



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

**Mapa de las Misiones de la Compañia de Jesus en los rios Paraguay y Uruguay;
conforme alas mas modernas obsevaciones de Latitud y de Longitud, hechas en los
pueblos de dichas Misiones; y a las relaciones antiguas, y modernas de los Padres
Misioneros de ambos rios. Por el Padre Joseph Quiroga de la misma Compañia de Jesus
en la Provincia de la Paraguay. Año de 1749**

Stock#: 88595
Map Maker: Quiroga / Franceschelli
Date: 1753
Place: Rome
Color: Uncolored
Condition: Good
Size: 30.75 x 36.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

"The Most Perfect Map the Jesuits Made in the [18th] Century" (Furlong)

Well preserved example of one of the rarest 18th maps of the Jesuit Missions in South America, prepared by Father José Quiroga Méndez in 1749 and engraved in Rome by Ferdinandus Franceschelli in 1753, utilizing Quiroga's original manuscript maps.

Quiroga's map was engraved following the Treaty of Madrid on January 3, 1750, which began the effort by Spain and Portugal to end decades of conflict in the region and establish territorial boundaries between Portuguese Brazil and the Spanish colonial territories to the south and west. The map reflects the modern scientific rigor of its maker (identified on the map as Joseph Quiroga), who made the earliest astronomical



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

**Mapa de las Misiones de la Compañia de Jesus en los rios Paraguay y Uruguay;
conforme alas mas modernas obsevaciones de Latitud y de Longitud, hechas en los
pueblos de dichas Misiones; y a las relaciones antiguas, y modernas de los Padres
Misioneros de ambos rios. Por el Padre Joseph Quiroga de la misma Compañia de Jesus
en la Provincia de la Paraguay. Año de 1749**

surveys in the region. As noted by Alexander von Humboldt, "the missionaries [such as Quiroga] . . . were the only geographers of the most inland parts of the [American] continents." Quiroga's map is described by Jesuit scholar Guillermo Furlong as **the most perfect map the Jesuits made in the 18th century.**

Quiroga's 1749 map covers the region of the Paraná and Uruguay rivers, including a detailed overview of the Missions from Paraguay and Uruguay to the mouth of the Rio de la Plata, locating the "towns" (settlements around the missions) within the region, along with an informative series of ethnographic notes which were part of Quiroga's more extensive observations on the region, a preview of his journal, which would remain unpublished for over a century.

Cartographically, the map is augmented by a list of 37 towns whose locations have been established by astronomical observations made by Quiroga on his expedition. To emphasize his rigor, Quiroga notes that the newly founded towns in the Tobatines, Minuanes, Mocovies, and Abipones are not included in the table, because the necessary astronomical observations had not been made, but are placed on the map in the position which he believed accurate based on available information.

Quiroga's Ethnographic Notes

In addition to the astronomical observations, Quiroga includes interesting ethnographic information, including the following observations on six different indigenous groups:

[The] Charruas [are] unfaithful Indians, horsemen, and nomads, who roam throughout the land south of the Ybera Lagoon between the Paraná and Uruguay rivers; they sustain themselves with hunting and what they steal; they dress in skins of Deer and Tigers, their bows, spears, and a branch with two or three stone balls are the weapons they use in war and hunting. It is not known if they acknowledge the true God, but it is certain they invoke the Devil in their drunkenness, and sometimes he appears to them visibly.

[The] Bohanes Ganoas [and] Minuanes . . . are nations of infidels, living in the plains to the East of the Uruguay River, and they have the same customs and weapons as we mentioned of the Charruas. [The] Guaraníes . . . live between the Paraná and Uruguay rivers from the Towns of the Missions to the Paraná Falls. They are pedestrian and naturally peaceful people, they cultivate the land, and



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

**Mapa de las Misiones de la Compañia de Jesus en los rios Paraguay y Uruguay;
conforme alas mas modernas obsevaciones de Latitud y de Longitud, hechas en los
pueblos de dichas Misiones; y a las relaciones antiguas, y modernas de los Padres
Misioneros de ambos rios. Por el Padre Joseph Quiroga de la misma Compañia de Jesus
en la Provincia de la Paraguay. Año de 1749**

