



A New Map of America From the latest Observations Revised by J. Senex Most humbly Incribed Lower left: I. Harris Fecit.

Cartographer: John Senex

Date: 1720

Size: 19 x 22 inches

Description: The large, beautifully engraved cartouche showing Indians in various activities is very distinctive. John Harris was the engraver. John Senex updated an earlier map published by Christopher Brown in 1685 and 1700. This map published in *New General Atlas* (London: for Daniel Brown, 1721). This map includes both North and South America. California is shown as an island. A large fictional lake, *The Great Lake of Thoago or Thoya*, appears in western Canada. The Mississippi River is shown draining into the Gulf of Mexico near the mouth of the Rio Grande.

Senex's map is curious for several reasons. First, unlike most maps of the period, Senex adds a conjectural northwest coastline, which includes a number of islands and several lakes, including *Aquinonbock*, *Lake of Isles* and the *Great Lake of Thoago or Thoya*. On the coastline, *Desolation* and *Zapozipin Bays* appear north of 60 degrees. Two other remarkable features in Senex's map includes the odd unnamed river with its headwaters in the Florida panhandle and the unique shape of South America.

Remarkably, this is one of the few English language maps to show California as an island, appearing after Kino's location of the headwaters of the Colorado debunked this insular myth. It is indeed curious that despite noting the islands and other features along the Northwest coast, Wagner gives no real explanation of the source of the information, which certainly predates the Russian discoveries and information furnished by Joseph De L'Isle and Philippe Buache.

The only other appearance of this odd coastline would appear to be in the 1703 edition of Peter Heylyn's *Cosmography*. Mead Cain wrote in TMC 57 that the source of the map was Robert Morden. Both maps include the odd coastline and apophrycal river rising from the Florida panhandle. The river rising from the Florida panhandle is oddly lacking on Senex's edition of the Browne map.





References: McLaughlin 193, Tooley #81. Wagner #520.