



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
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[Nova et Acurata Totius Americae Tabula auct. G.I. Blaeu] America quarta pars orbis quam plerunq, novum orbem appellitant) primo detccta est anno 1492, a Christophoro Columbo Genuensi auspicijs Regis Castiliae, Deutde ulterius perucistigata navigationibus Americi Florentini, de cuius nomine America dicta est circiter annum 1497 Verum anno 1520 Ferdiandus Magallanus primus fuit qui extremos limites ad austru vergentes navigatione per fretum de nomine suo Magallanicu dictu uisitavit et noto fecit

Stock#: 81465
Map Maker: Blaeu / Todeschi / Longhi
Date: 1673 circa
Place: Bologna?
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: See Description
Size: 42.25 x 32.25 inches
Price: \$ 150,000.00



Description:

An Exceptional 17th-Century Wall Map of America. With Original Hand-Color in Full. A Previously Unknown First State.

A truly handsome example of Willem Janszoon Blaeu's early wall map of America, here in the circa 1673 Italian version by Pietro Todeschi and Giuseppi Longhi.

The map is a supreme example of the mapmaker's art from a time when wall maps became an important part of the public and private decor across Europe. In the 17th century, wall maps were elevated as symbols of worldliness and curiosity, as the European mercantile elite and aristocratic classes accumulated much wealth through overseas exploration and commerce.

Today, all such wall maps are great rarities. They were very expensive and technically difficult to produce, and so were issued in very limited quantities. Moreover, their large size and the manner in which they were displayed made them especially vulnerable to damage, such that very few examples survive to the present day.



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Willem Janszoon Blaeu's 1608 Continental Wall Maps

In Amsterdam in 1608, Willem Janszoon Blaeu produced a set of large wall maps of Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Today, original examples of these maps, published by Blaeu himself, are exceptionally rare; for instance, a survey shows only one institutional example of the Asia map, in Dresden. Despite the rarity of the original Blaeu maps, they had a colossal influence on European mapping of the continents in the 17th century, particularly through the many derivatives, reduced versions, and copies that they spawned.

In his *magnum opus* on early Dutch mapmaking, Gunther Schilder spends the better part of Volume V on Blaeu's set and its followers. While the original Blaeu maps practically never appear on the market today, the Italian and French derivatives appear more regularly but are still extremely rare. The primary wall map versions were by Blaeu in 1608; Scaicki in circa 1627; an anonymous Venetian version from circa 1646; a French edition by Jaillot from 1669; and this Italian copy by Pietro Todeschi (engraved by Giuseppi Longi), from 1673.

Gunther Schilder (MCN V, page 195) introduces the Todeschi-Longhi copies of the Blaeu wall map set as follows:

Another Italian imitation of Blaeu's wall maps of the four continents was engraved by Pietro Todeschi in Bologna at the beginning of the 1670s; the set was published in 1673, probably by Giuseppe Longhi. Todeschi is no stranger, since he had made the large wall map of Italy (1675) by Matthaeus Greuter as well as a large town view of Bologna (1678). Because Longhi published the map of Italy, he may also have published the four maps of the continents. This set of maps closely resembles the previously discussed Venetian edition which was probably used as a model. The copyist imitated his models very accurately in the map image, the representation of the thousands of toponyms, the decorations on the map and the decorative borders. Minor deviations occur, among other things, in the texts of the long legends, where the words are sometimes not on the same line (ill. 2.171). The map image is also engraved on four copperplates (82 x 107.5 cm in all), the decorative borders along the sides (costumed figures) and the lower edge (town views and plans) were printed from two copperplates. Some copies have a text which runs into the decorative



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borders. Along the upper edge runs a woodcut title in capitals. A number of sets and some single copies are known and are described below. The maps are often in very poor condition.

Differentiating the Longhi-Todeschi Edition and States

As Burden (433) elaborates, the various editions of the Blaeu wall maps of the Americas can be determined by the spellings of "MAR/ DEL NORT" and "AMERICA SEPTEN/TRIONALIS". In this case, with the spelling "MAR/ DEL NOI", we know that the map is of the Longhi-Todeschi lineage.

Burden notes: "One notable deviation from all those before is an attempt to correlate the map with the California as an island theory. This was achieved by creating an island out of Baja California." This was obviously done in an ad hoc manner, with a simple channel being cut from one side of the peninsula to the top of the Sea of Cortez. However, this is not the case in the present example, which clearly pre-dates the re-engraving to turn California into an island. Consequently this should be considered a previously unknown first state of the map.

The Todeschi edition differs in other respects from the Blaeu original; in North America, there are four toponyms that do not appear on the original (but do appear on the earlier Venetian imitation): "to the west of Davis Strait the toponym *NOVA BRITANIA* (on the Venetian edition: *NOVA BRITANNIA*), in New Brunswick the name *Accadie*, and further south the names *Anglia nova* and *Nova Fiandra*, names reminding us of the English and Dutch colonies." On the inset map of the Great Southern Continent "is the name *Stretto Lamairo*. The drawing of a coastline with the name *Ant. van Diemens lant* refers to the discovery of Tasmania by Abel Jansz Tasman in 1642. The addition *detecta 1667* near *Boach Provincia* (the name *Beach* was more usual for the northern most tip of the Southern Continent) may be a mistake of the engraver: in 1627 Pieter Nuijts sailed along the south coast of present-day Australia." (Schilder, page 197).

Rarity

The combined censuses of Burden and Schilder indicate only the following examples: Library of Congress (2 examples); Harry Ransome Center, UT, Austin; Private American collection (2 examples, of which this



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might be one); RGS, London; Luneburg Museum, Germany; Societa Geografica Italiana, Rome; Koninklijke Hollandsche Lloyd, Amsterdam (untraced); Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color in full. Four sheets joined as one and laid on original linen, as issued. Overall toning and soiling. Cracks and chips, but overall quite stable. Notably, some small unrestored paper losses largely confined to a few spots in the oceans and the borders. The outside border overlaid (probably contemporaneously) with a separate engraved border. This border with some repaired losses. Trimmed to the graticulated border at the top of the image and to the ball-and-lozenge engraved borders at all other sides. WITHOUT facsimile or restoration of the cartographic image itself. Despite its faults, this is an exceptional example of its kind; hardly any 17th-century wall maps in full original hand-color exist today in a better state.