

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

SIR PAUL EDMUND STRZELECKI

Geological map, 1845

Reel M992

**Institute of Geological Sciences
Exhibition Road
South Kensington London SW7 2DE**

**National Library of Australia
State Library of New South Wales**

Copied: 1972

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki (1797-1873) was born in Gluszyna, near Poznan, in western Poland, which was then under Prussian rule. He served in the Prussian Army and was later plenipotentiary of the estates of Prince Francis Sapieha. He left Poland in 1830 and travelled widely in North and South America. He was referred to as 'Count Streleski', but never signed himself as a Count.

Strzelecki arrived in Sydney in April 1839, having visited various Pacific islands and New Zealand while a passenger on HMS *Fly*. He had no formal training in geology, but announced that he would undertake a geological survey of the country. He traversed a large part of New South Wales, including the Australian Alps (where he named Mount Kosciuszko) and Gippsland, and also Van Diemen's Land, where he farmed as well as explored. He left Australia in April 1843. He became a British citizen in 1845 and in the same year published his *Physical description of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land*.

In 1856 Strzelecki published *Gold and silver* and his claim to be the first discoverer of gold in Australia was generally recognised. In his later years he took a strong interest in emigration to Australia. He received many honours from learned societies and he was knighted in 1869.

THE STRZELECKI MAP

Strzelecki's map, measuring about 7.5 by 1.5 metres, was the first geological map covering a large part of Australia. It was mostly drafted when Strzelecki was living in Launceston in 1840-42 and was based on hydrographic and topographical charts and his own notebooks. Greatly reduced in scale, the map was published in 1845 by John Arrowsmith and bound in Strzelecki's *Physical description of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land*. The original map was given to the Museum of Economic Geology in London in 1849.

References:

David Branagan. Strzelecki's geological map, *Records of the Australian Academy of Science*, vol. 2 (4), Nov. 1973, pp 68-70.

David Branagan. Strzelecki's geological map of southeastern Australia: an eclectic synthesis, *Historical Records of Australian Science*, vol. 6(3), Dec. 1986, pp 375-92

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P.E. Strzelecki. Geological map of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, 1845. (manuscript)

The original map is in three sheets, each measuring about 2 metres by 1.5 metres. Map 1 depicts Van Diemen's Land, map 2 eastern Port Phillip and southern New South Wales, and map 3 New South Wales as far north as the Manning River. The geology is superimposed on a topographical map. Strzelecki used five colours to show his lithological-chemical subdivision of rocks: siliceous (blue), argillaceous (red), calcareous (brown), serpentinous, augitic and hornblende (green) and coal (grey-black). In addition to the three sheets, there is a legend consisting of four sections cut and mounted on a single piece of backed canvas.

For copying purposes, the map was divided into 55 numbered sections. Microfilming was not feasible and instead copies were supplied to the AJCP in three formats: black and white prints, colour prints and colour slides.

The following sections were copied:

Black and white prints: nos. 1-25, 30-55 + legend

Colour prints: nos. 1-25, 35-55 + legend

Colour slides: nos 1-25, 30-55 + legend

As the map was not microfilmed, the reel number M992 is purely notional, assigned for internal control purposes. In the National Library of Australia the copies are held in the Map Collection at MAP RaA7. In the State Library of New South Wales the copies are in the Map Collection at M1/806/1845/1.

The Institute of Geological Sciences was renamed the British Geological Survey in 1984 and is now located at Nicker Hill, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5GG.