

Geographical map

La Terra de Hochelaga Nella Nova Francia

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The scene depicted is taken from the Relation de Jacques Cartier, in particular from the third voyage (1535). It shows a plan of the village of Hochelaga in a landscape with a box containing captions. In the landscape on the left, the first occurrence of "Montreal" on a map appears, cf. the inscription in capital letters: "MONTE REAL". Jacques Cartier is shown in the foreground shaking hands with King Agouhanna.

Accession Number 1992.48

Fabricant / Éditeur Ramusio, Giovanni Battista

Artiste / Auteur Gastaldi, Giacomo

Date 1565

Materials paper

Measurements 32 x 43 cm

Historical context

In the 15th and 16th centuries, Europeans set out to discover America, a terra incognita brought to the attention of Europe by the voyages of Christopher Columbus. To report on the progress of their knowledge, and to promote their expeditions to financial backers, European explorers published accounts of their voyages and maps of the territories they explored. They also recounted their encounters with the various native peoples who had inhabited the territory for centuries. It was against this backdrop that Italian geographer Giovanni Battista Ramusio published La Terra de Hochelaga Nella Nova Francia in volume 3 of his Delle navigationi et viaggi in Venice in 1556. This map, probably the work of cartographer Giacomo Gastaldi, is an approximation of the Iroquoian village of Hochelaga during Jacques Cartier's visit in 1535. The foreground shows Cartier shaking hands with Chief Agouhanna. This was the first map representation of a native village in Europe, and the first time the name "Monte Real" was mapped, in reference to the Mount Royal that Cartier named it.

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On display