Carte de la partie orientale de la Nouvelle France ou du Canada, 1744

MCC-00496

Total boxes: 1
Cubic feet: .3

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Carte de la partie orientale de la Nouvelle France ou du Canada, 1744

(MCC-00496)

Shelf List Number: V-7 [K-7]

Collection Overview

Creator

Bellin, Jacques Nicolas, 1703-1772

Dates

1744

Extent

1 map (.03 cubic feet)

Provenance

Unknown

Language

French

Conservation Notes

Map was inserted in a clear polyester sleeve for protection.

Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions

Access:
None

Physical:
None

Technical:
None

Rights Statement

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Recommended Citation

Carte de la partie orientale de la Nouvelle France ou du Canada, 1744, (MCC-00496). Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Collection Description

Biographical Information

Jacques Nicolas Bellin (1703 – 21 March 1772) was a French hydrographer, geographer, and member of the French intellectual group called the philosophes. Bellin was born in Paris. He was a hydrographer of France's hydrographic office, member of the Académie de Marine and of the Royal Society of London. Over a 50-year career, he produced many maps of particular interest to the Ministère de la Marine. His maps of Canada and of French territories in North America (New France, Acadia, Louisiana) are particularly valuable.

In 1721, at age 18, he was appointed hydrographer (chief cartographer) to the French Navy. In August 1741, he became the first Ingénieur de la Marine of the Dépot des cartes et plans de la Marine (the French Hydrographic Office) and was named Official Hydrographer of the French King[1]. He died at Versailles.

Historical Information

Carte de la partie orientale de la Nouvelle France ou du Canada, 1744 is an important foundation map of the Northeastern coast of North America from the Bay of Boston and AlbanY, in the South, to Hudson's Bay and the Labrador coast in the North, by Jacques-Nicolas Bellin, the pre-eminent cartographer of the 18th Century.

The map was originally published in François Xavier de Charlevoix's Histoire et description générale de la Nouvelle France in 1744. It has been argued that Charlevoix's history proved exceptionally influential as one of the most comprehensive works on North America predating the Seven Years War in 1756-63. As such, this map would have been of particular interest to Europeans as it depicted the River and Gulf of the St-Lawrence, the major gateway to France's North American colonies. Furthermore, it has been argued that "Bellin's map would remain the chart of record until Samuel Holland's scientific surveys were published as part of J.F.W. Des Barres' Atlantic Neptune in 1775-84." According to Kershaw, Bellin's plate would have had many changes incorporated into its 1755 edition and would then later have been sold to

[1]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques-Nicolas_Bellin

Homann Heirs and incorporated into his Atlas Geographicus Maior. Homann Heirs' Atlas would have been published in 1759 at the height of the Seven's Year War and on the eve of some of the most important battles of the conflict, notably the fall of Louisbourg in 1758 and Québec in September 1759.

However, of particular interest to Bellin's first state of the map in 1744, are some of the notations that adorn the map and inform the viewer. Bellin notes that this map is extremely different from all other maps that would have preceded it because of his access to manuscript material in the Dépôt des Carte, Plans et Journaux de la Marine, as well as from firsthand accounts of Jesuit missionaries. In other words, Bellin, who sorted and compiled works from various sources, was better known as a "géographe de cabinet" as opposed to those who plied their craft in the field. One is also struck by the amount of native nomenclature on the North shore of the St-Laurence. Bellin goes so far as to locate Tchichemanitououitchapi, the place where the native Holy Spirit resides. It should be noted that the North and the interior of the American continent, where many native communities lived, was of particular importance to New France as it was the source from which the fur trade stemmed.

Bellin's fascinating map of St-Lawrence is thus a great reminder of the strategic importance that the region had both militarily and economically in the early days of European colonization. It also provides an important reminder of the role that Native communities played in this development.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of one black and white copy of a map by Jacques Nicolas Bellin. It depicts landmarks of eastern Canada and part of northeast America extending from Newfoundland to the borders of Lake Ontario and south to Cape Cod. The map is extremely detailed, showing regions, borders, cities, settlements, Native American lands, portages, mountains, lakes, and rivers. Annotations appear throughout the map.

This map, originally issued in 1744, became the foundation on which numerous cartographers based or copied their maps of the northeastern region. This map was reissued by Jonathan Sheppard Books, Albany, NY. The engraver is shown as F. Desbruslins.

Arrangement

Not applicable

Separated Materials (If Applicable)

Not applicable

Subject Headings

America

Canada--maps
Historical geography--maps
Maps

Related Materials

Not applicable

Collection Inventory

One map Carte de la partie Orientale de la Nouvelle France ou du Canada measuring 24 x 18 inches.