



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Amerique Septentrionale divisee en Ses Principales parties 1692 [California as an Island]

Stock#: 69862
Map Maker: Jaillot
Date: 1692
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 34.5 x 22 inches
Price: \$ 3,500.00



Description:

Jaillot's Impressive Map of North America, with California as an Island

Fine, dark impression of Jaillot's striking, large-format map of North America, showing California as an island.

The map, printed in a wide-format, shows all that was then known of North America on a curved projection. The tip of South America is included, as are the British Isles. In the Pacific, a phantom coastline is labeled as "*Terre de Iesso, ou Ieco,*" a reference to a series of North Pacific chimeras related to the search for land sighted by Juan de Gama in the sixteenth century.

Details are densely included in Mexico and Central America, as well as the East Coast of North America. Beyond the Appalachian Mountains and outside Nueva España, however, there is much blank space and conjecture. For example, in what is now Texas is *Quivira*. This is a reference to the Seven Cities of Gold sought by the Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado in 1541. In 1539, Coronado wandered over what today is Arizona and New Mexico, eventually heading to what is now Kansas to find the supposedly rich city of Quivira. Although he never found the cities or the gold, the name stuck on maps of southwest North America, wandering from east to west.

The most striking geographic feature is certainly California depicted as an island. Also of note is the representation of the Great Lakes, which are open at the west end. The far north is riddled with incomplete coastlines, showing the nascent degree of exploration in that area. There is also a suggestive open end to Buttons Bay, a tantalizing possibility of a Northwest Passage.



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To the south, the Mississippi is called the Chucagua and is farther east than previous mappings. There is a massive lake in Florida called Apalache, a mis-mapping of Lake George stemming from the work of De Bry and Le Moyne.

As the title running along the top edge explains, an important part of the map is to denote the political divisions of European imperial possessions. These are marked by dotted lines on the map. An eight-layered scale is in the lower left, with indigenous Americans on either side of the ornate frame. In the upper left is the title cartouche and dedication, another ornate embellishment with indigenous Americans, parrots, and the coat of arms of the Dauphin, the dedicatee. The title cartouche also credits Nicolas Sanson; indeed, the depiction of California is based on the second Sanson or the Luke Foxe model, while the East Coast is derived from his map of 1666.

Due to the rocky relationship between the Jaillot and Sanson firms, there are several closely-related yet separate plates of this map. This is the Covens & Mortier issue of 1692, identifiable by the line of longitude bisecting the first "A" in *Apaches Vaqueros*.

Detailed Condition:

Minor toning and soiling. Old fold split at the bottom center.