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Brunswick, Germany - Goettingen, Germany
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1

There is a baseless legend that Gauss's tombstone is inscribed with the diagram of his construction for the regular polygon of 17 sides = [heptadecagon](#). It may possibly be true that at one time Guss, remembering the tomb of Archimedes with its diagram of the quadrature of the sphere, described by Cicero, wished such a memorial. If he had requested the like for the regular polygon of 65,537 sides, his executors might have had to duplicate or surpass the Great Pyramid.

Eric Temble Bell: The Queen of Mathematics. In: Newman, p. 502

2

Gauss was so proud of his discovery showing the relation between prime Fermat numbers and inscriptible polygons that he wished to have a

heptadecagon inscribed on his tombstone. For some reason this request was not granted, but one such is engraved on the side of a monument to him in Braunschweig, Germany, his birthplace.

Beiler, p. 184

3

(...) Gauss was so proud of his discovery that he asked for a regular 17-sided polygon =heptadecagon to be engraved on his tombstone. Thus this request was never fulfilled, such a polygon is inscribed on the side of a monument to him erected in Brunswick, his birthplace.

Devlin, p. 19

4

At the age of nineteen, Gauss showed how to construct a regular 17-gon =heptadecagon. This discovery was what convinced him to devote his life to mathematics rather than to philology. He wanted one of these on his tombstone, but the closest he came to his wish is a 17-pointed star on a statue erected in his honor; it was felt that the 17-gon =heptadecagon would appear indistinguishable from a circle.

Davis, p. 96

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