



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

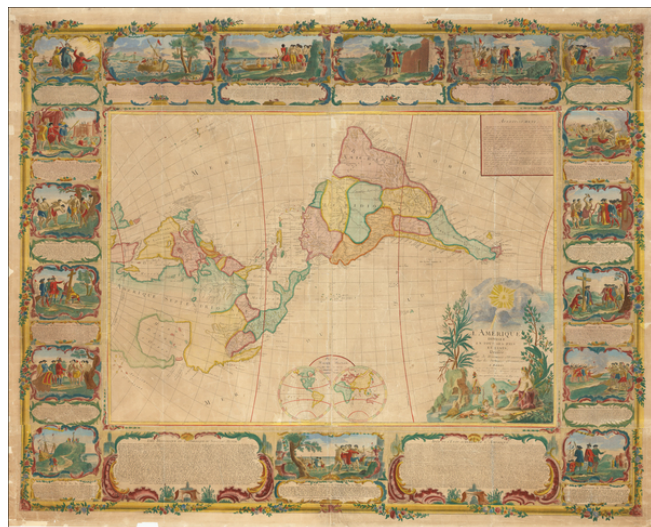
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L'Amerique Divisee En Tous Ses Pays Et Etats dressée sur de nouveaux memoires et sur les derniers . . . 1754 (Bay of the West)

Stock#: 39079
Map Maker: Janvier / Longchamps
Date: 1754
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 60 x 47 inches
Price: \$ 16,500.00



Description:

America with East At The Top

Rare decorative wall map of America, the only known example of a wall map oriented with East at the top.

An unusual collaboration between French mapmakers Jean Janvier and Pierre Nicolas Buret de Longchamps, this map of America is almost certainly the most unusual presentation of America in wall map format from the 18th Century. Published shortly after Joseph Nicolas De L'Isle returned from his time in service of the Russia with the (ultimately inaccurate) information that Russian explorers were confirming the existence of the Sea of the West, this is one of the first wall maps to present this theory in large scale format, depicting the "Mer ou Baye L'Ouest" in the grandest possible format.

The myth had its roots in the 17th Century. Joseph Nicolas De L'Isle's more famous brother Nicolas De L'Isle, the Geographer to the King of France, had proposed the idea and several manuscript maps in the Bibliotheque Nationale de France prepared as early as 1696 depict this cartographic myth. While the myth of the Sea or Bay of the West temporarily languished, the proliferation of Russian exploration off the Northwest Coast of America after 1740 reinvigorated interest in the region and forced the most prominent map makers of the period to re-examine existing knowledge. During a period between 1750 and 1770, the most prominent French and British map makers advanced multiple and widely varying theories on the Northwest Coast of America. The theory would flourish until the circumnavigations of James Cook in the 1770s would put an end to the myth.



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The map is surrounded by decorative vignettes, depicting important events in American History.

The map is part of the tradition of the grand genre of wall, or parlor, maps that enjoyed an iconic place in 17th and early 18th-century Europe. Large, highly decorative and expensive productions, they were considered to be the ultimate signs of wealth and intellectual sophistication. In this vein, such wall maps appeared prominently in works of fine art, most notably the paintings of Johannes Vermeer. Displayed in the salons of leading merchants and noblemen, the maps were especially prone to damage and their survival rate is extremely low.

Rarity

The map is rare on the market. This is one of two examples we have offered in the past 30 years.

Detailed Condition:

4-sheet map with additional decorative panels, joined. Several expertly repaired tears.