



A NEW AND CORRECT MAP OF THE UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA layd down from the latest observations and best authority agreeable to the peace of 1783 humbly inscribed to his Excellency the Governor and company of the State of Connecticut by their most obedient and very humble servant Abel Buell. Newhaven published according to Act of Assembly.

Cartographer: Abel Buell

Date: 1783

Size: 43 x 48 inches

Since this map was sponsored by Connecticut, it shows that state's extravagant land claims to the west. This is considered the first map of the United States published in the United States. In 2010 the New Jersey Historical Society copy was auctioned and sold for over \$2,000,000; the buyer has apparently donated it to the Library of Congress. The auction house located only seven known examples surviving. This image is from a modern reproduction.

This map by Abel Buell is the first map to illustrate the American Flag. Buell advertised the just-completed map in the Connecticut Journal for March 31, 1784: "the first ever compiled, engraved, and finished by one man, and an American." Paul Cohen notes: "It should be pointed out that maps had been published in colonial America since 1677, but a new chapter in American cartography began after the formal establishment of the United States. After the Revolutionary War, new boundaries were determined,

albeit imprecisely, at the *Definitive Treaty of Peace*, and proper maps of the country could then be published. Buell's was the first of the thirteen states to be published after the Congress of Confederation ratified the Treaty on January 14, 1784, but it was not the first to use the words "United States," as a few European publishers had employed them on maps before the ratification of the treaty." Connecticut was the first state to establish a copyright law and Buell's map is found in a 28 October 1783 petition to the Connecticut General Assembly. The copy at the New York Public Library does not contain the copyright information in the imprint and is therefore considered the first state. The remaining known copies, including the present, represent the second state, which in terms of its primacy of position as copyright holder gives it special consideration.

Within the large cartouche of Buell's map is found the FIRST FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES on a map printed in America. It carries thirteen stars, and is lit by the morning sun. Minerva, the Roman goddess of wisdom and war, blows her trumpet. Next to the title is Liberty, her staff supporting her liberty cap. The globe in her hand shows the fledgling nation facing onward, and at Liberty's feet, the date of the first Independence Day is boldly engraved on a scroll.

