



Mapa del Golfo y costa de la Nueva España, . . .

Description: The original of this map, about 23 by 17 inches, is in the Archives of the Indies, Seville. It is an anonymous, undated, manuscript map and was made to exhibit the explorations of De Soto and Moscoso, 1539-1543.

The entire map is reproduced from Harrisse's *Discovery of North America*, p. 634-644, with a reduction of rather more than one-half. It shows the coast and interior of the Southern States between Georgia and Texas, and possibly part of some of the states bordering on this region. Many new names make their appearance. Twenty-one rivers are represented as emptying into the Gulf or the Atlantic. Among these is the *R del espíritu Santo*, which is either the Mississippi or the Mobile. The large lake in the northeast may be the Okefenokee Swamp, in southern Georgia. Indian villages within the present United States are mapped for the first time. In the Texas region the inscription *en estas*, etc., may be translated "In these mountains there are silver mines"; and the longer inscription to the northward thereof, "From Quivira to this point there are numerous herds of cattle" – probably the first mention on a map of buffalo.

This map marks an epoch in the history of the cartography of the United States, for it is the first graphic representation of any part of the interior of that country.

It is housed in the "General Archive of the Indies" in Seville, Spain.

Reference:

Cummings, W.P., *The Southeast in Early Maps*, Plate 5, #1