

Jolliet's First Map

Gabriel Gravier, *President de la Societe Normande de Geographie*, has just published an essay on a map hitherto unknown, and which he holds to be the *first* one which shows the Great Lakes and the Great River throughout, and that it is the earliest sketch drawn by Jolliet at Montreal in 1674, directly after his return from his voyage down the Mississippi. Its scroll title is

“NEW DISCOVERY OF SEVERAL NATIONS IN NEW FRANCE.”

A *facsimile*, 22x16 inches, two-thirds the size of the original, which is 85x67 centimeters, accompanies the essay. The map is inscribed with the name of Jolliet, and is admitted to be his. Its priority to others is argued: First, because it gives to rivers and regions names complimentary to Canadian authorities—names that in his other maps are changed for those of dignitaries in France. Thus its name for the territory between the Wisconsin and Illinois rivers is *La Frontenacie* (which may be translated Frontenacky), instead of *Colbertie*—in honor of the French premier, which appears on other maps. It sets down the name of the Mississippi as *Buade*, the family name of Frontenac, not Colbert, as in his other maps. Only on this map is the Illinois River, named the

OUTRELAISE,

the name of a female friend of Frontenac's wife.

The priority of the new found map is also argued because it was dedicated, with many additions, to Frontenac, then governor of New France. Other maps by Jolliet are dedicated to Colbert. Moreover, the imperfections of the map show it to be an original draft. It is in a ruder style of art, and more incorrect than others sketched by Jolliet, especially in those portions where he had not himself explored, and his drawings of which he at length improved by studying the maps of others. The names entered and the descriptive notes are fewer than in his other maps, as would be natural in a first sketch. *Baston* (sic) is the only town within the present limits of the United States; some think it is still.