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**La Californie ou Nouvelle Caroline, Teatro De Los Trabajos Apostolicos De Compa. E.
Jusus En Americae Septe. . . . 1720**

Stock#: 85382
Map Maker: de Fer
Date: 1720
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 26 x 18 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Largest Separate Representation of the Island of California

Striking large-format map of the island of California—the largest separate representation of the island of California on a printed map. It is a later representation of the island (1720), from a period when mapmakers were beginning to question the island's existence. The maps ironically derive from information provided by Father Eusebio Kino in 1696; by 1720 Kino's later works had largely disproved the California as an island myth.

De Fer's arresting map is far and away the largest representation of California as an island ever issued in regional format and it rivals several immense, rare wall maps as the largest representation of all time. The map is essentially a dramatically enlarged edition of De Fer's map of 1700, "*Californie et Nouveau Mexique*," published in *L'Atlas Curieux ou le Monde*. This map was included in the *Atlas ou recueil de cartes geographiques*.

The title, which translates as "California or New Carolina, Place of the Apostolic Works of the Society of Jesus in North America," derives from Kino's original summaries of his expeditions to California. The inset text below the title provides a history of California up to 1694. De Fer notes that the map is drawn from a map previously transmitted by the Viceroy of New Spain to the *Academie de Sciences* in France.

The title is bordered by filigree and grapes. Three scenes of indigenous people at work and play underline a sense of utopia and plenty. In the lower left corner is another delicate frame, which contains the scale. Flanking this frame are a pair of birds, an aardvark, and a sloth.



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Besides the giant California, there is also a nice regional depiction of the Southwest. Unlike the 1700 map by de Fer, the place names in what is now New Mexico are engraved on this map, not just numbered. California is split from the mainland by the *Mar de las California or Carolinas*. Reflecting a lack of reliable information, there are no place names on the northern portions of the mainland and the island, with the exception of a *C[ab]lo S. Fran[cis]co Xavier*. The outer coast, however, has many place names, including *P[unt]o de S. Fran[cisc]o*.

On the mainland, to the north, is the toponym *Gran Quivira*. This is another great cartographic myth of the early modern period. Quivira refers 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.

A scarce and sought-after map, this item appears only infrequently on the market. It would be an impressive addition to any collection of Western America or California maps.

Detailed Condition:

Trimmed to the neatline and laid down on an old sheet of paper, likely from the same period as the map.