



*Map of North America With the European Settlements & whatever else is remarkable in ye West Indies, from the latest and best Observations*

**Explorer:** Lahontan, Louis Armand de Lom d'Arce baron de, 1666-1715?

**Engraver:** Seale, Richard William

**Publication Date:** 1744?

**Publisher:** Tindal, N. (Nicolas), 1687-1774, Rapin de Thoyras, M. (Paul), 1661-1725

**Place of Publication:** England--London

**Original Source:** *The History of England, translated and continued by N. Tindal*, Vol. 3. London: Paul Rapin de Thoyras.

Copper engraving hand-colored with watercolor. Paper contains watermark.

**Legends:**

- Printed in cartouche in lower right: *A Map of North America With the European Settlements & whatever else is remarkable in ye West Indies, from the latest and best Observations*. Printed below border in lower right: *R.W. Seale delin. et Sculp.*
- Printed in lower right is a key showing symbols for *European Cities and Towns*, *Indian Towns*, *Forts and Castles*.
- Printed in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean along tracks: *Course of the Flora to avoid the Trade Winds*. *Homeward bound Course of the Armada*. *Course of the Galeons from Old Spain*.
- Printed beneath 30 degrees latitude next to the east coast of North America: *The South Boundary of Carolina by the last Charter*.

- Printed beneath an unnamed lake in far northwest just south of High Mountains: *Many Indian Towns on these Islands.*
- Printed along the Morte or Longue River north of the High Mountains: *So far B. la Hontan travel'd 1690.*

The map depicts North America, divided into several regions including *California, New Mexico, New Britain, Nova Scotia, Florida, Louisiana* and *Florida*. Mexico and Central America are divided into several regions including *Apacheria, New Leon, Culiacan, New Biscay, Galicia, Guasteca, Panuco, Mechoachan, Xalisco, Mexico, Tlascala, Guaxaca, Tabasco, Vera Pax, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Jucaton, Co. Rica* and *Darien*. Also shown are the Caribbean islands, Cuba, the Bahamas, Jamaica, and the northern part of South America. The eastern coast of North America shows the British Colonies including South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, and New England. Of note, California is shown as an island with the body of water separating California from North America as the *Gulf of California or Red Sea*. Northern California is labeled as *New Albion* and contains a mountain chain with one mountain on the northwest California coast labeled as *Mt. St. Martin*. In the Gulf of Mexico and in the Atlantic Ocean the routes of Spanish Galleons, the *Armada* and the *Flota* are shown. Areas inhabited by the North American Indian tribes are labeled including territory occupied by the Cherokee and the Apaches. Shows detailed river and place names including the Mississippi River, the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence Seaway and Hudson's Bay. Also depicts mountains in the west in an area labeled as *Great Teguaio* and in *Parts Unknown*. Shows compass rose in upper right. The title cartouche is adorned with flowers and ornate decoration .

Richard William Seale (1732-1785) was an English draughtsman and engraver who worked for a number of individuals engraving maps for atlases and other books. He worked for Henry Popple (1733, #531), Tindal for his translation and continuation of Rapin's *The History of England* (1744-7), Pine and Tinney (1749), Bolton's *North America* (1750), Stow (1756) and *Universal Magazine* (1747-63).

This particular map was published in Rapin's *The History of England*, volume 3, translated by Nicolas Tindal. According to Wheat, despite its late publication date of 1744 (1745?), the map continues to display a number of "throwback notions" of North American geography. For instance, the map follows the geography from apocryphal accounts by Baron Louis-Armand de Lom D'Arce de Lahontan in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. Moreover, California is shown as an island. Within California, a mountain chain is shown and two mountains are actually labeled: *M. Nevada* and *Mt. St. Martin*. Six towns are also labeled in California including *Canot, St. Nicholas, St. Juan, St. Isidore, Gigante* and *Na Sa de la Guada*.

Baron Louis-Armand de Lom D'Arce de Lahontan was a French military officer who served in various campaigns in Canada during the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. In 1683, he was first stationed in Quebec as a lieutenant. He later fought the Iroquois in 1684. After some exploration in 1685 in which he ended up at the River Minnesota, he published an account of his adventures there in *Nouveau Voyages dans l'Amérique Septentrionale* (1703), including in it a map of a mythical area in which a large and lavish tribe allegedly lived. While the map shows a very large and very late example of an insular California, it is equally if not more fascinating for its marvelous treatment of the Mississippi Valley, Great Lakes and Transmississippi West treatment.

