

# The Napoleon Series

## Maps and Mapmakers of the Napoleonic Wars: Prussian Cartography

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Although in mid-eighteenth century Europe, detailed maps appeared based on instrumental (half-instrumental) survey<sup>1</sup>, in the Prussian holdings, which were on the current territory of Lithuania and Poland, a detailed new topographical picture was only prepared in 1763-1802. The western-coast (Pomerania), Brandenburg, Prussia Netz provinces were mapped by Schmettau, Schullenburg, Schulz, Wiebeking in 1763-1783 (according to some publications, this mapping is partially covered, plus East Prussia). Still one of the finest and most significant examples of Prussian cartography should be considered as the surveying and mapping initiated by Prussian Minister von Schrotter in 1796-1802 in East Prussia, Pomerania and Netz, the execution of which work was led by Friedrich Bernhardt Engelhardt.

Till 1925 this mapping (Schrotter-Engelhardt map) was secret and protected by the Prussian Army General Staff archives. After 1925 the map was transferred to the State Library in Berlin, where stayed until the Second World War.

The mapping was undertaken by the famous Prussian cartography professionals: preliminary triangulation and astronomical work was carried out by Artillery Colonel von Textor, survey work led by Engelhardt (with topographers Eytelwein and Gilly aid). In area, up to 20 well-trained topographers worked with assistants. The work was carried out in accordance with the instructions prepared by Gilly (this instruction was used making survey of *New-East Prussia province in 1795-1800*), instrumental measurements were carried out two or even three times, small items were drawn into the maps at a venture, using the compass/director (distances measured in steps). Toponyms were not recorded in accordance with local dialect, but the use of older sources (the old maps, cadastral books, etc.). All was very precise labelled: forests, grasslands, scrub, sand, peat lands, their boundaries, affiliation and composition, as well as a detailed picture of roads, towns and farms. In addition to cartographic works topographers described the river widths, depths, the banks are included, the size of the flood, gathered information about the lakes and swamps, the navigability of the river, the details of mills, bridges, footbridge, channels, fords, etc.

This fundamental set of maps entitled "Netz Distrikt, East and West Prussia, the Lithuanian provinces map .... 1796 - 1802 on proposal State Minister and Head of the Department's Schrotter... by Baron Friedrich Bernhardt Engelhardt... construction Director of Eastern Prussia measured topographically and drawn". The original name was "Karte von den Provinzen Litthauen, Ost und West Preussen u.d. Netz Distrikte auf befehl Ihrer Majestaten des Koenigs Friedrich Wilhelm II und Friedrich Wilhelm III auf Antrag des Staats Ministers und Departements Chefs Freiherrn von Schroetter in den Jahren 1796 bis 1802 vermessen und topographisch aufgenommen von Friedrich Bernhard Engelhardt Koeniglichem

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<sup>1</sup> 1749-1805 Habsburg holdings made topographical photo in scales 1:28,800, 1:57,600, Hannover in 1772 had survey in scale 1:21,333

Kriegs und Domainen Rathe und Ban Director in Neu-Ost-Preussen". Maps were in scale 1:50000 and released only in two copies. In accordance with this mapping (maps) in 1802-1810 was released a set of maps "*Karte von Ost-Preussen nebst Preussisch Litthauen und West - Preussen nebst dem Netzdistrict*" in scale 1:150000

A fragment of this map can be seen at: [Karte von Ost-Preussen nebst Preussisch Litthauen und West - Preussen nebst dem Netzdistrict](#)

As supplement to set *Karte von Ost-Preussen nebst Preussisch Litthauen und West - Preussen nebst dem Netzdistrict* (scale 1:150000, publishing 1810-1812) was map showing border between Prussia and Duchy of Warsaw after Tilzit agreement in 1807 (orig. named *Landes Grenze zwischen dem Koenigsreich Preussen und dem Herzogthum Warschau nach der am 10 November 1807, dem Tilziter Friedens Tractat vom 9 Juli 1807 gemäss, zu Elbing abgeschlossenen Convention und der im Jahr 1808 darauf erfolgten örtlichen Begrenzung, als Supplement , der von Schrötterschen Karte, entworfen v. F.B. Engelhardt*).

Topographical picture started in 1796 in East Prussia and completed in 1802 in the province Netz. It was drawn 141 individual sheets/sections of this map. Each sheet had size 45x61 cm in scale 1:50000. Maps were drawn in colour. Colouring was peaceful, harmonious blending: areas in grey trace elements, forests represent darker grey, and the clearing of forest roads to display black. Each forest areas marked dependence on forest and tree species, carefully selected range of forests, forest park, cuttings. Wet areas were shown by shading. Accurately and thoroughly was shown net of roads. Special thoroughness was given to residential areas, it was scratched each individual farm, or individual city blocks. By colour palette was indicated subordination of places, it was indicated the number of settlements/yards. Map reflects the administrative division.

A fragment of this map can be seen at: [Karte von den Provinzen Litthauen, Ost- und Westpreussen und dem Netzedistrikt](#)

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