

Finding Aid for
“Partie orientale de la Nouvelle France ou du Canada” [map]

MCC-00163

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Fort Kent, Maine

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Collection Title: "Partie orientale de la Nouvelle France ou du Canada" [map]

Provenance : Jacques Nicolas Bellin (1703-1772)

Date Range : (1745, 1755)

Accession Number : MCC-00163

Shelflist Number : V1-163

Language: French

Physical Description/condition: 16.8" x 21.2" (42.8 x 53.7 cm) uncolored copperplate engraving on a 19" x 24.5" sheet of paper. The print is in excellent condition.

Citation Information: Cite as "Partie orientale de la Nouvelle France ou du Canada" [map], MCC-00163, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Access: This collection is available to researchers without restrictions. Due to the map's size and fragility, researchers may not create copies; however, there are many scanned versions available on the World Wide Web, including at the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec.

Chain of Custody: The Acadian Archives purchased this map from map dealer Clifton E. Ferguson in 1998.

Preservation: The map is stored in a mylar enclosure.

Scope of Content Note.

This is the Homan heirs' edition of Jacques-Nicholas Bellin's definitive map of eastern Canada and New England showing the mouth of the St. Lawrence, the length of the river from Lake Ontario to Labrador, the Maritime provinces and French claims in the region. It encompasses New England to Cape Cod. This detailed map shows the extent of French exploration in the region.

Bellin first published a map of this region in 1744 ("Carte/ De La Partie Orientale / De la Nouvelle France"). The information on 1744 map was incorporated into a larger map published the following year under the same name as part of a two-map set encompassing the whole of New France. The 1755 Homan edition is an almost exact reissue of Bellin's 1745 edition. It was intended to serve for military intelligence and political administrative purposes.

Bellin's "Partie orientale de la Nouvelle France ou du Canada" map represented the first incorporation of new information pertaining to New France to appear since the maps of Guillaume De L'Isle which appeared thirty years earlier. It was extensively copied by other European mapmakers, even after the fall of New France in 1759.

Biographical Note.

Jacques-Nicholas Bellin (b. Paris, 1703; d. Versailles, 21 March 1772).

Bellin spent over fifty years at the French Hydrographic Service where he was appointed the first "Ingénieur hydrographe de La Marine." During his term of office there he was commissioned to carry out major surveys, first of the coasts of France and later of all the known coasts of the world.

Over a 50-year career, Bellin produced a large number of sea charts of the highest quality which appeared in many editions with varying numbers of charts to the end of the century. He influenced much of the cartography of North America throughout the last half of the eighteenth century. Bellin's maps were copied by French competitors, such as Le Rouge, Vaugondy, and d'Anville. Several important British maps depended on Bellin and his French rivals for much of their information about the interior of North America. These included John Mitchell's famous Map of the British and French Dominions in North America (1755), which was used in determining the boundary between the United States and Canada at the Treaty of Paris in 1783.

Related Collections.

MCC-000163. According to Kenneth Kershaw, Le Rouge copied information from Bellin's map for his "Partie orientale du Canada" map.

Sources.

C. Heidenreich and E. Dahl. "The French Mapping of North America." *The Map Collector* (June 1982, No. 19).

Kenneth Kershaw. *Early Printed Maps of Canada*. Vol. III. Ontario: Canada, Kershaw Publishing, 1993.