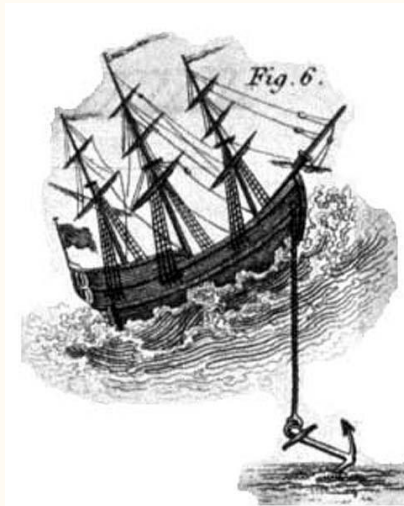




Californica as an Island

Introduction

- Glen McLaughlin Collection of California as an Island
includes over 700 maps spanning 200 years
- This story involves a mythical island, a Spanish friar with a political agenda, copycat cartographers dealing with little-known corners of the world, and, of course, pirates!



Why an Island?

- What was considered 'California' has changed over time
- The gulf of California was once thought to indicate that Baja California was actually an island
- Too shallow to sail up the Colorado River

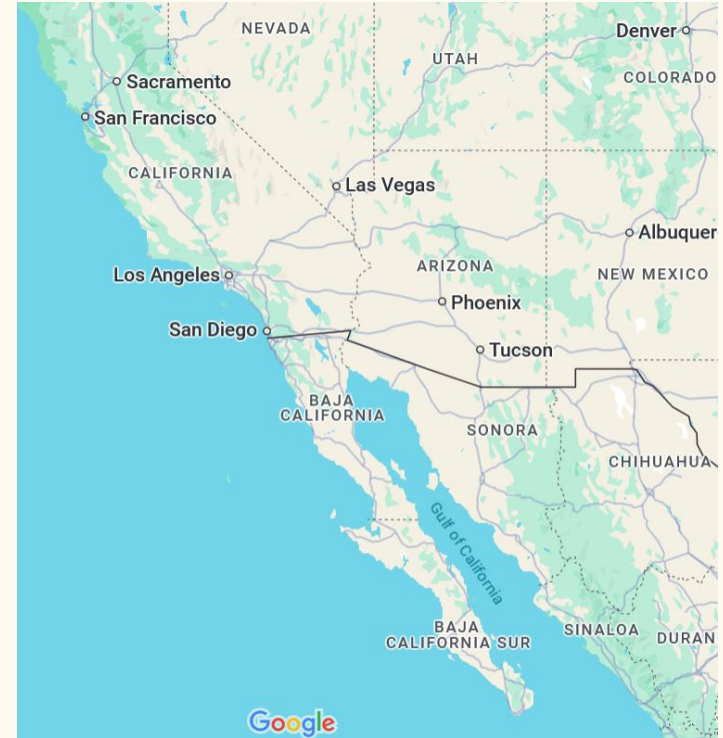


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Dutch Pirates, Henry Briggs, and John Speed

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1747 King Ferdinand VI of Spain. Final map in 1865

1

The idea of 'California'

- Las Sergas de Esplandián (The Adventures of Esplandián)
 - Women-only society ruled by Amazon warrior Calafia
 - Protected by griffins
 - Only metal was gold
- Hernán Cortés Baja California in 1537 - assumed island
- Idea of 'Isla de California'



Origins
of island
idea



2 Early Maps



Idea of
peninsula

- Maps and explorations supported idea of peninsula
 - 16th century European cartographers (Cornelis Wytfliet)
 - Post-Cortez explorations also indicated peninsula
- 1602 Viscaíno Expedition as a pivot point
 - Priest Antonio de la Ascensión asserted island
 - Political motivation to challenge English explorer Sir Francis Drake's claims to Oregon
- 1622 Spanish atlas, *Descripcion des Indes Occidentiales* (Description of the East Indies)



3 Pirates and Copy-Cats



Idea of
Island
becomes
entrenched

- Spanish ship intercepted by Dutch pirates
- 1625 copied by mathematician Henry Briggs
- English cartographer John Speed copied and popularized it in 1626



4

Dissemination of Misinformation



Idea of
Island
becomes
entrenched

- The tale of two Nicholas':
 - Sanson 1650, French royal cartographer
 - de Fer 1720
- Spread beyond Europe



5

Kino's Correction



Definitely
not an
island

- Italian Jesuit missionary Eusebio Kino in 1681
 - Abalone shells in Arizona
 - 1701 surveys confirmed suspicions
- Took Spanish until 1746 to sail up to the top of the gulf and confirm it was not an island
- King Ferdinand VI of Spain declaration in 1747
- Correction of island idea was slow - last map from Japan in 1865



01



02



03



STEP BY
STEP

04



05



Let's explore the
collection!