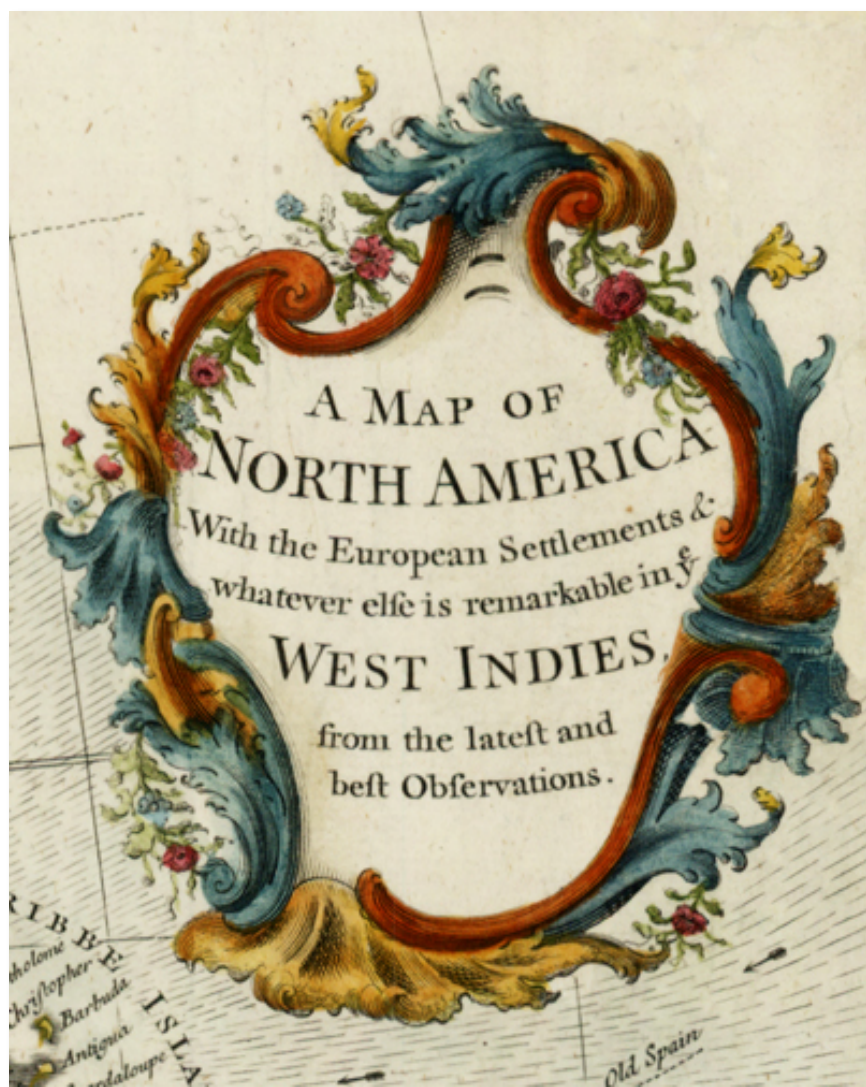
The mapping of the Mississippi and its tributaries is extremely detailed and includes a number of settlements. Nevertheless, it retains the exotic treatment of the source of the River as a series of Western Canadian Lakes, the last of which lists Indian Towns on its Islands. The treatment of the Red River and Missouri River are also unusual.

In the Atlantic, the *Homeward bound course of the [Spanish] Armada* is shown, along with the inbound *Course of the Galeons from Old Spain* below the title cartouche. The prevailing currents are also shown, along with a note in the Gulf of Mexico tracking the *Course of the Flota to avoid the Trade Winds*, showing the route taken by the Spanish Galleons from Mexico to Havana and through the Bahama Straits.

This attractive map is based on Popple's seminal map of 1733 (#531). It is one of the last maps to show the island of California although Seale incorporated some information from Kino in the Southwest. He also continued to portray fanciful details from Baron Lahontan's romantic tale of his 1688-90 travels west of the upper Mississippi River with the *Longue River* stretching to the Rocky Mountains. The *Straits of Anian* are noted, but most of the northwest is marked *Parts Unknown* and contains little data. Shading designates the trade winds with directional arrows showing the course of the winds.

#### References:

- Howgego, Raymond John, *Encyclopedia of Exploration to 1800: A Comprehensive Reference Guide to the History and Literature of Exploration, Travel, and Colonization from the Earliest Times to the Year 1800*, Potts Point, Australia: Hordern House, 2003.
- McLaughlin, Glen and Nancy H. Mayo., *The Mapping of California as an Island: An Illustrated Checklist*, Saratoga, CA: California Map Society, 1995.
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- Wheat, Carl I, *Mapping the Transmississippi West*, Volume 1, San Francisco: Institute of Historical Cartography, 1957.

