Mapping the Sacred

Belief and Religion in the History of Cartography

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Gallery Guide by Ben W. Huseman

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After Father Eusebio Kino (1644-1711)

A Passage by Land to California Discover'd by the Rev. Father Eusebius Francis Kino Jesuite between ye years 1698 and 1701

Engraving (hand colored), 23.5 x 21 cm., probably from the Royal Society of London, *Philosophical Transactions* (1708). *Virginia Garrett Cartographic History Library, UT Arlington*

The mythical notion that California was an island began to circulate as early as the 1620s, particularly in areas outside Spain. Between 1698 and 1701, Jesuit missionary Father Eusebius Kino proved otherwise by walking from Sonora to California. Kino's map first appeared in 1705 in a mission magazine published in Paris and in a Jesuit scientific journal – another reminder that religion and science have worked hand-in-hand at various times in history. This is the first publication of the map in English.

Seymour I. Schwartz and Ralph Ehrenberg, *The Mapping of America* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1980), pp. 131,134, plate 75.

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Father Vincenzo Coronelli (1650-1718)

America Settentrionale

Engravings on two sheets, 62 x 87 cm. (total size), (Venice: Coronelli, 1688). *Virginia Garrett Cartographic History Library, UT Arlington*

The religious enthusiasm and spirituality associated with the Catholic Counter-Reformation found visual reinforcement in the theatricality, illusionism, spatial movement, and curvilinear design forms that characterize the Italian Baroque style in the arts. Such stylistic devices as well as printmaking excellence may be found in Father Coronelli's magnificent map of North America. The whole cartouche at upper left has a dramatic, stage-like quality. At left, a winged Saturn, Cronus, or Father Time figure, with scythe and hour-glass, comes to take away an aged scholar or philosopher. Another celestial with a halo or nimbus gestures away toward the map's title, which two winged figures have revealed by drawing back a curtain. A reclining allegorical figure with sundial, map, and compass may represent Geography. The various gestures serve to draw the viewers' glance around the composition, just as curving lines of lettering sweep the viewer's attention around various parts of the map itself. According to the title inscription, Coronelli dedicated the map to the "blessed Monsignor" Antonio Marfily, archdeacon of the Cathedral of Bologna. A wreath above the inscription may contain the archdeacon's arms, which include an ecclesiastical hat with tassels, fleur-de-lis, and what appear to be a fortress and aqueduct.

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After Father Andrés Marcos Burriel, S. J., (active 1756-1757)

Mapa de la California, su Golfo, y Provincias fronteras en el Continente de Nueva España

Engraving, 37.5 x 31.5 cm., by Is. Peña, from Father Miguel Venegas, S.J., *Noticias de la California, y de su Conquista Temporal, y Espiritual, hasta el tiempo presente...1739*, revised and edited by Father Andrés Marcos Burriel (3 vols.; Madrid: En la Imprenta de la Viuda de Manuel Fernández, y del Supremo Consejo de la Inquisición, 1757), vol. 3. 21 cm. *DeGolyer Library, Southern Methodist University, Dallas*

Religion played a major role in exploration. In 1746, another Jesuit, Ferdinand Konscak (of Croatian background), led an expedition that sailed all the way around the Gulf of California to verify California's

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connection to the mainland. A year later, Spanish King Fernando VII issued a decree stating clearly that "California is not an island." Using Father Konscak's map, Father Burriel compiled this Jesuit map showing Baja California, the Colorado River delta, the Gulf of California or Red Sea of Cortés, and the provinces of Pimeria and Sonora. There is a decided focus upon not just the geographical features of northwestern New Spain, but also its numerous indigenous inhabitants, their villages, and the Jesuit missions in their midst. The vignettes surrounding the map include native birds and animals, California Indians, and scenes depicting the martyrdom of Jesuits Lorenzo Carranco and Nicolás Tamaral.

Diccionario Porrua, p. 1144; Cohen, *Mapping the West: America's West*, p. 38; Miguel León-Portilla, *Cartografía y Crónicas de la Antigua California* (Coyoacán, Mexico: U.N.A.M., 1989), pp. 143-148, fig. 76.

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