

BISMARCK'S BIG HEAD.

Measurements Prove He Has an Unusually Large Brain Capacity.

Bismarck's head, says a correspondent of L'Anthropologic, has been carefully measured according to the rules of anthropometries by the sculptor Schaph, of Berlin, who made the statue of Bismarck set up at Cologne. The measurements prove that Bismarck has a head of extraordinarily large size. Measured horizontally from the frontal bone to the occiput, the head is 212 millimeters, or more than 8.35 1/2 inches. The distance from temple to temple is 170 millimeters, or a trifle over 6.69 inches. Bismarck's cranium has a capacity of 1,965 cubic centimeters, and his brain should weigh 1,867 grammes. These figures become especially significant when compared with the measurements of other heads. Of 2,500 heads measured at Baden Baden only one exceeded 200 millimeters horizontally from front to back, and that one measured 206 millimeters, or six millimeters less than Bismarck's. The mean measurements of 30 members of the Natural Science society at Karlsruhe were 195 millimeters from front to back by 155 millimeters from temple to temple. The biggest of these heads measured 205 by 162 millimeters. The cubic measurement of 245 German heads was nearly 500 cubic centimeters under Bismarck's, while the estimated weight of Bismarck's brain is 35 per cent. above that of the average adult European brain. In fact, Bismarck is a man not only of blood and iron, but as well of brains.

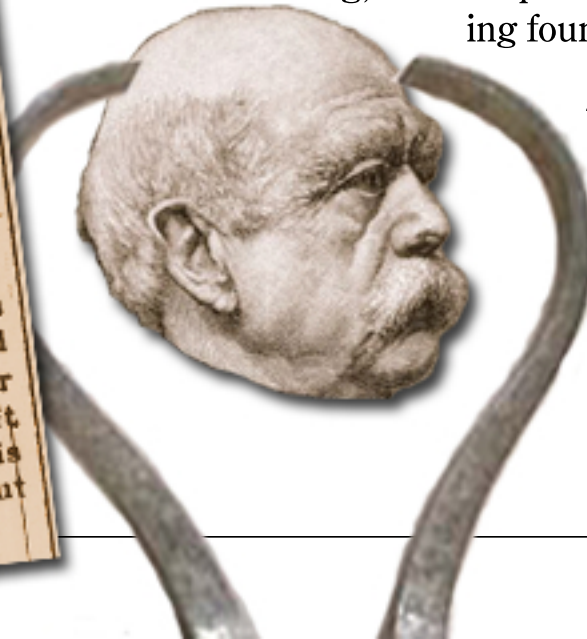
THE CAPITAL EXPOSITION

Volume 1 | Issue 1

The size of Chancellor Bismarck's head was quite a point of pride for the people of the newly formed German Empire. So much was made of it, in fact, that "Iron Head" societies were formed all across the land. Late in October of each year a competition was held to find the head with dimensions most closely matching that of Bismarck.

Fun Fact: The competition rules stated that the winner's head size was one that closest matched the dimensions without going over. American television sensation Bob Barker used this principal in his game show "The Price is Right" as an homage to his great grandfather who came in 12th in the Northern Bavarian round in 1888.

The most famous competitor was Alfred von Stieglitz who, in 1887, was found to have been stuffing his head to its enormous proportions using leftover pork products. Upon announcement of this finding, riots erupted across the Empire and the morning found Berlin burning.



That day the verb to "von Stieglitz" entered the lexicon. The most famous use of the term, of course, is in Irving Berlin's famous hit "Roosevelt's von Stieglitzing the Supreme Court".