



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## Amerique | America

**Stock#:** 35667  
**Map Maker:** Gosselin  
**Date:** 1853 circa  
**Place:** Paris & Lyon  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 15 x 19.5 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

Attractive mid-19th Century depiction of a Native Princess as an allegory for the Americas, published in France.

This fine French lithograph depicts a Native American princess, albeit in a highly idealized form with 'exotic dress'.

While allegorical depictions of America as a woman date back to the 16th-century and are not unusual, the present image seems to be influenced by the revival of the story of Pocahontas (1595-1617), the daughter of a Native American Chieftain from Virginia who married an English colonist Thomas Rolfe. She caused quite a stir when she moved to England with Rolfe.

The myths that arose around Pocahontas's story spread around the globe during the 19th-century. Many



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**Amerique | America**

portrayed her as one who demonstrated the potential of Native Americans to be assimilated into European society. For example, the United States Capitol displays the painting by John Gadsby Chapman, *The Baptism of Pocahontas*, in the Rotunda (1840).

Pocahontas's story was also romanticized. Some writers preferred accounts of a love story between her and the explorer Captain John Smith. The first to publish such a story at length was John Davis in his *Travels in the United States of America* (1803). Perhaps the first surviving stage dramatization of the Pocahontas story was James Nelson Barker's *The Indian Princess; or, La Belle Sauvage*.

The present example is very unusual--the first we have ever seen.

**Detailed Condition:**

Minor dampstain at top of image and some minor marginal soiling.