



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

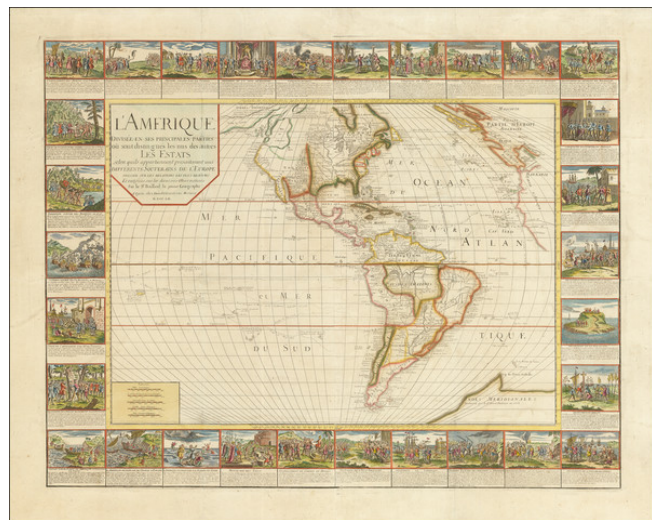
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## L'Amerique Divisee en ses Principales Parties ou sont distingues les uns de autres les Estats, selon quils appartiennents presentement aux Differents Souverains De L'Europe . . . Par le Sr. Bailleul le jeune Geographe . . MDCCLII

**Stock#:** 78987  
**Map Maker:** Bailleul le Jeune  
**Date:** 1752  
**Place:** Lyon  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 39 x 31 inches  
**Price:** \$ 17,500.00



### Description:

#### *French Map of the Americas with the Mysterious de Gonville's Land*

Extremely rare French wall map of the Western Hemisphere by Gaspar Bailleul, surrounded by thirty vignettes illustrating scenes from European exploration and colonization. It also includes one of the most prominent portrayals of the lands supposedly discovered by the Binot Paulmier, Sieur de Gonville.

Published in Lyon by Daudet, the map provides a particularly interesting view of the Northwest Coast of North America, including an early appearance of the mythical Sea of the West. In fact, this is one of the earliest known adoptions of Buache and De l'Isle's controversial sea, which the duo presented to the *Académie des Sciences* in 1750 and printed on a map in 1752.

Nearby is a "*Pres qu'isle de Nord Ouest*," a large extension of the continent that is striped with possible passages between Hudson's Bay and the Pacific—the elusive Northwest Passage. A block of text declares these lands as unknown but ties them to the Pacific chimeras of Compagnies Land and Gamaland.

In the same area is another curious inscription, "*Foussang des Chinois*." This note stems from the work of French Orientalist Le Guignes, who hypothesized that the Chinese arrived in the New World over a millennium before the Europeans in his writings. Le Guignes was named a fellow of the Royal Society of London in 1752, the same year this map was published, and his work was well known across



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Enlightenment Europe.

The map marks North America as a French and Spanish holding; the English colonies are small and contained by French Canada. South America is split into Spanish viceroyalties and provinces.

The seas are filled with tracks of European navigators. The Atlantic includes the three voyages of Christopher Columbus, as well as the well-trodden routes between Europe, Brazil, and the Caribbean. In the middle of these is the route of Jean Varazan, or Giovanni de Verrazzano, a Florentine in the employ of the French Crown who claimed North American territory for France in 1524.

In the Pacific, the track of Magellan—the first circumnavigation—treads westward. Nearby is that of Schouten and Le Maire, an important circumnavigation of 1615-17 that found a new way into the Pacific, around Cape Horn.

Several tracks represent the expeditions of Alvaro de Mendaña and Pedro Ferdinand de Quiros. Mendaña led a Spanish voyage (1567-9) that encountered the Solomon Islands. Quiros was a skilled pilot who accompanied Mendaña on his second voyage to the Solomons in 1595-6. After returning to Spain, Quiros convinced authorities that he could find *Terra Australis*, the southern continent, if they gave him ships and supplies. He set out in 1605 and eventually landed in Vanuatu.

He mistook one of the islands for the fabled continent and called it *Austrialia de Espiritu Santo*. Quiros intended to set up a colony on the supposed continent. However, his crew forced him to leave. Upon his return, Quiros revved up his campaign, lobbying once again for a voyage to return, but he died before embarking on a third Pacific expedition.

Quiros' discoveries remained tantalizing and would be revived by geographers for the next two centuries. They experienced a particular renaissance in the mid-eighteenth century, as seen on this map.

**Paulmier and Terra Incognita**

These lands are described as "*Decouverte par le Sr. Binot Paulmier en 1503.*" This is a reference to the alleged discoveries of Binot Paulmier, Sieur de Gonneville. This French captain supposedly sighted and landed on fertile soil south of the Cape of Good Hope in the early sixteenth century. Bailleul's map provides one of the largest and most ambitious depictions of de Gonneville's voyage.

With two Portuguese pilots and a crew, de Gonneville sailed from Honfleur in Normandy. His destination



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was the East Indies. When he reached the Cape of Good Hope, however, his ship, *L'Espoir*, was blown to an unknown shore. By 1505, he had returned to Europe, claiming to have discovered *Terra Australis Incognita*. De Gonville said that his crew had stayed for six months in this new land, where the local people did not have to labor due to the fertility and bounty of the earth.

These reports were not widely known, however, until the seventeenth century. The Abbé de Paulmier hatched a plan to convert the citizens of the Southern Continent. To bolster his request for an expedition, Paulmier produced a pamphlet outlining the known geography of the area. To argue that *Terra Australis* does indeed exist, the Abbé cited the account of de Gonville, which also explained that, when the navigator returned to Normandy, he brought with him Essonier, the prince of the land he had visited. Essonier settled in Normandy and married de Gonville's daughter. Paulmier claimed to be a descendent of this union, hence his interest in the venture.

If corroborated, de Gonville's landing south of the Cape of Good Hope would claim *Terra Australis* for France by right of first discovery. The problem was, there was no prior mention of de Gonville before the Abbé's petition (1654) and pamphlet (1664). Nevertheless, Gonville's "discoveries" in the south Indian Ocean began to be incorporated into maps from as early as 1661. Until James Cook's second expedition in the late-eighteenth century, French efforts at South Seas discovery would continue to focus on the elusive de Gonville's Land.

#### **Vignettes**

Apart from the geographic content, the vignettes ringing the map offer fascinating insight into European interpretation of the history of conquest and empire in the Americas. The thirty vignettes show the peopling of the Americas by Western Europeans, Northern Europeans, and, interestingly, Asians. The text from the latter explains:

*The cruel wars that have always devastated the eastern parts of Tartary forced the defeated peoples to flee before their vanquishers. Some of them reached the straits of Pieko and Uries and with difficulty crossed them to evade the cruelty of their neighbors.*

Other images represent European (mis)perceptions of Indigenous Americans, such as the Patagonian Giants. They also cover relatively recent events, such as a French naval victory in Martinique, expeditions against the Iroquois, and the charting of the course of the Mississippi.

#### **Rarity**

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The map is quite rare. OCLC locates only two examples, at the Library of Congress and UNC Chapel Hill.  
This is the first time we have offered the map.

**Detailed Condition:**

Original outline color, with minor enhancements. Evidence of old folds, which have been flattened, with minor restorations at point breaks.