

## Marriage contract Nr. 149: Preußen - Mecklenburg-Schwerin

- **Date of contract conclusion:** 1708-11-14
- **Place of contract conclusion:** Cölln an der Spree

### Groom

- **Name:** Friedrich I. von Preußen
- **GND:** [118535730](#)
- **Year of Birth:** 1657
- **Year of Death:** 1713
- **Dynasty:** Hohenzollern (Preußen)
- **Confession:** reformiert

### Bride

- **Name:** Sophie Luise von Mecklenburg-Schwerin
- **GND:** [141996285](#)
- **Year of Birth:** 1685
- **Year of Death:** 1735
- **Dynasty:** Obodriten (Mecklenburg-Schwerin)
- **Confession:** lutherisch

### Actors for Groom

- **Name:** Friedrich I. von Preußen
- **GND:** [118535730](#)
- **Dynasty:** Hohenzollern (Preußen)
- **Relationship:** /

### Actors for Bride

- **Name:** Christine Wilhelmine von Hessen-Homburg
- **GND:** [1056118369](#)
- **Dynasty:** Hessen (Homburg)
- **Relationship:** Mutter

# Preußen

1708-11-14

## Contract content

Preamble: Names of the parties involved; names of the marriage partners; agreement on the marriage contract

1 – Mutual promise to marry

2 – Dowry of 15,000 Reichstalers; payment arranged

3 – Bride's trousseau arranged; inventory drawn up; bride's waiver of inheritance rights

4 – Morning gift of 1,200 Reichstalers annually; option for the groom to pay the bride 20,000 Reichstalers instead of the annual payment; inheritance of the 20,000 Reichstaler morning gift regulated

5 – 20,000 Reichstaler annually for the bride as a dowry

6 – Payment and composition of the bride's household regulated

7 – donatio propter nuptias of 15,000 Reichstaler; increase in the usual life estate from 3,000 Reichstaler to 25,000 Reichstaler

8 – Provisions in the contract are expressly not to set a precedent; the life estate is to be generated from the castle, town, and district of Grüningen located in the Principality of Halberstadt; mention of the execution of a widow's dower deed; rights of the bride to the widow's dower regulated; compensation if the widow's dower is insufficient to generate the life estate; Any surplus shall not accrue to the widow; taking up residence and furnishing the dower residence; protection of the dower guaranteed; homage and appointment of officials regulated; the subjects on the dower shall be left in their secular and religious freedoms; legal reservations of the groom in the dower; Provision for the widow in kind is regulated; assurance by the groom to provide the bride with alternative accommodation in the event of the dower being temporarily uninhabitable, such as in the event of an epidemic; changes to the dower are regulated; prohibition on pledging the dower

9 – The bride is granted the right to choose a Lutheran court preacher and to receive communion in her private chambers; provisions already agreed upon for the marriage of the groom's son to a Lutheran bride shall remain valid and were also confirmed in his will dated March 18, 1707

10 – Bride dies before groom without common children: return of trousseau and dowry to the bride's family and donatio propter nuptias and morning gift to the groom's family; groom's lifelong right of use of the dowry and trousseau; repayment and pledge regulated

11 – Bride dies before groom with children together who do not survive the bride's death: as in Art. 10; bride dies before groom with children together: inheritance of dowry and donatio propter nuptias to Prussia

12 – Groom dies before bride: bride may take up her widow's dower as regulated above; maintenance of any children regulated

13 – Remarriage of the bride and redemption of the widow's dower with and without children regulated; improvement of the widow's life estate ceases upon remarriage

14 – Inheritance of the bride's clothes, jewels, and jewelry that she brought into the marriage or that were given to her as gifts regulated

15 – If one of the two marriage partners dies after the consummation of the marriage but before the monetary payments have been made: the contract must still be fulfilled; if one of the two marriage

partners dies before the consummation of the marriage: the contract is void; the princely “contracting parties” are free to make provisions for themselves by means of a will, codicil, and donations mortis causa, provided that the family contracts are not broken; Promise to adhere to the above

16 – Three copies of the contract to be signed; distribution and archiving of the copies specified; place; date; signatures

### **Confessional regulations**

8 – Provisions in the contract are expressly not to set a precedent; the life estate is to be generated from the castle, town, and district of Grüningen located in the Principality of Halberstadt; mention of the execution of a widow’s dower deed; rights of the bride to the widow’s dower regulated; compensation if the widow’s dower is insufficient to generate the life estate; Any surplus shall not accrue to the widow; taking up residence and furnishing the dower residence; protection of the dower guaranteed; homage and appointment of officials regulated; the subjects on the dower shall be left in their secular and religious freedoms; legal reservations of the groom in the dower; Provision for the widow in kind is regulated; assurance by the groom to provide the bride with alternative accommodation in the event of the dower being temporarily uninhabitable, such as in the event of an epidemic; changes to the dower are regulated; prohibition on pledging the dower

9 – The bride is granted the right to choose a Lutheran court preacher and to receive communion in her private chambers; provisions already agreed upon for the marriage of the groom’s son to a Lutheran bride shall remain valid and were also confirmed in his will dated March 18, 1707

### **Regulations on inheritance law**

4 – Morning gift of 1,200 Reichstalers annually; option for the groom to pay the bride 20,000 Reichstalers instead of the annual payment; inheritance of the 20,000 Reichstaler morning gift regulated

10 – Bride dies before groom without common children: return of trousseau and dowry to the bride’s family and donatio propter nuptias and morning gift to the groom’s family; groom’s lifelong right of use of the dowry and trousseau; repayment and pledge regulated

11 – Bride dies before groom with children together who do not survive the bride’s death: as in Art. 10; bride dies before groom with children together: inheritance of dowry and donatio propter nuptias to Prussia

14 – Inheritance of the bride’s clothes, jewels, and jewelry that she brought into the marriage or that were given to her as gifts regulated

### **Further contracts between contracting parties**

9 – der Braut wird das Recht zugestanden einen lutherischen Hofprediger zu wählen und das Abendmahl in ihren privaten Gemächern zu empfangen; Bestimmungen, die bei der Eheschließung des Sohnes des Bräutigams mit einer lutherischen Braut bereits beschlossen wurden, sollen gültig sein und wurden auch in seinem Testament vom 18.03.1707 bestätigt

### **Commentary**

The original contract is not divided into articles

### **References**

- **Archive copy:** LHAS, 1.1.-15, Sign. 399 a
- **Contract language archive copy:** German

### **Recommended citation**

*Dynastische Eheverträge der frühen Neuzeit*. Contract No. 149. Philipps University of Marburg. Available online at <https://dynastische-ehevertraege.online.uni-marburg.de/en/vertraege/149.html>.

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