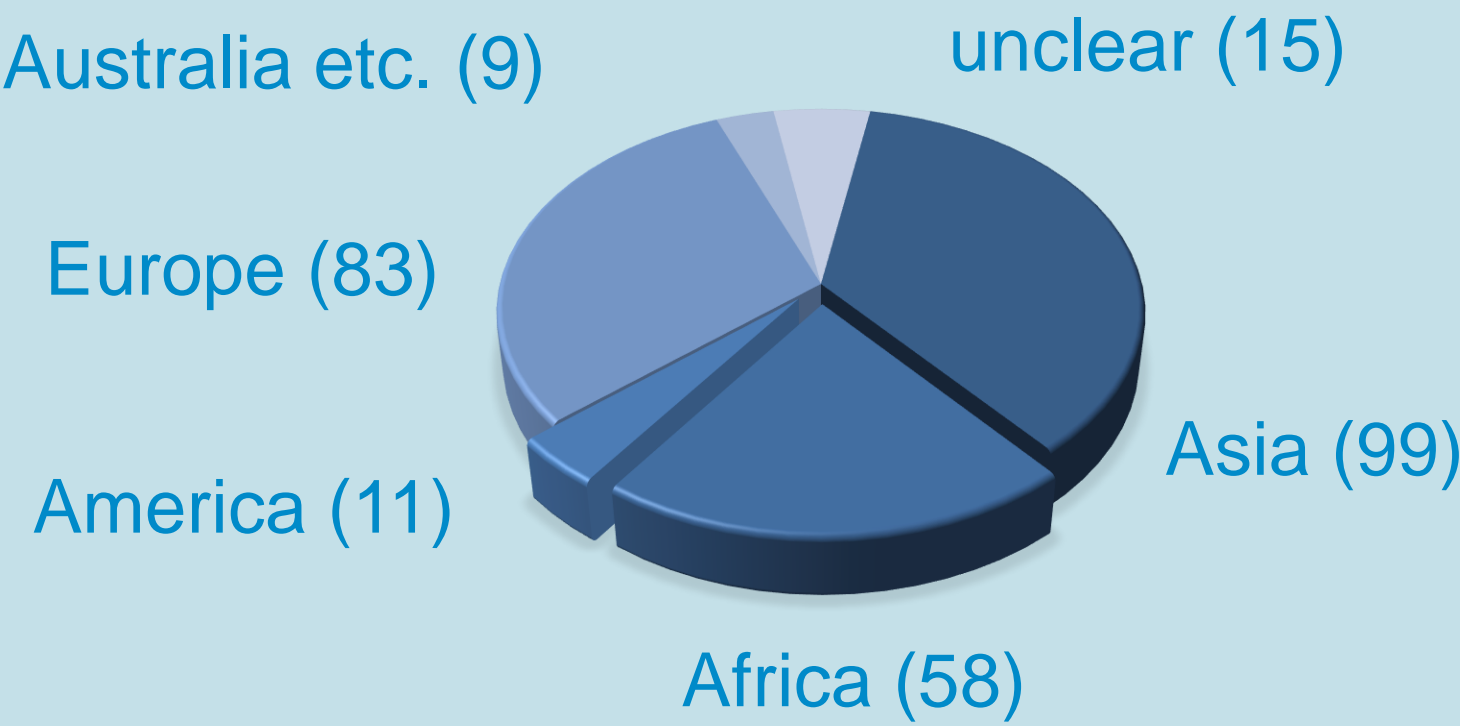
### JAN VAN DER HOEVEN (1801-1868)



(source: J. Spoel, Leiden University, Icone Leidenses 236)

Professor of natural history in Leiden  
Interested in physical anthropology  
Proponent of scientific racism  
  
Private “Skull Collection” published in 1860  
*Catalogus Craniorum diversarium Gentium*  
(included 210 *ancestral remains*)  
  
Van der Hoeven’s son sold the collection in a public auction in 1875 (around 330 *ancestral remains* in auction catalog)

### 275 SKULLS FROM VAN DER HOEVEN’S COLLECTION IN LEIPZIG



## AFRICA, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA: NETWORK OF AQUIERERS AND CONTEXTS OF AQUISITION

Today’s countries of origin	Aquierers (scientific and medical colleagues, military doctors, family members)	Context of acquisition
ALGERIA (13 individuals)	Jean Louis Geneviève Guyon (1794-1870)	Corpses from hospital in Blida 1850/51
ANCIENT EGYPT (1 individual)	Thomas van Stolk (1826-1882)	“Souvenir” from a business trip
GHANA, GUINEA, BENIN (13 individuals)	Schelet / Schillet P. Neeb Krol Boomsma (probably Rintje Boomsma, born 1821) Carl Gobe (1804-1875) Cornelis Anthonijsz Swaving (1814–1881) Jacob Cornelis Broers (1795-1847)	Dutch-Ahanta War in 1838, Ahanta leader from same context as Ahanta king Badu Bonsu II  “Ashanti Soldiers” in the Dutch East Indies Army, who died on Java (Indonesia)
CONGO REGION (2 individuals)	Dr. Klerk de Reeves	“James” died in hospital in Rotterdam in 1866
SOUTHERN AFRICA (19 individuals)	Francis Le Sueur Fleck (1821-1851) C. Biccard (probably Carl Wilhelm Thalman Biccard or Francois Louis Charles Biccard) H. (Henry?) van der Riet (born 1825?) C. Smuts (probably Dr. Cornelius Smuts) J. Smuts Jacob Petrus Roux	Victims of the '7th Xhosa War' of 1846/47  “Gifts” from former students at Leiden University, who came from the Cape Colony
TENERIFE (1 individual)	Davis, Joseph Barnard (1801-1881)	Still unknown
AFRICA (in general) (9 individuals)	Still unknown	Still unknown
COLOMBIA (4 individuals)	J. van Stolk, probably Jan van Stolk (1826-1880) Davis, Joseph Barnard (1801-1881)	Probably “Souvenir” from a business trip Still unknown
CHILE (1 individual)	Still unknown	„J. Santana“ died 1870
SOUTH AMERICA (1 individual)	Antonín Frič (Anton Fritsch, 1832-1913)	Still unknown

We welcome any questions, comments or feedback!  
And we are particularly grateful for any further information on these topics.