



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## (Virginia Indians) Ut Matronae Dasamon que peuc liberos gestant X [How the Chief Ladies of the Town of Dasemunkepeuc Carry their Children and their Dress]

**Stock#:** 98041  
**Map Maker:** De Bry  
**Date:** 1591  
**Place:** Frankfurt  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 9 x 8.5 inches Including Text  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

16th-century engraved image showing Native American noblewomen from Virginia and their manner of carrying their children.

The text translates as follows:

*In a place called Inoppido Dalemunquepeuc, four or five miles distant from Roanoke, the matron is adorned and tattooed in the same manner as those in Roanoke; however, they do not place collars on their heads, nor do they have their legs decorated with small puncture designs. They have a remarkable method of carrying children, quite different from ours: for while we support our children in our arms in front of our chests, they, grasping the child's right hand, carry them on their backs, embracing the child's left leg with their left arm, in a*



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### **(Virginia Indians) Ut Matronae Dasamon que peuc liberos gestant X [How the Chief Ladies of the Town of Dasemunkepeuc Carry their Children and their Dress]**

*manner quite remarkable and foreign, as can be seen from the picture.*

This engraved image follows the John White painting made in Virginia, and was published by Theodor de Bry for his *Grands Voyages*, one of the most important travel accounts of the 16th century. The work is beautifully engraved and includes a nice view of the Virginian coastline.

In 1585, Governor John White, was part of a voyage from England to the Outer Banks of North Carolina under a plan of Sir Walter Raleigh to settle "Virginia." White was at Roanoke Island for about thirteen months before returning to England for more supplies. During this period he made a series of over seventy watercolor drawings of indigenous people, plants, and animals. The purpose of his drawings was to give those back home an accurate idea of the inhabitants and environment in the New World. The earliest images derived from White's original drawings were made in 1590, when Theodor De Bry made engravings from White's drawings to be printed in Thomas Hariot's account of the journey. Hariot, a mathematician, had also been part of the 1585 voyage.

#### **Translation**

The descriptive text below the plate reads:

*In the town of Dasemunkepeuc, about four or five miles from Roanoke, the women dress and paint themselves in the same way as the women of Roanoke although they do not wear wreaths upon their heads nor do they paint their thighs with small pricks. They carry their children in a strange manner quite different from us. Whereas our women carry their children in their arms before their breasts, they take their sons by the right hand, carrying them on their backs, holding the left thigh in the left arm in a strange and unusual fashion as can be seen in the picture.*

#### **States and Editions**

This is the second state of the engraving, with an additional bird in the background water near the canoe. This is the first Latin edition of the second state, with the title in a single line of text.

#### **Detailed Condition:**