



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

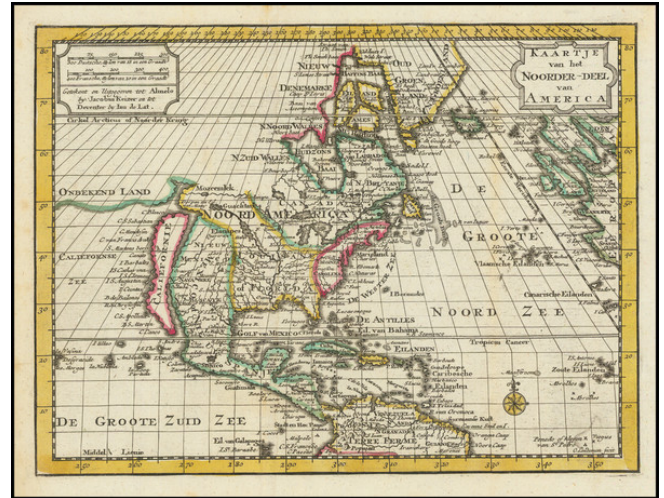
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Kaartje van het Noorder-Deel van America [Moingona River Shown]

Stock#: 99763
Map Maker: De Lat
Date: 1747
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 9 x 7 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare Dutch Map of North America

Unusual map of North America, with California as an Island.

The map also includes a fascinating speculative "Onbekend Land" (Unknown Land) and the country of the Moozemlek to the west, with a river reaching to a Lake Michinipe, a possible speculative source of the Mississippi River. The Moingona R[iver] below it also extends nearly to the Pacific Ocean, likely an early attempt to suggest that the Missouri River might be a way to reach the Pacific Ocean by easy portage.

Moingona River

French missionary Jacques Marquette documented in 1672 that the Peolualen (the modern Peoria). and the Mengakonkia (Moingona) were among the Ilinoue (Illinois) tribes who all "speak the same language." In 1673 Marquette and Louis Jolliet left their canoes and followed a beaten path away from the river out onto the prairie to three Illinois villages within about a mile and a half of each other. Marquette identified only one of the villages at the time, the peouarea, but a later map apparently by him identified another as the Moingwena.

Pierre François Xavier de Charlevoix, a missionary who explored the region in 1721, recorded that "le Moingona" was "an immense and magnificent Prairie, all covered with Beef and other Hoofed Animals." He italicized the term to indicate it was a geographical term and noted that "one of the tribes bears that name."



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The name Moingona was probably the basis for the name of the City of Des Moines, the Des Moines River, and Des Moines County, Iowa. The meaning of "Moingona" has been debated. Historic accounts suggest that Moingona was a term referring to people who lived by or encountered near the portage around the Des Moines Rapids. The noted cartographer Joseph Nicollet supported this interpretation, as did the Algonquian linguist Henry Schoolcraft. Schoolcraft and Nicollet's report says that Moingona:

is a corruption of the Algonkin word Mikonang, signifying at the road;...alluding, in this instance, to the well-known road in this section of country, which they used to follow as a communication between the head of the lower rapids and their settlement on the river that empties itself into the Mississippi, so as to avoid the rapids; and this is still the practice of the present inhabitants of the country.

Rarity

This is the second time we have ever seen the map.

Detailed Condition: