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**A New and Correct Map of his Majesties Dominions in North America By. H. Moll. Is most Humbly Dedicated to Luke Gardiner Esq., Deputy Vice Treasurer and Receiver General of his Majesties Revenue in the Kingdom of Ireland. By His most obedient Servant G. Grierson**

**Stock#:** 53863ml  
**Map Maker:** Grierson  
**Date:** 1735 circa  
**Place:** Dublin  
**Color:** Outline Color  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 40 x 24 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



**Description:**

***George Grierson's Irish edition of Herman Moll's celebrated "Beaver Map"***

This fascinating monument of Irish printing is George Grierson's edition of Herman Moll's celebrated "Beaver Map".



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Moll's edition was first issued in his atlas *The World Described* (London, 1715) and the present edition was published by George Grierson around 1735 in Dublin. Exceptionally rare, this Dublin edition is a major monument in Irish printing, being one of the first large-format maps printed in Ireland and part of an ambitious project launched by the leading Irish publisher. The fact that the present example is a proof state, makes it all the more extraordinary.

In describing the example of the map offered at the Siebert Sale in 1999 (Lot 143), Ashley Baynton Williams notes:

*Although recorded in the standard literature (for example, Cumming *The Southeast In Early Maps*), I have never seen an example for sale, nor do I recall having heard of one for sale. Cumming, 158F, records only three separate examples, collected by Henry Stevens as part of his work on Moll's *World Described**

The main map embraces the Atlantic Seaboard of North America from South Carolina up to Labrador and extends inland as far as the eastern ends of Lake Erie and Lake Huron. Politically, the map is intended to showcase Britain's North American colonies but with expansive boundaries commensurate with Herman Moll's strong British bias.

Geographically, the map reflects the conventional British cartography of the era. The Chesapeake Bay is noticeably well formed, based on Augustine Hermann's excellent map of 1673, while the areas further to the north take on a vaguely familiar but less accurate form, indicative of the fact that no excellent surveys had yet been conducted of these colonies. Curiously, New England is shown to be exaggeratedly narrowed, especially evident in Massachusetts. The St. Lawrence River and 'Frontenac Lake' (Lake Ontario) and 'Eerie Lake' (Lake Erie) take on a rudimentary form, as the British then had only very limited interest in these regions.

In the upper right corner, is a very interesting early description of the postal system in America. This relates to the fact that the map depicts the contemporary century postal routes in the colonies and is frequently called the first American postal map. Further down, is a note of the terms of the Treaty of Utrecht (1713). This treaty was made following Britain's victory over France during the War of the Spanish Succession. Accordingly, France ceded control of Newfoundland and peninsular Nova Scotia to Britain, although France retained certain fishing rights along Newfoundland's Grand Banks. Interestingly, the map indicates that British colonies of 'New Scotland' (Nova Scotia) and New York extend all the way



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up to the south bank of the St. Lawrence River when, in reality, the entire St. Lawrence Valley was then under French control. Moreover, Virginia extends up to the shores of Lake Erie, well within France's domains.

The large inset in the lower center, entitled 'Map of the Improved Parts of Carolina', is based on John Crisp's magnificent *A Compleat Description of the Province of Carolina* (London, 1711), which itself was based on surveys conducted by Maurice Mathews and John Love. The inset depicting Charleston, South Carolina, further to the right, is also based on Crisp. The inset in the lower left corner, detailing the southeast, from Louisiana to Florida, also appeared on Crisp's map and is predicated on a manuscript map done by the English adventurer Captain Thomas Nairn.

Herman Moll (1654-1732) was one of the most important cartographers working in England during the late 17th and early 18th Century. Originally from Germany, he immigrated to England in 1678 and made his name as an engraver among the likes of Christopher Browne, Robert Morden and Philip Lea. His first publication in his own name to feature maps was *A System of Geography* (1701).

This was followed by *Fifty-six new and accurate maps of Great Britain* (1708) and the *Atlas Geographus* (1711-17). His greatest masterpiece, *The World Described* (1715), contained 30 large maps and ran into numerous editions. Highlights of the atlas included the "Beaver Map" and the "Codfish Map" (an edition of which was also made by Grierson).

Notably, Moll made close friends in the naval and maritime community, such as the pirate-adventurers, William Dampier and Woodes Rogers. From this, Moll developed a particular fascination with British overseas trade and privateering, lending his maps a unique and fascinating flavor.

### **Rarity**

George Grierson's edition of the "Beaver Map" is a major monument in the history of cartography printed in Ireland and a fine example of one of the period's most beloved maps. The map in any state is exceedingly rare and we are not aware of any other examples as having appeared on the market during the last 25 years, with the exception of a proof state we offered, lacking the Beaver scene.

### **Detailed Condition:**

Laid on linen. Printer's crease at lower right corner.

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