



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## [The Second Map of California as an Island!] Zwoelffter Theil der Newen Welt...

**Stock#:** 68875  
**Map Maker:** De Bry / Colijn / Herrera y Tordesillas  
**Date:** 1623  
**Place:** Frankfurt  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 7.5 x 11 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

#### *The Beginning of the Myth -- The Second Map To Show the Island of California*

Beautiful engraved title page for the 1623 German-language edition of Herrera, published as the twelfth part of Theodore de Bry's *Grand Voyages*.

This title page follows the one that was published in the 1622 Amsterdam editions of Herrera, widely regarded as the first printed maps of California as an island, by just a year. Mclaughlin calls this the third state of the 1st title page map (and first overall) of California as an island, in fact, it is a newly-engraved copperplate. This makes it the second printed map to show California as an island.



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### **[The Second Map of California as an Island!] Zwoelffter Theil der Newen Welt...**

The 1623 title page is a much more involved composition than that of the 1622, with the additions of inset medallion busts of Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci, as well as the figures of Magellan and Pizarro flanking the map. The whole image is surmounted by the coat of arms of Castile. Two the left and right of the title block are engravings of the Aztec gods.

The 1622 edition of Herrera was important because it included the first account of Le Maire's voyage. It is possible that Jacob Le Maire was the Dutch mariner of legend who took the famous map showing California as an island from a Spanish vessel in 1620.

Dora Polk notes that publisher Colijn used a map showing California as an island on the title page of both Le Maire's journal and the French and Latin editions of Herrera y Tordesillas, unfortunately without explanation.

The intercepted map of legend is believed to be one that accompanied Ascencions's *Relacion Breve* of 1620, which is now lost. The printed description of the island appears to match the writings of Ascencion. The map shows California in what would become known as the Briggs model.

Henry Briggs apparently saw a Dutch map of the Americas in London in 1622, and on that map, California was shown as an island.

This is a foundational map for any collector of California as an island, being only the second printed map to show the myth.

The map is quite scarce on the market. This is the first example we have offered in more than 20 years.

#### **Detailed Condition:**