

Map Information Sheet

Das Vorgebirg der Guten Hofnung



Author:	Franz Anton Schraembl (1751 – 1803)
Date of Publication:	1789
Publisher:	Franz Anton Schraembl (Vienna)
Original Size:	32.5cm x 49cm

Description

This 1789 map of the Cape of Good Hope by Franz Anton Schraembl, titled *Das Vorgebirg der Guten Hofnung*, is a German-language edition of L.S. de la Rochette's 1782 map, republished in Vienna as part of Schraembl's monumental *Allgemeiner Grosser Atlas* (1786–1800). Covering the Cape Peninsula and the expanding Dutch Cape Colony, it shows Table Bay, False Bay, Saldanha Bay, St Helena Bay, Cape Town, surrounding mountains, rivers, and Dutch farms and outposts, along with territories of indigenous groups such as the Cochoquas, Hessequas and Attaquas. Faithful to de la Rochette's original but with German labels and refined engraving, Schraembl's edition exemplifies late Enlightenment cartographic precision - clear, scientific, and politically informed. Although Austria had no colonial ambitions, the map reflects the European diffusion of strategic geographic knowledge, as even non-maritime powers recognized the Cape's global importance as a maritime crossroads. By reissuing a British-derived map during an age of shifting imperial rivalries, Schraembl's 1789 edition symbolizes both the international circulation of colonial intelligence and the pan-European fascination with the geography of empire at the close of the 18th century.

Cartographic Content

- **Geographical Coverage:**

The map depicts the **Cape Colony** in significant detail, including:

- **The Cape Peninsula:** Table Bay, False Bay, Cape Town (*Cap der Guten Hofnung*).
- **Topography:** Ranges such as Table Mountain, Drakenstein, Hottentots Holland, and the Roggeveld are drawn with hachuring.
- **Hydrography:** Rivers such as the Berg, Breede, and Olifants extend inland.
- **Settlements:** Dutch farms and frontier outposts, mission stations, and roads.
- **Indigenous Groups:** Names of Khoikhoi groups (Cochoquas, Hessequas, Attaquas, etc.) and "Caffres" (Xhosa) on the eastern frontier.

- **Cartographic Style:**

The map bears the hallmarks of **late Enlightenment cartography**: precise line engraving, restrained decorative flourishes, and emphasis on clarity. German inscriptions replace the original English labels, making it accessible to a Central European readership.

Significance

1. Diffusion of Colonial Knowledge:

The republication of de la Rochette's Cape Colony map in Vienna shows how strategic colonial maps circulated across Europe, even in states without overseas colonies like Austria.

2. Political Implications:

Though Austria did not contest the Cape, Schraembl's atlas shows the intellectual globalization of cartography — where knowledge of key imperial waypoints was of interest to scholars, merchants, and strategists across Europe.

3. Cartographic Continuity:

This 1789 map demonstrates how a single authoritative survey (de la Rochette's 1782) could be repackaged in multiple languages and contexts, shaping European perceptions of the Cape Colony at a time of growing instability for Dutch power.

Historical Context

- **De la Rochette's Role:**

L.S. de la Rochette (1731–1802), a French émigré in London, was one of the leading cartographers for William Faden, the British king's geographer. His 1782 Cape Colony map was produced during the Fourth Anglo-Dutch War (1780–1784), when Britain sought intelligence on Dutch colonies.

- **Schraembl's Atlas Project:**

Franz Anton Schraembl (1751–1803) was a Viennese publisher and bookseller who set out to produce one of the most comprehensive atlases of the Enlightenment age. To do this, he often licensed or reissued maps from leading European cartographers, translating them into German and republishing them for Habsburg and German-speaking audiences. His *Allgemeiner Grosser Atlas* (1786–1800) was an ambitious project, rivalling contemporary atlases by Faden in London and Homann in Nuremberg.

- **Colonial Context (1780s):**

- The Dutch Cape Colony remained strategically vital as a provisioning station for East Indies trade.
- European wars of the late 18th century made the Cape a focal point of imperial rivalry. Britain, France, and the Netherlands all manoeuvred for control of this maritime chokepoint.
- De la Rochette's map — now republished by Schraembl — reflects the ongoing circulation of strategic geographic knowledge across Europe.

- **Knowledge Sources:**

Like the 1782 original, this 1789 edition relied heavily on VOC (Dutch East India Company) charts and reports, combined with European Enlightenment cartographic standards. Schraembl's contribution was primarily editorial and linguistic, making the information widely accessible.

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