



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

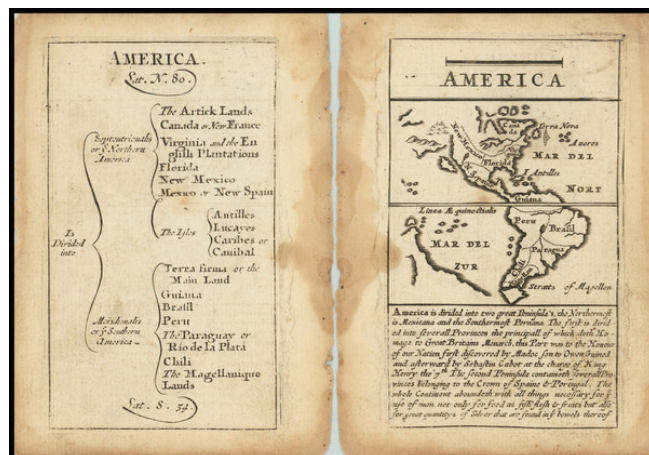
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## America

**Stock#:** 92188  
**Map Maker:** Seller  
**Date:** 1679  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 2.25 x 3.75 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

#### ***America Described As Two Peninsulas***

Rare miniature map of America by John Seller and published in his *Atlas Minimus* in London.

Includes the following text note below the map:

***America is divided into two great Peninsula's, the Northermoft is Mexicana and the Southermoft Peruana. The first is divided into severall Provinces the principall of which doth Homage to Great Britains Monarch, this Part was to the Honour of our Nation first discovered by Madoc son to Owen Guined and afterward by Sebastin Cabot at the charge of King Henry the 7th. The Second Peninsula containeth severall Provinces belonging to the Crown of Spaine & Portugal. The whole Continent aboundeth with all things necessary for ye use of man not only for food as fysh flesh & fruits but also for great quantity's of Silver that are found in ye bowels thereof***

This miniature map of America, meticulously crafted by the renowned cartographer John Seller and featured in his eminent *Atlas Minimus*, is a remarkable exemplar of 17th-century cartography. Published in London, this petite yet detailed representation is notable for its idiosyncratic geographical interpretations and illustrative peculiarity.

One of the most striking features of this map is the depiction of California as an island, a common but erroneous belief in early maps. The island of California, separated from the mainland by a narrow sea,



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### America

represents the culmination of various explorers' and mapmakers' assumptions, transforming this myth into a long-held geographical misunderstanding.

The representation of the Great Lakes, albeit compressed into a singular entity, hints at the expansive freshwater system of North America. Adding to the charm of this quaint map is the inclusion of an unusual landmass to the northwest of the American coastline, a nod towards the then prevailing idea of the existence of a "Northwest Passage" to Asia.

The division of the North American landmass into New Mexico, New Spain, Florida, Virginia, and Canada further exemplifies the colonial interests of the time. Each region is identified with clear demarcations, reflecting the geopolitical landscape of the era as understood by European powers.

The map shows the Straits of Magellan at the southern tip of South America, a critical navigation route for sailors daring enough to venture into the Pacific. Notably, in the bottom left of the map, there is a large landmass, an enduring fragment of Terra Australis Incognita - the hypothesized unknown southern land. This feature represents the speculative geography of the time, where unexplored regions were filled with assumptions and imagination.

John Seller's miniature map of America is a unique artifact that beautifully encapsulates the era's geographical misconceptions, limited knowledge, and the adventurous spirit of discovery. This charming representation serves as a historical testament to our evolving understanding of the world.

### Detailed Condition: