



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## (California as an Island) New Mexico

**Stock#:** 92181  
**Map Maker:** Seller  
**Date:** 1679  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 2.25 x 3.75 inches each  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

#### ***Extremely Rare 17th-Century English Map Focusing on California as an Island.***

*New Mexico* is an extremely rare English map by John Seller, published in London in 1679 (first issued circa 1676). It is particularly noteworthy for illustrating California as an island - a common misconception during this period - and for providing further geographical details of western North America, including the depiction of the mythical Strait of Anian, a purported waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

The map originally served as a component in a deck of geographical playing cards and was subsequently repurposed for inclusion in Seller's miniature atlases. The illustration of California on the map follows the earlier flat north coast Briggs-type delineation of 1625.

Accompanying the map on its facing page, there is a division of New Mexico into nine sections, which corresponds to the region's number in the card deck's suit. This unique amalgamation of geography and playing cards provides a fascinating insight into the imaginative cartographic methods of the 17th century.

### Rarity

Rare. The last example traced in OldMaps.com was offered almost 20 years ago (2004).

### **Detailed Condition:**

Wear and toning at the centerfold and edges.