

Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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(California as an Island) New Mexico

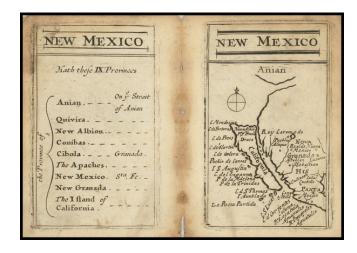
Stock#: 92181 Map Maker: Seller

Date: 1679
Place: London
Color: Uncolored

Condition: VG

Size: 2.25×3.75 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.