



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

(Father Kino's Map) Der Neue Welt-Bott Mit allerhand Nachrichten deren Missionariorum Soc. Jesu. | Allerhand So Lehr-als Geist-reiche Brief / Schrifften und Reis-Beschreibungen, Welche von denen Missionariis der Gesellschaft Jesu Aus Beyden Indien . . .

Stock#: 85607
Map Maker: Stocklein / Kino
Date: 1728
Place: Augsberg and Gratz
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 7.75 x 12.5 inches Book Size
Price: SOLD



Description:

The Map that Settled the Myth of California as an Island. A Fine Presentation bound with the Accompanying Jesuit Relations.

A nice example of the Father Kino map, one of the most important maps of California published in the 18th century and the map that definitively settled the myth of California as an island. This example of the map is particularly desirable as it is bound with Parts I-V of the "Welt-Bott" series of Jesuit Relations, as issued but now uncommon to see together.

The Father Kino map was published in several editions at the start of the 18th century, of which this is the largest and most detailed edition of that period (and the only to show the full Baja Peninsula). The *Welt-Bott* edition is also one of the scarcer editions, particularly when bound into its accompanying Jesuit relations. The map itself is remarkable for its depiction of the Californian Peninsula and the Lower Colorado River, providing the most well-researched cartography of the region to date. The progress of Father Kino's mission between 1698 and 1701 is shown, as he ventured northwards across the Santa Maria River and to the Colorado, which he crossed in 1701.

The map accompanies Parts I-V of the German Jesuit relations which is an adaptation and expansion of the *Relations des Jesuites*. This volume is the 1728 second edition of these Parts, which were originally



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published in 1726 (this was the only part of the Jesuit relations to be reissued). Numerous maps are contained in the work, covering the South Pacific (two maps), South America (two maps), the Middle East and Asia (four maps), and California. In addition to the California map, the map of Nagasaki is interesting for its depictions of cartographic myths - the Jesuit who first mapped this city believed the harbor to be the mouth of a river, hence the depiction of the erroneous "Nangasaki Flus." The German text of these volumes is incredibly detailed and contains some of the most well-researched and developed knowledge of non-European parts of the world of the period.

The creation of California as an island

The popular misconception of California as an island can be found on European maps from the sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries. From its first portrayal on a printed map by Diego Gutiérrez, in 1562, California was shown as part of North America by mapmakers, including Gerardus Mercator and Abraham Ortelius. In the 1620s, however, it began to appear as an island in several sources.

The myth of California as an island was most likely the result of the travel account of Sebastian Vizcaino, who had been sent north up the shore of California in 1602. A Carmelite friar, Fray Antonio de la Ascensión, accompanied him. Ascension described the land as an island and around 1620 sketched maps to that effect. Normally, this information would have been reviewed and locked in the Spanish repository, the *Casa de la Contratación*. However, the manuscript maps were intercepted in the Atlantic by the Dutch, who took them to Amsterdam where they began to circulate. Ascensión also published descriptions of the insular geography in Juan Torquemada's *Monarquía Indiana* (1613) (with the island details curtailed somewhat) and in his own *Relación breve* of ca. 1620.

The first known maps to show California as an island were on the title pages of Antonio de Herrera's *Descripción de las Indias Occidentales* (1622) and Jacob le Maire's *Spiegel der Australische Navigatie* (1622). Two early examples of larger maps are those by Abraham Goos (1624) and another by Henry Briggs, which was included in Samuel Purchas' *Hakluytus Posthumus or Purchas his Pilgrimes* (1625). In addition to Briggs and Goos, prominent practitioners like Jan Jansson and Nicolas Sanson adopted the new island and the practice became commonplace. John Speed's map (1626-7), based on Briggs' work, is well known for being one of the first to depict an insular California.

The island of California became a fixture on mid- and late-seventeenth-century maps. The island suggested possible links to the Northwest Passage, with rivers in the North American interior supposedly connecting



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to the sea between California and the mainland. Furthermore, Francis Drake had landed in northern California on his circumnavigation (1577-80) and an insular California suggested that Spanish power in the area could be questioned.

Father Kino in California

Not everyone was convinced, however. Father Eusebio Kino, a Jesuit, was sent to Baja California in 1681. He also served at Pimeria Alta, north of Sonora, in what is today Arizona. Kino saw the business of conversion as combined with cartography; they both depended on the dissolution of wrong thinking and deception:

If we continue with the promotion and advancement of these new conversions, we shall be able to continue to make correct maps of this North America, the greater part of which has hitherto been unknown, or practically unknown, for some ancients blot the map with so many and such errors and with such unreal grandeurs and feigned riches as a crowned king whom they carry in chairs of gold, of amber, and of corals.

While he was at first a proponent of the island view ([even producing a map to this effect that was copied by de Fer](#)), Kino was convinced by his own observations over the course of over fifty horseback journeys that California was part of the continent. He documented his change of mind in letters and journals that were rediscovered during the twentieth century. In 1701, he took latitude measurements, assuring himself that the Gulf of California did not stretch farther north than 31°N latitude.

After these extensive travels in what is now California, Arizona, and northern Mexico, Kino concluded that the island was actually a peninsula and published a map refuting the claim (Paris, 1705). This map was quickly translated and disseminated widely across Europe.

Meanwhile, in 1700, Guillaume De L'Isle discussed whether California was an island or a part of a continent with J. D. Cassini; their letter was published in 1715. After reviewing all the literature available to him in Paris, including William Dampier's writings that stated that the Spanish used charts showing California as part of the mainland, De L'Isle concluded that the evidence supporting an insular California was not trustworthy. He also cited more recent explorations by the Jesuits (including Kino) that disproved the island theory. Later, in his map of 1722 (*Carte d'Amerique dressee pour l'usage du Roy*), De L'Isle would abandon the island theory entirely.



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Despite Kino's and De L'Isle's work, California as an island remained common on maps until the mid-eighteenth century. De L'Isle's son-in-law, Philippe Buache, for example, remained an adherent of the island depiction for some time. Another believer was Herman Moll, who reported that California was unequivocally an island, for he had had sailors in his offices that claimed to have circumnavigated it. In the face of such skepticism, the King of Spain, Ferdinand VII, had to issue a decree in 1747 proclaiming California to be a peninsula connected to North America; the geographic chimera, no matter how appealing, was not to be suffered any longer, although a few final maps were printed with the lingering island.

Detailed Condition:

Quarto. Original blindstamped full pigskin over oak boards with original clasps. Slight wearing to edges. Spine in seven parts separated with raised bands, with uppermost compartment with leather label reading "R. P. STOECKLEINS NEUER WELDT t BOTT P. I. II. III. IV. V." XX folding engraved maps, and XX engraved plates. Collation: [Half-title with engraved frontispiece on verso]; [title]; [14]; [title]; [10]; 1-6; folding map; 7-116; [title and privilege]; [6]; 1-4; folding map; 5-62; engraved plate; 63-74; folding map; 75-116; [title and privilege]; [10]; 1-64; engraved plate; 65-82; folding map; 83-116; [title and privilege]; [8]; 1-16; folding map; 17-116; [title]; [privilege]; [8]; 1-22; engraved plate; 23-56; engraved plate; 57-58; folding map; 59-120 pages. (Matching Parts I - V in the Bavarian State Library, although the engraved windrose is bound into Part V instead of Part I, thus complete). (Faint ink manuscript on cover "16°611." Scant pencil annotations within. Minor foxing and toning to some pages and plates.)