

Elite Gendarmes of the Imperial Guard, Trooper and Officer

These figures are not Horse Grenadiers, but members of the *Gendarmerie d'élite*, as in the previous plate. Brun reproduced Winkler's erroneous title for this illustration ("French Horse Grenadier of the Guard"). Note that while Brun entitled all of his other illustrations in his native French, *only* this illustration is labeled in German. It is therefore not unreasonable to surmise that Brun's uncertainty of the identity of this unit led him to copy what was perhaps Winkler's original title. Indeed, on the copy of Brun's preliminary tracing of these figures from the *Freiberg Manuscript* (shown in the right margin), all the notations are entirely in French, but the presumably original German title at the bottom of the tracing (shown at the bottom of this page) is followed by a question mark.

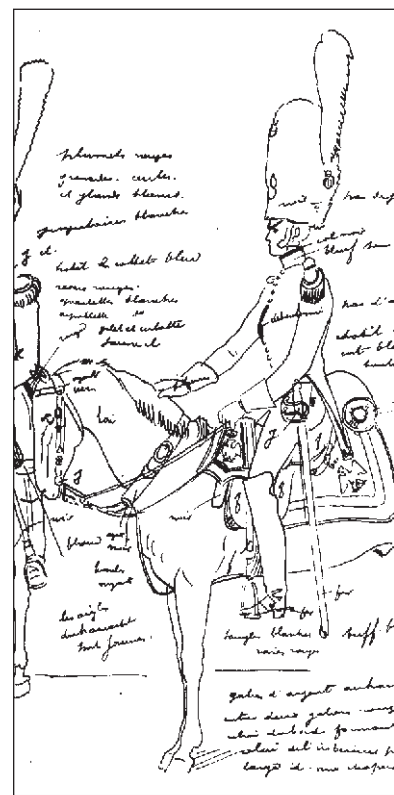
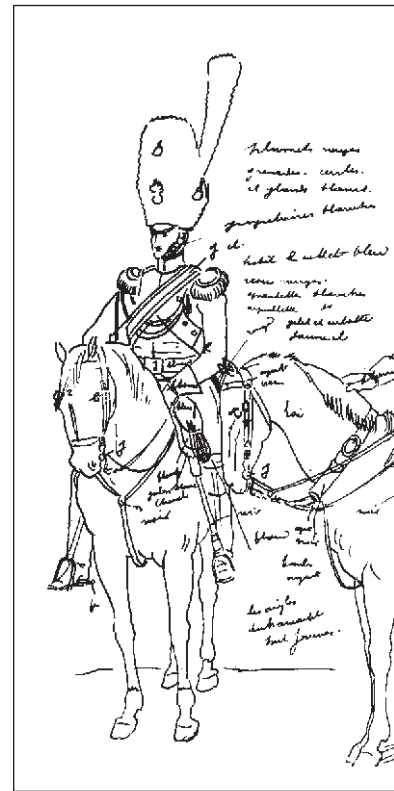
The trooper (left), in fact, wears a uniform conforming to the official regulations for an Elite Gendarme in full dress except for the grenade on the front of the bearskin, the small tassel below the plume, and the position of the aiguillettes on the right instead of the left shoulder. The officer (right), in "undress," is wearing a surtout and has blue, ornamented turnbacks of a shade lighter than the regulations provide for. His captain's rank is denoted by the silver-threaded epaulette on his left shoulder; however, he lacks the aiguillettes that an officer would normally wear from the right shoulder. Curiously, although the depictions of these uniforms are essentially accurate, the details of the horse furniture from Part III of the *Freiberg Manuscript* are not trustworthy (for example, the French usually did not dock, or cut short, horses' tails as shown in this illustration). All of Winkler's paintings in Part I were finished in 1813. However, Richard Knötel, in his examination of the original manuscript a century ago, concluded that a number of the paintings in Part III were completed after the war, with some, such as the original Winkler painting on which this illustration was based, finished as late as 1818.

While Winkler had notes and sketches, he appears to have turned to other sources for his horses and their accoutrements. Here, Winkler may have been partly inspired by an 1810 engraving/painting by Wilhelm von Kobell, who used very similar stances and figure arrangements in several of his works. Winkler's possible lack of previous experience with equine figures is suggested by the undersized proportions and coloration of the horses.

Brun made some "corrective" alterations in his copy of Winkler's illustration. He omitted the draped portion of the trooper's aiguillettes in his final rendering, even though they are clearly visible in this arrangement in Brun's tracing of the figure (in right margin, top)! Yet Brun faithfully retained the highly personal feature of the unbuttoned center of the officer's surtout, revealing a hint of the blouse underneath — an annotated detail that can be observed in Brun's tracing of Winkler's original (in right margin, bottom).

*Franz Grenadier zu Pferde von der Garde?*

Brun N° 8 from  
*Freiberg IIIB, 155 (1-2) >*



Brun's annotated tracings (above) of  
*IIIB, 155 (1-2)* used to prepare his  
final illustration.



8-Franz Grenadier zu Pferde von der Garde