

### Phreneology and Gall's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary



Franz Josef Gall (1758–1828) believed skull shape to be related to specific features of the individual character. He attributed personality and character to distinct areas of the skull, as indicated in the figure. Gall touched heads of actors, musicians, criminals, and many others. He suggested that elevations and depressions of the bone might allow differentiating between “the good, the bad, and the ugly”. Although that particular access turned out to be wrong, Gall's work was the proper starting point on the way to brain topology. The image presents a copy of one of Gall's skulls displayed at the Rollett museum in Baden near Vienna. Anton Rollett (1778–1842), obstetrician and barber-surgeon, obsessively collected all kinds of natural objects and acquired the majority of Gall's skull collection.

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