



Austrian (Habsburg) official cartographic activities from the First Military Survey to World War I

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At the beginning of the 18th century, many regional maps existed, but at that time there was no homogeneous survey of the whole area of the Austrian Monarchy. After the War of Spanish Succession (1701-1714) and as a result of the war against the Ottoman Empire (until 1718), after the second siege of Vienna (1683) the Austrian Monarchy gained the largest area in its history. Between 1720 and 1735 Austrian administration covered territories from the North Sea (Spanish Netherlands) to the lower course of the Danube in Walachia, and from Silesia in the north to Sicily in the south. Therefore the Austrian Monarchy came to rank among the other Great Powers in Europe.

After the War of Austrian Succession (1748), original topographic surveys by trained Austrian engineers appeared.

The First Military Survey was ordered by Maria Theresa in 1763 after the Seven Years War (1756-1763) against Prussia. The First Survey (1763-1787) was carried out for the entire Empire with the exception of Tyrol and Vorarlberg in the west, Salzburg (at that time not belonging to the Austrian Monarchy) and Lombardia. This survey was not based on any triangulation, but it surpassed all other surveys in Europe of the time due to the area covered and its large map scale (mostly 1:28.800). However the results were kept secret and were never printed. Summarizing the area in Central and Eastern Europe mapped by the Imperial Army between 1763 and 1805 (40 years) amounts to an area of about one million square kilometers.

After the foundation of the Austrian Empire (*Kaiserstaat Österreich*) in 1804, the Second Survey of the territories started in 1806 based on a first network of horizontal

control points (triangulation). This Second Survey (1806-1869) now covered territories not included in the official survey before, as well as areas ruled by Habsburgs at that time (Parma, Modena, Toscana) and the Papal States (1841-1843). In 1854 the area surveyed and mapped by the Austrian General Staff and the Imperial Army reached its climax. Map series now were published. The k.k. Military Geographical Institute in Vienna (founded in 1840) became famous and developed into a center for map reproduction.

After the 1860s the rapid progress in geodesy, topography and cartography initiated a new style of topographical survey. Now the entire area of the then Austro-Hungarian Monarchy (since 1867) was covered by the Third Survey, a plane table survey on the metric scale of 1:25.000 in only 18 years (1869-1887), based on a new framework of horizontal and vertical control points in accordance with the standards of the *Europäische Gradmessung*. About 1900 the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy seemed to be the only country in Europe to be completely covered by topographical map series on the metric scale of 1:25.000, 1:75.000, 1:200.000 and 1:750.000.

The Fourth Survey started in 1896, but unfortunately the first period of it came to an end during World War I in 1915.