



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## Le N. Mexique appartient a l'Espagne . . .

**Stock#:** 67665  
**Map Maker:** Du Val  
**Date:** 1656 circa (1661)  
**Place:** Paris  
**Color:** Outline Color  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 4.75 x 4 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

#### **"The first map devoted so much to California"-- Burden**

A little, very rare, gem of a map of California as an Island, stretching eastwards into lands little known. Many places throughout this region are named, and colonial claims are shown. A long title devotes itself to explaining the extent of New Mexico, the Island of California ("one of the largest islands in the world"), and the lack of exploration in the region.

The map is fascinating for many reasons. For one, we see Canada stretching almost into lands controlled by Apache tribes, and Florida reaches a mountain range just east of Santa Fe. The Rio Grande flows past Santa Fe into the Gulf of California ("mer vermeille"). Several still recognizable place names can be found, including "Taosi," "Cinaloa," Zacatecas, though their emplacements appear to be all but guesses. Santa Fe is the only city proper to be seen. The Navajo Apaches are marked as living at a more northern than the Cap Blanc.

Of course, the central interest on the map is the Island of California. Notably, New Albion is labeled on the mainland, even though the Port of Sir Francis Drake is labeled in its "correct" spot. We see many recognizable places along the California coastline, including Cabo San Lucas, Todos Santos Bay, Santa Clemente Island, Santa Barbara, and the Mendocino Cape.

#### **L'Amerique par P. Du Val Geographe du Roy**



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### Le N. Mexique appartient a l'Espagne . . .

This map is originally from a single engraved sheet appearing alongside seventeen other maps in a work entitled *L'Amerique Par P. Du Val Geographe du Roy*. One map was devoted to the whole American continent, while the others focused on such areas as Newfoundland, the Caribbean, Patagonia, and Columbia. Two particularly notable maps come out of this work, the first of which is the present map of California as an Island, remarkable for its early focus on California. The second is the map entitled *La Nvle. Svede*, which "could rightly be called the first map of the Delaware River" (Burden 322). Many additional maps are intriguing for other reasons, including portraying the American holdings of such diverse colonial powers as Denmark, Sweden, and Holland.

This work was separately published, and neither Burden nor we are able to ascertain their purpose. The work appeared alongside similar charts of the four then-known continents.

This was printed as part of the second state of this work. Burden notes one example of the first state in Oxford, and two examples of the second state, one in the BNF in Paris, and one in a private American collection. An 1885 source also refers to this map being present in the BNF. An example was offered at auction in 2010, but it is uncertain if this was the same as one of the examples which Burden notes. We have been unable to locate any additional loose examples of these maps outside of the complete sheets.

Burden dates the first state of the map to circa 1656 on the assumption that Duval used many of Sanson's place names from his 1650 and 1656 maps, but not from his 1657 *Audience de Guadalajara*.

#### Detailed Condition:

Old hand-color. Cut close to margin.