

## **THE SCHILLER CODE**

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The authenticity of the skeletal remains of Friedrich von Schiller (1759-1805), one of the most prominent dramatist and precursor of Weimar Classicism, has been in the center of scientific dispute for over 190 years. Since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century two different sets of skeletons were associated with Schiller and both presented in the tomb of the princes in Weimar, Germany. The first skeleton was buried there in 1827 while Schiller's cranium sat on Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's desk for almost a year. The remains were previously exhumed from the arches of St. Jacob's church in Weimar in 1826 under Weimar's first major Karl Leberecht Schwabe. In 1911, anatomist August von Froriep presented the "authentic Schiller skeleton" after repeated excavations at St. Jacob's church. Since then, numerous studies reported controversial findings on the evaluation of the Schwabe and the Froriep skeletons.

In 2006 the Klassikstiftung Weimar authorized an interdisciplinary project involving anthropological, toxicological and molecular genetic research to solve the case. This project was successful and resulted in a clear answer regarding the authenticity of the remains. The presentation leads through the course of events and discusses the outcome in the light of the arguments of the contributing scientists.