

A BRIEF HISTORY OF PENIS MEASUREMENT

in the year 1753, Sir Alexander Radcliff published his discovery: the pinnacle of the adult penis (including the upper corpus cavernosum and the lower corpus spongiosum) measures two and three-quarter feet at room temperature, assuming the corpi are layed end to end. picture the femoral artery of a cow, meticulously extracted, then smoothed out on Radcliff's table. a hundred and eighty years later, the famous Dutch phlebotomist Leopold Kloos would demonstrate that Sir Radcliff was hopelessly shy: the two corpi cavernosum actually track down the perineal body, sweep up into the pelvic cavity, then chase down the legs where they suffuse themselves into the superficial transverse metatarsal ligaments. Dr. Kloos' findings on the corpus spongiosum would prove even more controversial. this last root, according to Kloos, traverses the sagittals with ease and rises into the inguinals / to the vena cava and tracks along the abdominal aorta, then alluviates upward / into a series of vein-like projections closing on the diaphragm, chest cavity and sternum where it / again / sweeps inward in narrowing threads behind and along the trachea, then up the medulla oblongata // at which point even Dr. Kloos found himself bewildered: apparently the male brain matter and root of the corpus spongiosum were indistinguishable, "Like cauliflower and cauliflower," he wrote. his assistant compared it to counting and measuring the holes in a sponge. "If the truth were to be known," he summarized in his obscure 1938 classic *Caverns and Spheres*: "The penis is, in all probably, light years in length, though not as thick as previously held."



Temple Bar by John Elkerr
26" x 22"
Colored inks on paper

Text by Stephen Eric Berry