



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Carte Du Canada ou de la Nouvelle France et des Decouvertes qui y ont ete faits . . . 1703

Stock#: 92808
Map Maker: De L'Isle
Date: 1703 (1708)
Place: Paris
Color: Outline Color
Condition: Good
Size: 25.5 x 20 inches
Price: \$ 1,400.00



Description:

De L'Isle's Important Map of Northeast North America

Fine example of De L'Isle's seminal map of eastern Canada, the Great Lakes, and the Upper Midwest— one of the most important and influential maps of the region published in the eighteenth century.

First published in 1703, the first state of this map was one of the earliest to locate Detroit; it was issued only two years after the founding of the village by Cadillac. Additionally, it is of especial importance for a number of regions, including the Great Lakes and the Rocky Mountains. Kershaw states that the map is:

One of the most outstanding maps of Canada of the 17th and early 18th Centuries . . . De L'Isle's careful research resulted in the first map of Canada to present the whole of the Great Lakes correctly. In addition, the position of the lakes relative to Hudson's Bay is also correct, and the Avalon Peninsula is shown much more realistically than on previous maps of Canada. Of considerable significance, the geography of the coastal regions of James and Hudson Bays, together with their major rivers systems, is presented by De L'Isle with a surprising degree of accuracy.

To the south, there is a series of lakes connected by a river, the *Rivière longue*, that leads to a western mountain range. Notes identify this feature as coming from the travels of the Baron de Lahontan. Lahontan distilled Native American reports of a great river, flowing to high mountains, with a great body of salt water beyond the mountains. This information was dubious at best, but it was integrated into many maps of this period. A large text block at the left discusses Lahontan and his findings. While Lahontan's



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Rivière longue proved mythical, the reference to and depiction of a mountain range here is believed to be the first depiction of the Rocky Mountains on a printed map.

Farther north, Hudson's Bay, Baffin Bay, and Greenland are shown in detail, but with significant gaps in their coastlines. This area was still being explored; it was hoped that one of these gaps would lead to a Northwest Passage.

Notes describe the efforts of Arctic navigators such as Baffin and Davis. John Davis led three expeditions north, in 1585, 1586, and 1587. He sailed along the coasts of Greenland, Baffin Island, and Labrador, as well as charted the Davis Strait. He also found the entrance to Hudson Strait, which would be named for Henry Hudson thirty years later. William Baffin led an expedition to the bay now named for him in 1615 and 1616.

In addition to Arctic explorers and Lahontan, De L'Isle accessed other sources to make this map. De L'Isle studied at the French Ministry of the Marine from 1700 to 1703, during which time he took extensive notes on the work of the Jesuit missionaries, including Franquelin, Jolliet and others. These Jesuits in turn had gathered information from trappers and Indigenous informants. There is considerable inclusion of Indigenous names and settlements on this map.

Both missionaries and Indigenous peoples are referenced on the cartouche in the upper left. There are scenes of baptism and proselytizing, contrasted with a hunting party and a warrior holding a scalp. They are accompanied by a beaver and a goose, who flank the scale bars.

This is an example of the second state of the map, published in 1708.

The founding of Detroit

This map is significant for its early inclusion of the site of Detroit. On July 24, 1701, Antoine de la mothe Cadillac established a settlement on the strait, *le détroit*, between Lakes Erie and Huron. Cadillac was a French military man and a trader; he was also once the commander of Fort Michilimackinac at the junction of Lake Huron and Lake Michigan.

In 1698, Cadillac traveled to France to petition for permission to create a new outpost. By 1700, he had the support of the Minister of the Marine, Jérôme Phélypeaux Comte de Pontchartrain. A year later, in June, Cadillac mounted an expedition to locate the precise site for his new village. He called the fortress Fort Pontchartrain du détroit. Two days later, on July 26, the men began construction on a church named for St. Anne, as it was her saint's day.



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The village stayed small for its first few decades and was known as Fort Detroit. It became a British holding during the Seven Years War and began to grow considerably in the nineteenth century.

Detailed Condition:

Lower margin added, with some facsimile in the neatline and numbers between neatlines.