



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman  
Antique Maps Inc.**

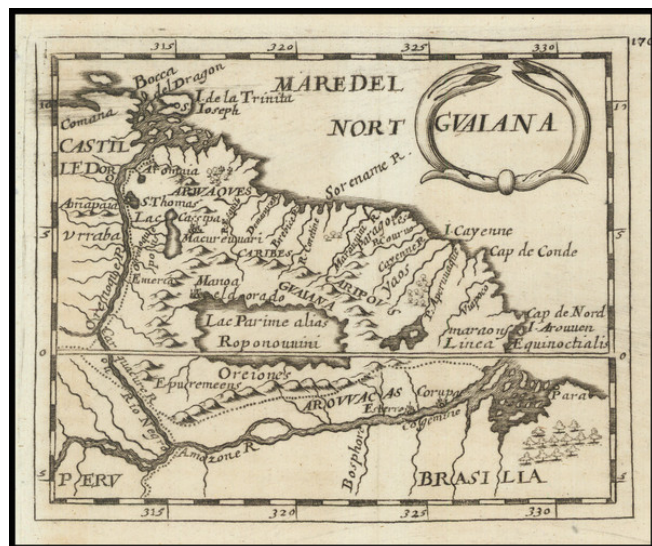
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**[El Dorado] Guaiana**

**Stock#:** 97225  
**Map Maker:** Du Val  
**Date:** 1681  
**Place:** Paris  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 5 x 4 inches  
**Price:** \$ 275.00



**Description:**

Nice example of the scarce Nuremberg edition of Pierre Du Val's map of El Dorado and the country of the Amazons.

Du Val's names El Dorado, drawing on his larger map of "Guaina or the Savage Coast, also known as El Dorado and the Country of the Amazons.

The mythical Lac Parime (alias Roponounini) is also illustrated, with El Dorado (Manoa) very prominently located on the far western shores of the map. Roponounini has indigenous origins, likely derived from the languages of the local peoples whom the European explorers encountered. The exact meaning or the cultural context of "Roponowini" is less clear, as much of the indigenous lore and language were either not fully understood or not accurately recorded by the Europeans.

The mouth of the Amazon River is depicted in great (if inaccurate) detail.

El Dorado was originally El Hombre Dorado (the golden man), El Indio Dorado (the golden Indian), or El Rey Dorado (the golden king). This is the mythical name used by Europeans to describe a tribal chief of the Muisca native people of Colombia, South America, who as an initiation rite, covered himself with gold dust and dived into Lake Guatavita. Imagined as a place, El Dorado went from a city to a kingdom and an empire of this legendary golden king. In pursuit of the legend, Spanish conquistadors Francisco Orellana and Gonzalo Pizarro departed from Quito (now capital of Ecuador) in 1541, in an expedition towards the Amazon Basin, as a result of which Orellana became the first known person to navigate the entire length of the Amazon River.



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### [El Dorado] Guaiana

The concept of El Dorado underwent several transformations, and eventually accounts of the previous myth were also combined with those of a legendary lost city. The resulting El Dorado myth enticed European explorers for two centuries. Among the earliest alleged stories was the one told on his death bed by "Martinez", ammunitioner for Spanish adventurer Diego de Ordaz, who claimed to have been rescued from shipwreck, conveyed inland, and entertained by "El Dorado" himself (1531). The fable of Juan Martinez was founded on the adventures of Juan Martin de Albuja, well known to the Spanish historians of the Conquest; and who, in the expedition of Pedro de Silva (1570), fell into the hands of the Caribs of the Lower Orinoco.

In the 16th and 17th centuries, Europeans still believed that a hidden city of immense wealth existed. Many searched for this treasure, in quests that ended in the loss of countless lives. The illustration of El Dorado's location on maps only made matters worse, as it made some people think that the city of El Dorado's existence had been confirmed. The mythical city of El Dorado on Lake Parime was marked on maps until its existence was disproved by Alexander von Humboldt during his Latin-America expedition.

The present map identifies "Guiana ou Roiaume du Roy doré."

This map is extremely rare. A later edition by Jollain (1668) is also known. Copies of this map reside in the Bibliotheque Nationale de France and the Collection of George III (British Library) and the Clements Library.

#### **Detailed Condition:**