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
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.*
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, Mechoacan, Xalisco, Mexico, Tlascala, Guaxaca, Tabasco, Vera Pax, Guatimala, 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 17th 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 17th 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:
Wheat, Carl I, Mapping the Transmississippi West, Volume 1, San Francisco: Institute of Historical Cartography, 1957.
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With the European Settlements & whatever else is remarkable in the
West Indies,
from the latest and best Observations.
California as a
Island.