

**Carte de la partie orientale de la Nouvelle France ou du Canada, 1744
MCC-00496**

Finding Aid

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

Creator/Collector: Bellin, Jacques Nicolas, 1703-1772

Collection number: MCC-00496

Shelf list number: V -496

Dates: 1744

Extent: 1 map (.03 cubic feet)

Provenance: Unknown

Language: French

Conservation notes: Map was inserted in clear polyester sleeve for protection.

Access restrictions: No restrictions on access.

Physical restrictions: None.

Technical restrictions: None.

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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.

Separated materials: Not applicable.

Related materials: Not applicable.

Location of originals: Not applicable.

Location of copies: Not applicable.

Published in: Not applicable.

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 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. He died at Versailles.

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 Dépôt des cartes et plans de la Marine* (the French Hydrographical Office) and was named Official Hydrographer of the French King.¹

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 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 Year's 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 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 the 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 to 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 from 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 the 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.

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

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 showing as F. Desbruslins.

Inventory:

Folder 1/1: One map *Carte de la partie Orientale de la Nouvelle France ou du Canada*. 24 x 18 inches.