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**[Globe with California as an Island on Allegorical Jesuit Engraving] Saeculum Nostrum
in Illuminatione Vultus Tui Psal 89**

Stock#: 93732
Map Maker: Anonymous
Date: 1700 circa
Place: n.p.
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 6.25 x 9.5 inches
Price: \$ 375.00



Description:

Not in McLaughlin

The engraved page titled "Saeculum Nostrum in Illuminatione Vultus Tui Psal 89" is a beautiful artifact that elegantly fuses religious symbolism, geography, and allegory.

The title, referring to Psalm 89, suggests the theme of enduring covenant and divine favor, which sets a contemplative backdrop to the illustration and resonates with the Jesuits' self-perception as bearers of the Christian faith to the New World.



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At the very top of the page, the IHS symbol, a monogram denoting the Greek spelling of Jesus, is prominently placed, marking the work with the Jesuits' spiritual dedication. On either side, the images of a crab and a lion are inscribed, astrological signs for Cancer and Leo.

The main image on the page is a captivating depiction of two women embracing a globe, highlighting the Americas. The globe, detailed and proportioned, shows a majority of North America, Central America, and the northern part of South America. Interestingly, California is represented as an island, a common cartographic misinterpretation of the period. The embracing women, likely allegorical figures, might symbolize virtues or guiding principles of the Jesuits, their postures embodying both protection and guidance over these lands.

Below the central image, a Latin inscription reads: "Fulsit in ignatio tam centum hoc nomen in annos: terra fave; melior sol hic, et ille leo est, ferte sub hoc, divae, dum totum illuminet, orbem: plus cobis, orbi plus quoque lucis erit." The loose translation of this would be: "This name has shone in Ignatius for so many hundred years: Favor the earth; a better sun is here, and he is the lion, carry under this, goddesses, while he illuminates the whole world: there will be more light for us, and also more for the world." This inscription emphasizes the Jesuits' dedication to spreading enlightenment and their view of their mission as a divine directive.

Overall, this engraved page is a striking piece of Jesuit iconography that melds the spiritual, the allegorical, and the geographical into a testament to the order's commitment to its mission in the Americas during the Age of Discovery.

Rarity

This is the first time we have seen this image, which is not noted in McLaughin's book on the mapping of California as an Island.

Detailed Condition: