

NOVI BELGII NOVÆQUE ANGLIÆ NEC NON PARTIS VIRGINIÆ TABULÆ

Cartographer: Nicholas Visscher, J. Danckerts, J. Jansson

Date: 1650 - 1684 Amsterdam

Size: 18 ¼ x 21 ¾ inches

Description: This plate was engraved in 1650 based on a 1648 manuscript map that accompanied a 1649 petition on the New Netherland Commonalty delivered by Adriaen van der Donck to the States General (the governing body of the Dutch Republic). It urged the Dutch Republic to negotiate with England the exact borders between New Netherland and New England. Van der Donck's 1649 *Remonstrance* provided all the arguments for the defense of New Netherland's territorial integrity against New England's encroachment. He argued that the English "contrary to the law of nations, regardless of right or wrong invaded" New Netherland. He delivered the manuscript map (from which this map is engraved) to the States General in order to support Adriaen Block's original claim to New Netherland. He also called for a change in the North American based province's governance and demanded the recall of Peter Stuyvesant. The significance of this map lies in the fact that it illustrates a historic, momentous decision - the first exercise of an American's legal right to seek redress of a grievance to the highest governmental authority 143 years before ratification of that right in the First Amendment in the Bill of Rights. To control effectively the province, economic and political alliances with the natives were essential. The map, therefore, details all the known Indian tribes of New Netherland.

While this example is updated to 1684, the map evokes the era of *Nieuw Nederland* the colony operated in the Mid-Atlantic region by the Dutch West India Company (the WIC) from 1613 to 1664, centered on *Nieuw Amsterdam* [New York City]. The eminent historian Isaac Newton Phelps Stokes described Visscher's map as giving "the best and most complete representation that we have of New Netherland during the Dutch period; it may correctly be described as a scientific map, in the making of which advantage was taken of all the material available". (Stokes, *Iconography*, vol. II, p. 118)

The first edition of the map was made in 1655, when the Dutch held dominance over the Mid-Atlantic region, and were in the process of expelling the Swedes, who had established a small colony near the mouth of the Delaware River. In 1664, the English, who had already established colonies in Chesapeake Bay and New England, which geographically 'sandwiched' the New Netherlands, conquered New Amsterdam and with it all of Dutch North America. While the Dutch briefly regained control of New York in 1673, they soon left for good, ensuring that the New Netherlands would only live on in the realm of nostalgia.

This richly informative map is as historically important as it is beautiful. This map provided the prototype for the mapping of the Northeast for over half a century. It was the summation of all the surveys of the area conducted by the Dutch colonists of New Netherlands during their first three decades in America. It was also the first printed map to delineate the shape of Manhattan with relative accuracy. Also, English towns that were just being settled at the time, such as Milford, Guilford, Stratford, and Stamford, are shown along the Connecticut shoreline at an early point in their development. Every Indian tribe encountered by the colonists as well as every town and settlement in existence at the time are believed to be on this map. In the area of New England, the map reflects the Dutch claim to Cape Cod, based on Block's explorations, in naming the area *Nieuw Hollant*. Moreover, the coloring offers a wishfully attenuated delineation of English territory.

The map in its original form was part of a protest by New Netherlands colonists against the policies of the Dutch West India Company; the organization which sponsored the colonization of New York. The author of this original was most likely Adrian van der Donck, who spearheaded the colonists' protests.

The view of New Amsterdam at lower right is based on the second earliest image of the city. It is believed to be very accurate and shows New Amsterdam approximately 25 years after initial settlement. The view reveals a modest but charming village set on the rolling landscape that characterized Manhattan topography in its virgin state.

The map is dominated by Dutch nomenclature, as much of the Mid-Atlantic is named *Nova Belgica sive Nieuw Nederlandt*. New York Harbor is designated as the *Groote Rivier* [the Great River], the Hudson River is the *Noort Rivier*, the Delaware River is the *Zuydt Rivier*, while the Catskills as the '*t' Landt van Kats Kill*', Long Island is '*t' Lange Eylandt*', Cape Cod is labeled *Nieuw Hollandt*, Martha's Vineyard is *Texel* or *Elizabets Eylandt* and Nantucket is *Vlielant* (the latter two places being names after parts of the Frisian Island chain in the Netherlands). However, as the preset edition of map was issued after the fall of the Dutch hegemony, various English names have crept in, including '*Nieuw Jorck*' [New York], '*Nieuw Iarsey*' [New Jersey] *Pensylvania*, *Nieuw Englandt* and Virginia. Numerous Native American villages and place names are labeled, including *Conittecok*, the origin of the name Connecticut. The map features many early Dutch and Swedish settlements, including *Nieuw Amsterdam*, founded 1624, '*t' Fort Orangie*' [Albany, New York, founded 1617], *Beukelen* [Brooklyn], '*t' Fort de Goede hoop*

[Harford, Connecticut, founded 1623]; 't Fort Christina [the main Swedish settlement in America from 1638 to 1655, on the site of present day Wilmington, Delaware], *Fort Nassau* [Gloucester City, New Jersey, across the Delaware River from Philadelphia].

Several English settlements are also depicted, including *James Towne* (Virginia, founded in 1607), *Neu Plymout* [Plymouth, Massachusetts, founded in 1620], *Stamford* and *Milfort* [Stamford and Milford, Connecticut]. Most importantly, the present edition of the map labels Philadelphia, a very early appearance for the 'City of Brotherly Love', which was only founded by William Penn the year before this map was printed. One of the most magnificent features of the map is the fine profile view of New Amsterdam that appears in the lower right, being amongst the earliest obtainable views of New York City. Stokes asserted that the view is based on a sketch made sometime between 1651 and 1653, prior to the construction of the wall which ran among the northern perimeter of New Amsterdam, today commemorated by New York's Wall Street.



The map shown directly above is the second state, published about 1661 upon the 1660 knighting of De Raet to Baronet by Charles II of England. The 1650 plate was altered to include only De Raet's coat of arms. The map was later copied by Nicholas Visscher (in 1651) who added a view of New Amsterdam - copied from a Joannes Blaeu engraving of 1650. Visscher's composite map was then newly engraved/copied by Hugo Allard and Justus Danckerts in the mid-1650's. This is one of the most important entrants in the "Jansson-Visscher" series of maps, many variants of which were issued over the course

of more than a century. The sequence began with Joannes Jansson's 1651 *Belgii Novi*, which was published in Amsterdam and patriotically depicted a sprawling New Netherlands with a tiny New England confined east of the Connecticut River. This map was copied by Nicholas Visscher in 1655, who enhanced his map's appeal by introducing an inset view of New Amsterdam at lower right. This is the earliest obtainable view of what was to become New York City.

The cartography is nearly identical with Joannes Jansson's 1651 map, which in turn borrowed heavily from the Blaeu map of 1635 including some of its most glaring errors. *Lacus Irocoisiensis* [Lake Champlain] remains radically misplaced to the east of the Connecticut River, the St. Lawrence River (also called the *Grand River of New Netherland*) and Ottawa River are intertwined, and the coast of New England is imperfectly mapped. However, the map reflects the increase in Dutch knowledge of the geography of the vicinity of Manhattan and Long Island, the settlements on the Delaware, Hudson and Connecticut Rivers, and those along the Massachusetts coast. The Mohawk River appears, along with a number of villages of the Mohawk Indians. The map was so highly regarded that it played a part in colonial boundary disputes; between New York and New Jersey. A non-existent river flowing between the Delaware and the Hudson was used to mark a portion of the boundary between the two colonies. This error may be another example of mistaking an Indian portage route for an actual river. This error caused numerous boundary disputes between New York and New Jersey through most of the colonial period. Curiously, in spite of the Dutch bias of the map, an example of the first edition of 1655 was also entered as evidence in the long running boundary dispute between the English colonies of Lord Baltimore's Maryland and William Penn's Pennsylvania.

The place names on the map are full of interest. In New England numerous names are copied from John Smith's map; as *Edenborow*, *Cambridge*, *M. Schutterhill*, *Snowden hill*, *Smits Eylant*, *London*, *Neu Pleymont*, *R. Charlesr*, and others. *Nieuw Hollant* [Cape Cod] is said to have been so named by Hudson.

The Danckerts/Jansson is the earliest collectible map to show the correct shapes of Manhattan and Long Island and the first as well to show the Swedish settlements in New Jersey on the Delaware River. It is believed that every settlement that existed in the Northeast at the time can be found on this map. It was the first map to show many of the English settlements in the Northeast, particularly those along the Connecticut coast. Previously, some scholars believed the map was a reduced version of a large-scale manuscript work prepared by Augustine Hermann, a prominent New Amsterdam merchant who later mapped Maryland. More recent scholarship, however, suggests that Adriaen van der Donck, a New Amsterdam lawyer, was the maker of the map on which the Jansson was based.

In the valley of the Connecticut, which the Dutch called the *Versche* [Fresh] *Rivier*, to distinguish it from the *Noort* [Hudson] *Rivier*; which was salt, the names of the English settlements appear in a Dutch dress as *Voynser* [Windsor], *Weeters Velt* (*Weathersfield*), and *Herfort* [Hartford]. Just south of *Herfort* is *t'Fort de Goode hoop*, built by the Dutch in 1623, the same year that they erected *t'Fort Orangie* on the upper Hudson, *t'Fort Nassou* on the *Zuydt* [Delaware] *Rivier*, and Fort Amsterdam on Manhattan Island.

Farther up the river, *Mr. Pinsers* marks the site of Springfield and commemorates its founder, William Pynchon, a native of Springfield in County Essex, England, and, still farther to the north, *Mr. Pinsers handel huys* [Mr. Pynchon's trading post] suggests

the origin of the modern Westfield founded in 1641. *Gilfort*, *Milfort*, *Nieuhaven*, and *Stamfort* are easily recognized.

North from *Nieuw Amsterdam* are *Sinsing* [Sing Sing], *Wappinges* (the Indian tribe from which is derived the name *Wappingers Falls*); and on the west side, *Tappaans* (from an Indian tribe, *Tappans*), *the Esopus*, *Kats Kill*, *the Kats Kill Mountains*, *Klaver Rac* [Claverac], *Kinder hoeck* [Kinderhook], *Renselaerswyck* with its settlements on both sides of the river, and *t' Fort Orangie* built on the present site of Albany in 1623. The Highlands of the Hudson are indicated on the map but not named.

Delaware Bay is *Nieuw port May*. At its entrance are *Caep May* on the north and *C. Cornelius* on the south, names given in honor of Cornelius May, who was in those waters in 1614 while his compatriot, Adrian Block, was sailing through *Oost Rivier* into Long Island Sound, and John Smith was exploring the coast of New England. On the *Zuydt* [South] *Rivier* are the Swedish forts: *Christina*, named in honor of the Swedish Queen, the daughter of the great Gustavus Adolphus, which was founded in 1638, *Elsenburgh* and *Nieu Gottenburg*, also the Dutch fort *Nassou* founded in 1623, the same year in which were erected *t' Fort Orangie* on the upper Hudson, and *t' Fort de Goode hoop* in the land of the *Conittekock*. To the west of *Nieuw port May* is *Swanendael*, the Dutch settlement established by De Vries in 1631 and totally destroyed the following year by the Indians.

The Hudson River is called the *Groote Rivier* alias *Manhattans R.*, *Noort Rivier*, *Montaigne Ri.*, *Maurits Revier*. The last name was in honor of Prince Maurice, the young stadt holder of the Netherlands. *Godyns Bay*, north of *Sant Punt of Godyns Punt*, was named after Samuel Godyn, a director of the West India Company.

In the north, in the valley of the *Maquaas Kill* [Mohawk River], in the country of the *Mackwaas* [Mohawks], are located *Canagero*, *Schanatissa* and other settlements of the Mohawks.

Scattered throughout the map are depictions of native flora and fauna: herons, beavers, wild turkeys, deer, rabbits, bears, muskrats, foxes, and wolves. Stockade settlements and dugout canoes represent the Indian presence. Many of the picturesque drawings of animals, canoes made from the bark of trees, the larger boats fashioned out of the trunks of trees by fire, and the stockade Indian villages were copied from the map of New Netherland in Blaeu's *Atlas* of 1635.

Shown here is the fourth state of Visscher's map, which appeared in or around 1684 after the founding of Philadelphia. By the time this map appeared, the English had wrested the New Netherlands from the Dutch and renamed it New York, William Penn had founded Pennsylvania, and geographic knowledge of the region had advanced considerably (see later "Nieuw Yorck" version below). These developments necessitated substantial revisions to the map, including the naming of Pennsylvania and the addition of Philadelphia.

For all these important alterations, Visscher could not bring himself to acknowledge the fundamental geo-political shift represented by the English conquest of the New Netherlands: there is no mention of New York, and a vast *Nova Belgica sive Nieuw Nederlandt* continues to dwarf tiny New England.

The Visschers were a prominent Dutch map making family, well known in art and cartographic circles, spanning three generations (from 1587 to 1726). Claes Visscher (1587 to 1657) passed the business on to his son Nicolaes (1618 to 1679) who in turn passed it on to his own son, Nicolaes II (1649 to 1702). Even after the death of Nicolaes II's widow (1726), who had carried on the family business after her husband's death, the copper plates continued to be used by other cartographers into the early 19th century.

According to I.N.P. Stokes in his *The Iconography of Manhattan Island*, this map gives the best and most complete representation that we have of New Netherland during the Dutch period."

References:

Baynton-Williams, "Printed Maps of New England to 1780, Part II: 1670-1700," #1655.01d (at MapForum.com).

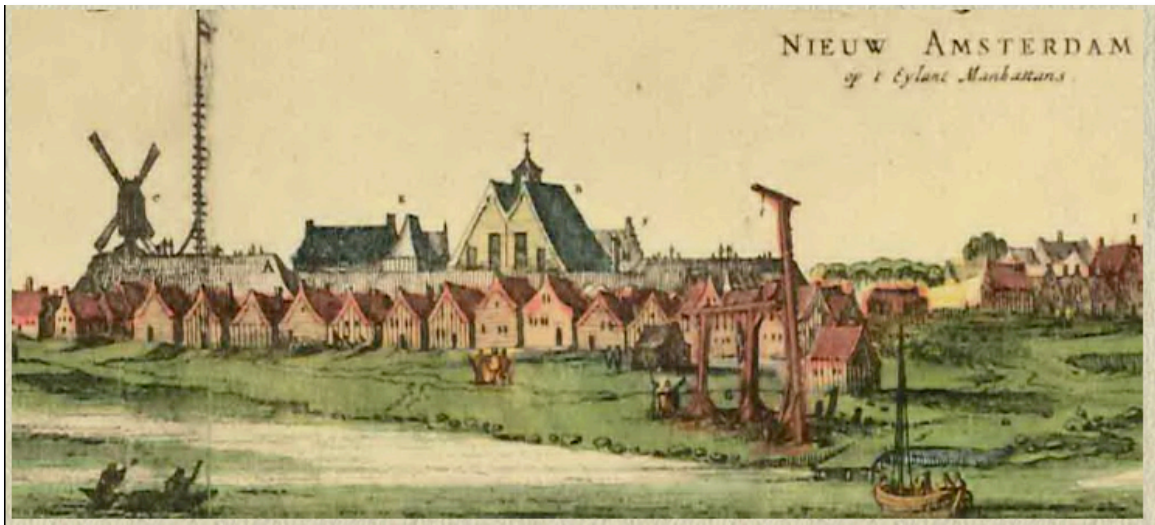
Burden, *The Mapping of North America*, vol. II #315, state 4.

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Fite, E. and Freeman, A., *A Book of Old Maps Delineating American History*, pp.146-148, #39.

Stokes, *The Iconography of Manhattan Island*, vol. 1 pp. 147-148 and Plate 7-B (describing and illustrating the first state). Background from De Koning, "From Van der Donck to Visscher," *Mercator's World* vol. 5 no. 4 (July/August 2000), pp. 28-33.





At the bottom of the map is a striking inset view of New Amsterdam showing period houses, ships in the harbor, a windmill, and even a gallows! To either side of the inset are two female Indian figures, allegorical representations of America.



With Visscher's significant addition of a view of *New Amsterdam*, the Dutch settlement on Manhattan Island, this view is one of the earliest images of New York City showing the southern tip of Manhattan Island as a small settlement dominated by a Dutch fort and the buildings of the Dutch West India Company.



ReceDES EditA totius Novi Belgii, in America Septentrionali siti,
delineatio cura et sumptibus . .

Cartographer: Conrad Tobias Lotter

Date: 1757 Augsburg

Size: 22.5 x 19.5 inches

Description: Conrad Lotter's edition of one of the most decorative maps of the region produced during the 17th and 18th centuries. The genesis of this map was studied in great detail by Tony Campbell in an article entitled "The Jansson-Visscher Maps of New England", which appears as Chapter 8 of R.V. Tooley's *Mapping of America*.

Lotter's map is based upon Jan Jansson's and Visscher's map of the 1650s as shown above. Seutter replaces the *Restitutio* view of New York City with a new view of New York entitled *Neu Jorck sive Neu Amsterdam*, with a key to the view in Latin.

Above the view is an elaborate scene depicting natives and gods presenting tribute to the English monarch George II. The course of the Delaware and Hudson are separated, unlike early editions of the map. This is the first map in the series to show the boundaries of Massachusetts, New England, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania with printed lines, as earlier examples had previously left the delineation of the boundaries to the colorist. Philadelphia is shown as a set of houses in relief, rather than a ground plan.



Above is an example of Justus Danckerts' 1684 *Novi Belgii* or map of New York, New England, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Some call this the "farm animal map" for its novel incorporation of farm animals, ranging from horses and cows to chicken and sheep, in its decoration – a propaganda embellishment unique to Danckerts' editions. It is considered the final map of the Jansson-Visscher series, although there is some reason to cast doubt on this assumption. Some scholars suggest that this map was first produced in 1655, predating the Visscher map, while others, most notably Philip Burden, argue that it was most likely first issued in 1673 to capitalize on general interest associated with the Dutch recapture of New York in that same year. The failure of the Danckerts clan to date either their maps or atlases only contributes to this confusion.

Like most maps in the Jansson-Visscher series, the basic cartography here dates to the Jansson map of 1651. It covers from the St. Lawrence River to the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay and from the Susquehanna River to the Penobscot River, incorporating in the process most of New England, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware. This edition features a number of important updates and revisions over the Visscher maps. The Delaware River is here fully redrawn such that it correctly does not connect to the Hudson – a common misconception in early maps. Pennsylvania is here properly named.

The dramatic view in the lower right quadrant is based upon a similar view printed on the Visscher Map. This view is based upon a 1648 watercolor, now in Vienna's Albertina, was painted by Augustin Herman (c. 1621 – 1686). As mentioned above, the watercolor view was first adopted to print by Johannes Blaeu for presentation alongside Van der Donck's 1650 *Remonstrance* - essentially an appeal directly to the States General to intervene with the Dutch West India Company and force additional support for the New Amsterdam (New York) colony. The view was subsequently incorporated into Visscher's map of 1655. This map proved popular and the illustration became known, somewhat erroneously, as the "Visscher View."

The Van der Donck *Remonstrance* may account for the addition of farm animals to this state of the map. Despite the Dutch retaking of New York from the British, many colonists were fully disillusioned with the lack of support received from the Dutch West India Company. The *Remonstrance* was intended to appeal directly to the States General for intervention and support – most of which would have come in the form of additional colonists. This map, which fills the blank spaces with domestic animals was re-engraved as a propaganda device intended to make the region seem more appealing to potential settlers.

This present example corresponds to Burden's 2nd state, issued following the founding of Philadelphia. In the present example, Philadelphia is named, a distance scale has been added, and *Pennsylvanicae et Partis* is here added to the cartouche. The next and final state, issued circa 1690, adds *Nieuw Castel alias Sandhoeck* near Delaware Bay and *Yermonton* just north of Philadelphia. This map was issued in various Danckerts atlases, all of which were undated.

The Danckerts family (fl. 1628 - 1717) were a Dutch engraving and cartographic publishing firm active in Amsterdam during the latter half of the 17th and early 18th centuries. The firm was founded by Cornelis Dankerts II (1603-1656) and his brother Dancker Danckerts (1614-16?). Cornelius and Dancker published few maps, but did pass the business on to Cornelius' son Justus Danckerts (1635 - 1701) and grandsons Theodorus Danckerts (1663-1727) and Cornelius Danckerts III (1664-1717). The firm was most active in this period between 1680 and 1700 when a number of atlases and maps appeared bearing either the Justus Danckerts or Theodorus Danckerts imprint. At the time, it was in vogue in Amsterdam to leave maps undated, which makes Danckerts maps particularly difficult to ascribe. Similarly, there is a considerable corpus of maps signed as Cornelius Danckerts. When dated we can correctly attribute these to either Cornelius II or Cornelius III, though, typically, most are undated and consequently difficult to attach to the correct Danckerts family member. The Danckerts family is well known for its highly detailed and graphic engraving style. In addition to numerous atlas maps, they also produced a number of spectacular Dutch wall maps. In the early 18th century the Danckerts map plates were purchased by R. and J. Ottens, who reprinted many of them under their own imprint.

