



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

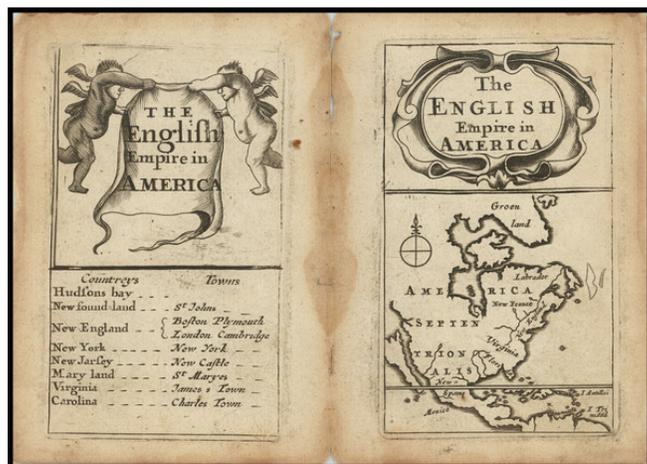
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The English Empire in America

Stock#: 92179
Map Maker: Seller
Date: 1679
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 2.25 x 3.75 inches each
Price: \$ 1,400.00



Description:

The English Empire in America, a miniature engraved map first issued as a playing card by John Seller in London in 1676 (this edition issued circa 1679), provides a fascinating perspective on the territorial understanding and imperial aspirations of the English in North America.

The late 17th century saw the emergence of England as a significant colonizing power in North America, contesting French and Spanish claims. This map encapsulates this contestation by demarcating New France strictly to the St. Lawrence River basin, thereby illustrating the French's actual control rather than their larger territorial claims. This decision may reflect England's challenge to France's imperial ambitions in the region.

The map's representation of California as an island, a cartographic misconception widely circulated in the 17th and 18th centuries, embodies the geographical uncertainties of the era. The double-bay format for California, first used by Luke Foxe in 1635, further attests to the influence of earlier exploratory expeditions on the cartographic imagination of the period.

This state lacks the portrait of Queen Mary (which Queen Mary is a matter of debate, as there was no Queen Mary until James II ascended to the throne in 1685, and we know the plate was modified to remove the portrait years before that happened. Burden opines that it relates to Henrietta Maria, the mother of Charles II.)

In sum, John Seller's "The English Empire in America" stands as a testament to the burgeoning English imperial ambitions and their evolving geographic understanding of North America in the late 17th century. The map's distinctive features, its related mysteries, and its historical context make it a captivating piece



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The English Empire in America

of early colonial cartography.

Rarity

We trace no copies on the market (in OldMaps.com) since 2004.

Detailed Condition:

Centerfold toning and wear.