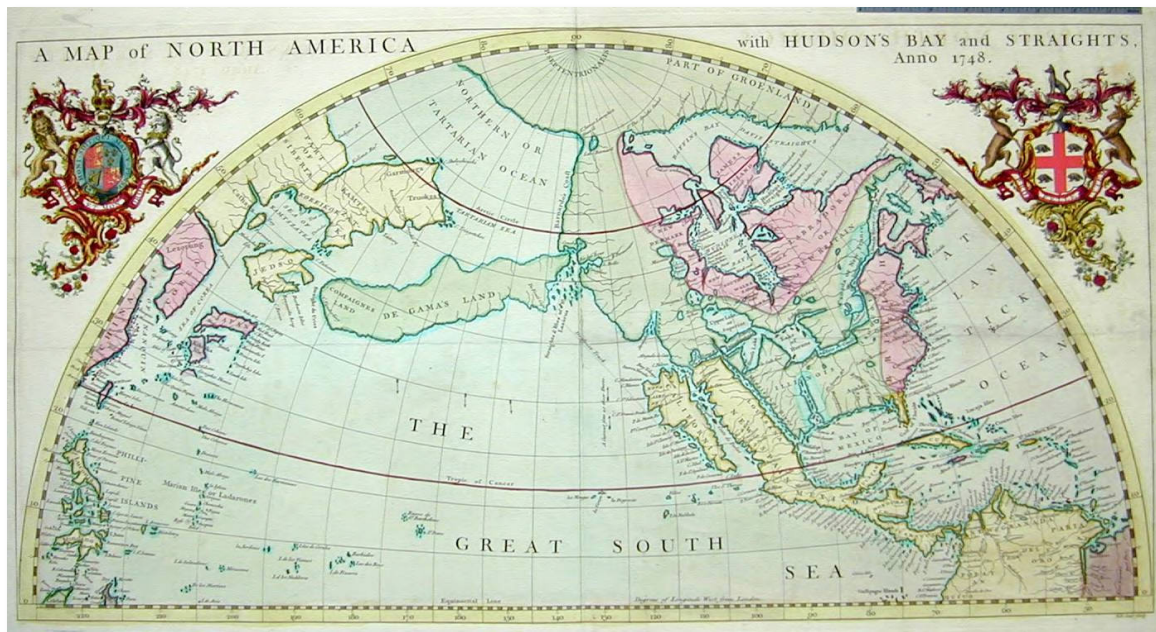












*A Map of North America with Hudson's Bay and Straits, Anno 1748, Richard William Seale*

The main cause of this issue was the controversy concerning the alleged neglect of the Hudson Bay Company to further the exploration for a North-West Passage. Arthur Dobbs was the leader of this opposition, and he hoped by proving the neglect, to see the company loose its privileges under the charter. Middleton, formerly a servant of the Company, had been sent to find the Passage, but had returned beaten, with the firm conviction that even if the passage did exist, it was impractical. This was in 1741-42. Dobbs, still unshaken, formed a company, which, with the thought of rights of exclusive trade, sent out the Dobbs Galley and the California in 1746. In October 1747, the two vessels returned to the Thames, the expedition a failure. In the following year the opposition to the company resulted in the Parliamentary Inquiry into the rights and working of the Company's charter. This map was part of the Company's case. There is no doubt that Seale, the engraver, executed the work according to the idea of the Company's officers, rather than following the true lines of geographical knowledge, which was available even in Middleton's map. Either the Company was very ignorant, or ready to connive at producing a fraudulent map. Around the Bay there is no outlet of any kind, and Sir Thomas Lancaster's Sound is located on the western side of the continent. The obvious intention of the map was to prove that the Passage went by way of the St. Lawrence, through the Great Lakes to Machilmakinac, where a junction was formed with the Long River of La Hontan, which gained by a portage across an isthmus, another portage from Tahnglak of La Hontan reached the Western Sea. In the Pacific the northern land seen by Vasco de Gama is shown touching the North-West coast, and there is shown De Fonte's track going in the direction of Alaska. It is a brilliant piece of geographical imagination, and yet the coastlines and locations of the Bay are correct. It seems likely that the map, as evidence, was too circumstantial, but it is in keeping with the whole of the inquiry of 1748-49, when the main object was to steer clear of questions regarding the charter, and it is possible that evidence of Joseph la France upset the evidence, and, naturally, the best way was to destroy all copies of the map. In any case, there is no other copy known to be in existence. It is, without doubt, the rarest of engraved maps of America, and unique. The archives of the Hudson's Bay Company at

Beaver House, London, possess nine copies; there is another at the company's Winnipeg headquarters. There is also a copy in the British Museum, presented by the company in 1957. See "The Beaver", Winter 1962, (Huntington F1060.1A1B4) for a full article about this map by Glyndwr Williams.