*sustain themselves with corn, and manioc, and hunting; their weapons are bows, arrows, and clubs:
we know nothing certain of their Religion.*

*[The] Caribes live to the East and West of the Uruguay River in the thick forests; they sustain
themselves on honey, wild fruits, and hunting; they wear a wax cap on their head as a hat, their
weapons are large bows, which they shoot by anchoring one end in the ground: they eat the men
they can capture.*

*[The] Payaguas . . . are infidels who spend most of their life on the rivers, and navigate the entire
Paraguay River, and the Paraná from the towns of the Missions to the River Plate, using very small,
and light canoes; the men go naked, and are very cruel, and treacherous; their weapons are spears,
arrows, and clubs.*

Creation and Publication of the Map

Quiroga's initial assignment in the New World was to undertake a detailed study and mapping of the coastline of Patagonia, beginning in 1746. The present work was his next significant cartographic contribution. Quiroga was next commissioned to map of the territory of Misiones: a vast and difficult undertaking, not only due to the nature of the terrain, but also due to the lack of materials and resources. His subsequent field work determined with great accuracy the geographical position of the towns of Misiones, and that of the cities of Asunción, Corrientes, Santa Fe, Colonia, Montevideo and Buenos Aires. From this information and the data provided by mostly unpublished reports of the missionaries, Quiroga created this monmental work, which was as tranmittd back to Rome and engraved by Ferdinandus Franceschelli.

The map is dedicated to Ferdinand VI, King of Spain, and includes his portrait in the allegorical dedicatipn cartouche, with the text below translating as follows: "Behold, what I know of the new world. O wealthiest of Kings, the fields of the Indians, the peaks of rocks, mountains, Rising hills, and cedar-roofed houses, Rivers which slide along their watery course, And accept the depicted steps of all these, Live."

A trained mapmaker, mathematician and skilled navigator, Father José Quiroga Méndez (1707 -1784) arrived in South America in 1745-1746, joining José Cardiel (1704-1781) Matthias Strobel (1696-1769) on a maritime expedition along the Patagonian coast as part of an effort to expand the Jesuit missions in the



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

**Mapa de las Misiones de la Compañia de Jesus en los rios Paraguay y Uruguay;
conforme alas mas modernas obsevaciones de Latitud y de Longitud, hechas en los
pueblos de dichas Misiones; y a las relaciones antiguas, y modernas de los Padres
Misioneros de ambos rios. Por el Padre Joseph Quiroga de la misma Compañia de Jesus
en la Provincia de la Paraguay. Año de 1749**

region south of Río de la Plata, along with the exploration of Patagonia, the Strait of Magellan, and Cape Horn, the first Spanish expedition in 1745-46 along the Patagonian coasts. Following the signing of the Treaty of Madrid, Quiroga would go on to play an active role in the boundary survey party that toured the Upper Paraguay River region.

The map includes a number of text explanations, which are outlined below:

"El rio Paraguay tiene su origen en el lago de los Xarayes en la Latitud de 14 grados al Sur de la Equinocial: entran en este lago por la banda de el Poniente los rios Ycipotiva, y Yauri, los cuales vienen de el Noroeste; suben por cualquiera de los dos los Portugueses, que van a las nuevas minas de Matogrosso situadas en la ribera Septentrional de el Yauri, casi al Oeste de las otras minas de Cuyaba."

Translation: "The Paraguay River originates from the Xarayes Lake at the latitude of 14 degrees south of the Equator: entering this lake from the west are the Ycipotiva and Yauri rivers, which come from the Northwest. The Portuguese ascend either of these two rivers, heading to the new mines of Matogrosso located on the Northern bank of the Yauri, almost west of the other mines of Cuyaba."

Rarity

OCLC locates 2 examples:

- John Carter Brown Library
- National Library of Spain
- British Library (listed as a manuscript, but noting the Rome 1753 imprint, so likely printed)

The 1861 Catalogue of the manuscript maps, charts and plans ... in the British museum lists a copy of the map.

Detailed Condition:

Remargined, with neat lines added and some facsimile in lower right corner. Separation along centerfold. Tear with loss in title at upper left in the letter "M" in Misiones.