



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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A New Map of Carolina Sold by Geo: Willdey at the Greaty Toy, Spectacle, China-ware and Print Shop, ye Corner of Ludgate Street near St. Pauls

Stock#: 95472
Map Maker: Willdey
Date: 1685 (1715)
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 17.5 x 21 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Final State of One of the Most Important Early Maps of the Carolinas

Final state of the Thornton, Morden & Lea map of the Carolinas, one of the most important maps of the period.

The map is a foundational maps of the Carolinas, influencing the mapping of the region for the final decades of the 17th Century and well into the 18th Century. As noted by Jay Lester, the map is

one of the rarest and most important seventeenth century printed maps of Carolina. The map was published in 1685 by the short-lived partnership between three leading map sellers of the period: John Thornton, Robert Morden, and Phillip Lea. Their base map was the now unobtainable second Lords Proprietors' map of Carolina by Gascoyne, published in 1682. The Thornton-Morden-Lea map derives from both the first and second states of the Gascoyne map.



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However, it is not simply a modified Gascoyne map; Thornton et al also incorporated data from other sources. Though not copied verbatim, the soundings along the Outer Banks were unequivocally derived from an untitled manuscript map in the Blathwayt Atlas (John Carter Brown Library). For the interior, Thornton et al chose to improve upon the Gascoyne map rather than revert to the Lederer-inspired geography of the Ogilby-Moxon and so-called Speed maps of Carolina from the previous decade. As such, the depiction of the river system is, without question, the most accurate to date.

The interior is decorated with two well-antlered deer or elk, two panthers, turkey, boar, raccoon, and... an ostrich?! Cumming described the 1682 Gascoyne map as "the most accurate representation of the Carolina region yet to appear." Yet, in just a few short years, it was surpassed by Thornton, Morden, & Lea's A New Map of Carolina. Decades would pass before Carolina cartography would see further noticeable improvement.

The map is also the first map of the Carolinas to provide meaningful details on early settlements, including a list of 33 early settlements in the Carolina Colony. The map was also the first map of the Carolinas to influence other European mapmakers. Within a decade, Pierre Mortier would create a French copy, which he included in his Neptune Francois.

States

State 1: circa 1685, with imprint of Thornton, Morden, and Lea in the title cartouche.

State 2: circa 1695, imprint altered to By/ Philip Lea at the Atlas and Hercules/ in Cheap Side/LONDON. The inset of Charleston Harbor has been enlarged and now has title at top: ASHLEY & COOPER RIVER.

State 3: circa 1715, imprint altered to Sold by Geo: Willdey at the Great Toy,/ Spectacle, Chinaware and Print Shop,/ ye Corner of Ludgate Street near St Pauls/ LONDON.

Rarity

The map is of the utmost rarity, especially the final state by George Willdey.

The last example of the map to appear at auction was in the Streeter Sale in 1967, acquired by Streert from the Huntington Library (Lot 1112, sold for \$600). The last example offered in a dealer catalog was in 2009 (Arkway Catalog 69, Item 9 -- \$48,000, acquired from Ashley Baynton Williams in 2008), which now



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resides in a private collection in North Carolina.

The final state of the map is apparently the rarest. Burden located only the examples at the John Carter Brown Library (lacking the bottom left corner) and the Library of Congress. We note also a heavily damaged example in the State Archives of North Carolina. We were unable to locate any other example at auction or in dealer catalogs.

Detailed Condition: