An Atlas of Early Maps of the American Midwest: Part II
Compiled by W. Raymond Wood

Illinois State Museum Scientific Papers, Vol. XXIX
Illinois State Museum
Springfield, Illinois
2001
Contents

Plate Descriptions
Plate 1 Jean-Baptiste Louis Franquelin, ca. 1678-9 ......................................................... 1
Plate 2 Jean-Baptiste Louis Franquelin, 1699 ................................................................. 1
Plate 3 Gabriel Moore, S.J., 1706 ................................................................. 1
Plate 4 Guillaume Delisle (Pierre-Charles Le Surer), 1702 ........................................... 2
Plate 5 Anonymous Native American, ca. 1725 .......................................................... 4
Plate 6 Jean-Benjamin François Dumont de Montigny, ca. 1728 .............................. 6
Plate 7 Jacques-Nicolas Bellin, ca. 1755-7 ................................................................. 6
Plate 8 Chegaree, a Native American, ca. 1755 ............................................................... 9
Plate 9 Jacques-Nicolas Bellin, 1764 ................................................................. 9
Plate 10 Guy Sansa du Rossat, October 13, 1767 ......................................................... 10
Plate 11 Edward Jarvis and Donald Mackay, 1791 ...................................................... 10
Plate 12 Antoine Soulard, August 1799 ................................................................. 10
Plate 13 Nicolas de Flahurt, 1798 ................................................................. 12
Plate 14 [John Dougavany], ca. 1819 ................................................................. 12
Plate 15 Major Stephen Harrisman Lang, ca. 1817 .................................................. 13
Plate 16 Anonymous Native American, ca. 1825 ...................................................... 13
Plate 17 Douglas Houghton (incorporating information from Henry Row Schoolcraft), ca. 1831 14
Plate 18 Iowa Indian, 1837 .................................................................................. 14
Plate 19 Pierre-Jean de Stret, S.J., May 1839 .............................................................. 17
Plate 20 Pierre-Jean de Stret, S.J., ca. 1839 .............................................................. 18
Plate 21 Pierre-Jean de Stret, S.J., 1840 ................................................................. 18
Plate 22 Pierre-Jean de Stret, S.J., 1840 ................................................................. 18
References Cited ................................................................................................. 19
Appendix ........................................................................................................ 22

Figures
Figure 1 Genealogy of the Marquette and Jouillet families ........................................... 1
Figure 2 The " jede Le Suer" based on the map of the Louisiana drawn by Guillaume Delisle in 1718 2
Figure 3 Index map for the Guillaume Delisle (Pierre-Charles Le Suer) 1702 charts of the Mississipi River ................................................................. 3
Figure 4 1725 Native American map (redrawn for clarity) ........................................... 5
Figure 5 Sketch believed to be the prototype for Soulard's 1765 map of the Missouri basin .......................... 11
Figure 6 1825 Anonymous Native American map on skin (redrawn for clarity) ... 13
Figure 7 Iowa Indian map of 1837, with identifying numbers for physical and cultural features 16
Figure 8 Index map for the May 1839 Rand De Smet charts of the Missouri River between present-day Nebraska City, Nebraska, and Yankton, South Dakota 17

Tables
Table 1 An Inventory of Jacques-Nicolas Bellin maps showing details of the Midwest and the Great Lakes ........................... 7
Table 2 Identifications of hydrographic features depicted on the 1837 Iowa Indian map (Figure 7) ................................................................. 15

An Atlas of Early Maps of the American Midwest: Part II
Plate 7

Jacques-Nicolas Bellin
ca. 1755–7


Part of western Canada, showing Lakes Ontario, Huron, Erie, and Lake Superior. Portages are marked in red and underlined. The directions of rivers are marked by an arrow.

Original: Manuscript map in the private collection of Barry MacLean, Metawa, Ill. Size: 76.5 by 52.5 cm.

Scale Ratio: Reproduced at 48 percent of original size.

Reproduced here from a photograph of the original in the MacLean Collection.

Jacques-Nicolas Bellin was the senior hydrographic engineer and chief of the French Dépôt des Cartes et Plans de la Marine from 1721 to 1772 and thus was a major figure in French cartography of the period. This manuscript map once belonged to General Jeffery Amherst, commander of the British forces during the conquest of French Canada (Buissèret 1991: 49).

Jacques-Nicolas Bellin (1703–72), educated in geography and hydrography, produced "some of the finest mapping of French America available in the eighteenth century" (Goss 1990: 124). He had a reputation for precise detail and rigorous cartographic standards. His duties as France's royal hydrographer focused most of his attention on maritime mapping, of which his output was prodigious. Most of Bellin's maps were released in atlases, such as his Hydrographique Francais (1755–65), Petit Atlas Maritime (1764), and Atlas de Corte (1769). Bellin also drafted versions of his maps specifically to illustrate histories and journals, such as Charlevoix's Histoire et Description Générale de la Nouvelle France (1744a), Journal d'un Voyage ... (1744b), and the English version Journal of a Voy-

Bellin’s maps that include details of North America were produced between 1743 and about 1770. Bellin’s detailed coverage of non-French portions of North America matured only after 1755, and by 1757 included a number of regional views of the East Coast and plans of various towns, harbors, and forts. Although the quality of Bellin’s maps of French holdings can be assigned to his high standards and direct access to French surveys, details of some of his other North American maps can be credited to English cartographers such as John Mitchell (Portinaro and Knirsch 1987: 244; Schwartz and Ehrenberg 1980: 168-2).

Details of the Midwest are presented in three general views by Bellin: western New France or the Great Lakes, French Louisiana, and North America. Bellin’s 1743 map of North America (see Table 1, 1743-A) was published by Charlevoix (1746a). This map gives a surprisingly distorted view of the Great Lakes region, leaving out much information known for over fifty years (for example, the presence of Lake St. Clair and the shape of Lake Superior). However, revised and more accurate maps of the Midwest by Bellin (Table 1, 1744-A, B) also appeared in Charlevoix’s 1744 publications. With these maps as a baseline, Bellin’s maps showing Midwest details were periodically revised through the next two decades as new information was received, thus making Bellin’s maps especially useful for evaluating cartographically sensitive historical events. Peyster (1992: 75-8, 85) and Esarey (1997: 195-200) have used Bellin map sequences to investigate the geography of French and Indian activities and establishments in the Midwest.

Scholars wishing to use Bellin’s maps to illustrate, or investigate details of, the history of the Midwest should be aware of subtleties in the sequence and dating of the maps, especially the 1755 series. In certain Bellin maps, the date can lead researchers into incorrect assumptions of equivalency with, or precedence to, other Bellin maps. For instance, the 1755 Bellin map *Partie Occidentale de la Nouvelle France...* (Table 1, 1755-B) is very much like the previous (1745) map of the same name. It is also identical to the Bellin map of the same name and date, published by the heirs of the German mapmakers Homann (Table 1, 1755-C). However, the “Héritiers of Homann” version may not have been published until 1759, which Tooley (1979: 308) lists as the publication date of their next atlas after 1754.

More significant is that even though 1755 dates the base map for a draft of *Partie du Cours du Fleuve St. Louis ou Mississipi* that traveled to and from the Illinois Country (Table 1, 1755-D), the handwritten corrections on it must postdate the arrival of that draft in the Illinois Country. The handwritten addition to Bellin’s open-ended phrase “sur Joiindre au Memoire de M...” shows that this map was designed to accompany the memoir of Neyon de Villiers, who assumed the role of commandant in the Illinois Country in the same year. Thus, Tucker (1942: 8) wisely referred to this map as “1755 and later.” These hand-
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>ID here</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>References (portion published)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1743</td>
<td>1748-A</td>
<td>Carte de l'Amérique Septentrionale...</td>
<td>Originalelle Charlevoix 1744;</td>
<td>An awkward map, distorting and, leaving out much information known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kupinski 1991:41 (part)</td>
<td>for over 50 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1744</td>
<td>1744-A</td>
<td>Carte de la Louisiane, cours du</td>
<td>Originalelle Charlevoix 1744a; Brown</td>
<td>Created for Charlevoix. Many details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mississippi, et Des Loisirs</td>
<td>1950-69.70 (most); Kupinski</td>
<td>revised from the 1743 North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1991:42 (part); Oredelnik</td>
<td>America map.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1992:196 (part); Shea 1608</td>
<td>Differences from 1744-A imply this</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1744</td>
<td>1744-B</td>
<td>Carte des Lieux du Canada</td>
<td>Originally Charlevoix 1746;</td>
<td>is a slightly later map.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kupinski 1991:65 (all); Gen.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1900:125 (all)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1745</td>
<td>1745-A</td>
<td>Parc Occidental de la Nouvelle France</td>
<td>Kawinski 1991:94 (all); Vogel</td>
<td>Original version of Bellin's classic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>en Canada</td>
<td>1891:188 (part)</td>
<td>map of the time name (1755-B);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1754-A</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gouin and al. 1974:249 (part)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1755</td>
<td>1755-A</td>
<td>Carte de l'Amérique Septentrionale</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not reviewed. Refer to in July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1991:95. Probably the same as 1755-B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1755</td>
<td>1755-B</td>
<td>Parc Occidental de la Nouvelle France</td>
<td></td>
<td>Very much like 1745-A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>en Canada</td>
<td>Rese 1971:23 (all); Boissevart</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1995:19 (part)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1755</td>
<td>1755-C</td>
<td>Parc Occidental de la Nouvelle France</td>
<td>Stadel 1974:126 (Maps and</td>
<td>Probably published by Hossann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>en Canad (é... pas les lieux de</td>
<td>Charts 304)</td>
<td>heirs, spilt after 1755. Otherwise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>identical to 1755-B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1755</td>
<td>1755-D</td>
<td>Parc du Cour de St. Louis en</td>
<td>Tucker 1942:Plate 54 (all)</td>
<td>Assigned by Tucker to &quot;1755 and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Missisipi</td>
<td></td>
<td>later.&quot; Corrections were made before</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|      |         |       |                               | and 1757. Labelled "Sur Jointure en | 1755, other names.
|      |         |       |                               | Memorie de Mr. Neveil de Villiers" |
| 1755 | 1755-E  | Parc du Cour de St. Louis en | Originally in de Villiers de Terrag   | Map drafted 1755-7, Botanides, |
|      |         | Mississippi                     | 1904; Ahlert 1920:104 (all)    | 1755-A, B, C, D (and probably G). |
| 1755 | 1755-F  | Parc Occidental de la Nouvelle France | Schwartz and Greenberg 1980:165 | Created 1755-7. Same view as other |
|      |         | en Canada                       | (all)                         | copy of Parc Occidental... maps, not |
|      |         |       |                               | much changed. Postdates 1755-A, B, |
|      |         |       |                               | C, D (and probably G). |

No date

1755-G Parc Occidental du Canada. Courant en Lacs Ontario, Huron, Erie, et Lacs Superior

Boissevart 1991:48 (all); Plate 7 in this folio.

An unassigned manuscript map, clearly by Bellin. Assigned by Boissevart to "ca. 1756." This map was drafted between 1755 and 1757 using information from 1755-A. Continued.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>ID Here</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>References (portion published)</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1755</td>
<td>1755-H</td>
<td>Citoyen Septentrional depuis 28 degre de latitude jusqu'au 72</td>
<td>Map in the National Map Collection, Public Archives of Canada, and in the Bibliothèque Nationale in France.</td>
<td>This map shows the corrected location of Fort St. Joseph (Pryer 1992:85). In 60) and incorporates changes from map 1755-B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No date</td>
<td>1755-I</td>
<td>Porte Occidental du Canada, Continent les Lacs Ouatrie, Huron, Pitt, et Lac Superior</td>
<td>A manuscript map in the National Map Collection, Public Archives of Canada. Unmarked and undated. Similar in scale and coverage as 1755-G, but fewer detail differences. Although the National Map Collection assigns a date of 1752, the map uses information from 1755-D. Not reviewed. Existence noted by Pryer 1992:43, In: 61, In correspondence to 1757-B is not clear.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1757</td>
<td>1757-A</td>
<td>La Louisiane et Pays Huron</td>
<td>Originally Prevost 1746; Anonymous 1059 (all)</td>
<td>A new configuration for Lake Michigan sets this map off from pre-1757 Bellin maps. Incorporates the 1755-7 map corrections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1757</td>
<td>1757-C</td>
<td>Carte des Lacs du Canada pour servir à l'Histoire Générale des Voyages</td>
<td>Originally Prevost 1746; Bertinano and Kührich 1087:243 (all); Anonymous 1059 (all);</td>
<td>A new configuration for Lake Michigan sets this map off from pre-1757 Bellin maps. Incorporates the 1755-7 map corrections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No date</td>
<td>1765-A</td>
<td>A map of the Western Ocean and Port of North America</td>
<td>Originally Bellin 1765 and 1764; Karpinski 1031:50 (all); Brousset 911:50 (all); Plate 9 in His folio.</td>
<td>Lake Michigan shape aligns this map with the pre-1757 maps, despite its later publication date.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1765</td>
<td>1765-B</td>
<td>La Nouvelle France au Canada</td>
<td>Originally Bellin, 1765 and 1764; Karpinski 1031:50 (part)</td>
<td>First Bellin map to show 1st Royal, Charlevoix's low fabricated Lake Superior Islands continue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1765</td>
<td>1765-C</td>
<td>La Louisiane et Pays Neuf</td>
<td>Originally Bellin 1765 and 1764; Tourtel 1072-131 (all)</td>
<td>Fort Mackinac label slightly changed from previous maps.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
written corrections provided Bellin with substantial revisions in Illinois Country geography. The courses of the Missouri and Ohio Rivers were corrected, as were the locations of St. Genevieve, the new Fort de Chartres, and various habitations near the mouth of the Kaskaskia River. Verification that this map could not date much earlier than 1755 can be seen in a notation describing the destruction of the Michigamea village "in 1753" (the attack was actually in 1752). The label Fort Francois Proyette, et commence depuis longtemps on the lower Ohio River verifies that the handwritten corrections in Illinois must have been made before mid-1757, when Fort Massac was built. Also present is the earliest indication of a French post, mission, and Peoria Indian village on the lower reaches of the Illinois River. There is some evidence this establishment existed as early as 1750, although the Peoria Indian village there was abandoned by 1758 (Esarey 1997).

Subsequent Bellin maps, still dated as 1755, which incorporate the changes from the draft are the identically named published version (Table 1, 1755-E) and Partie Occidentale de la Nouvelle France ... (Table 1, 1755-F). The latter map has the same geographic coverage as the two earlier 1755 Partie du Cours du Fleuve St. Louis ou Mississippi maps (Table 1, 1755 E, F), but is much changed because of new information from the Illinois Country. In it, the French post and mission is present on the lower Illinois River, and, for the first time, Bellin has adopted a different configuration of "La Longue Pointe" in Lake Erie. Fort Massac and the lower Ohio River are added outside the map's southern margin. A
Plate 7 is an unsigned, undated manuscript map, *Partie Occidentale du Canada* (Table 1, 1755-G), that Buissrer (1991: 48) assigns to "c. 1750." A nearly identical unsigned, undated manuscript map in The National Map Collection of Canada (Table 1, 1755) differs only in a few label details and has been assigned to 1752. However, both of these manuscript maps have several features showing they are transitional between the original 1755 and the 1755–7 maps. For St. Joseph's incorrect placement persists, that feature being corrected only in the 1755–7 series (Peyser 1992: 75). Earlier, Bellin had misplaced Kaskasia adjacent to the Tamana, but this was corrected in all maps after the draft 1755 *Partie du Cours du Fleuve St. Louis ou Mississippi*. As Buissrer (1991: 49) notes, these villages are curiously absent on the manuscript *Partie Occidentale du Canada* map (perhaps reflecting uncertainty on Bellin’s part?). In any case, on both *Partie Occidentale du Canada* maps in question, we find that Bellin has altered his portrayal of La Longue Pointe in Lake Erie (which had remained unchanged since 1744) and added "Peurias" on the lower Illinois River. Both features show that this map unquestionably postdates the early versions of 1755 maps and written corrections provided Bellin with substantial revisions in Illinois Country geography. The courses of the Missouri and Ohio Rivers were corrected, as were the locations of St. Genevieve, the new Fort de Chariotay, and various habitations near the mouth of the Kaskasia River. Verification that this map could not date much earlier than 1755 can be seen in a notation describing the destruction of the Michigamea village "in 1755" (the attack was actually in 1752). The label *Fort François Pyrrie*, *et commence depuis longtemps* on the lower Ohio River verifies that the handwritten corrections in Illinois must have been made before mid-1757, when Fort Massac was built. Also present is the earliest indication of a French post, mission, and Peoria Indian village on the lower reaches of the Illinois River. There is some evidence this establishment existed as early as 1750, although the Peoria Indian village there was abandoned by 1758 (Esrey 1997).

Subsequent Bellin maps, still dated as 1755, which incorporate the changes from the draft are the identically named published version (Table 1, 1755-E) and *Partie Occidentale de la Nouvelle France* ... (Table 1, 1755-F). The latter map has the same geographic coverage as the two earlier 1755 *Partie du Cours du Fleuve St. Louis ou Mississippi* maps (Table 1, 1755-E, F), but is much changed because of new information from the Illinois Country. In it, the French post and mission is present on the lower Illinois River and, for the first time, Bellin has adopted a different configuration of "La Longue Pointe" in Lake Erie. Fort Massac and the lower Ohio River are added outside the map’s southern margin. A
are transitional to the 1755-7 series. No other maps take the 1755-D map’s fuzzy handwritten placement of “Peoria” on the lower reaches of the Illinois River to indicate the post was on the east bank (the handwritten correction placed the east side reference label to a symbol on the west side).

The 1755-7 revisions to the Illinois Country are finalized in the 1757 Carte de la Floride, de la Louisiana, et Pays Voisins ... (Table 1, 1757-B). This map features a drastically revised shape for Lake Michigan, breaking a continuity that can be traced back to the 1744 Charlevoix map Carte de la Louisiana, cours du Mississippi, et pays voisins.

By far the best known series of Bellin maps was published in 1763 as Petit Atlas Français and reissued in 1764 as Petit Atlas Maritime (Tooley 1979: 49). This five-volume tour-de-force contained hundreds of maps from around the world. Interestingly, Plate 9, the 1763-4 Carte des Cinq Grands Lacs du Canada (Table 1, 1764-A) has Lake Michigan detail that firmly aligns it with the pre-1757 series of maps, illustrating, in the same fashion as could be seen in his 1743-4 maps for Charlevoix, Bellin's lack of aversion to incorporating contradictory material within the same volume or atlas. Another map in Petit Atlas Maritime, La Louisiane et Pays Voisins (Table 1, 1764-C), shows a cultural landscape much in continuity with his North American map of twenty years before, but with a noticeably more precise placement of features throughout the continent.

Following Bellin's death in 1772, his maps continued to be released, into the nineteenth century. Taken as a whole, the Jacques-Nicolas Bellin sequence of maps provides a backdrop of a quarter-century of cartographic continuity against which the historical significance of his minor but frequent, revisions can be best understood.

—Duane Esary

Plate 9

Jacques-Nicolas Bellin

Carte des Cinq Grands Lacs du Canada.

Map of the five great lakes of Canada.


Scale Ratio: Reproduced at 100 percent of original size.
Reproduced here from a photograph of an original in the Newberry Library.

This map is one of the 102 charts published in Volume 1 (North America and the West Indies) of Jacques-Nicolas Bellin's five-volume atlas. Essentially the same topography is shown here as on his ca. 1753-7 manuscript map (Plate 7), but this chart excludes the region west of the western tip of Lake Superior that are so distorted on that map (Buisseret 1991: 51; Karrow 1977). Plate 9 also has Lake Michigan detail that firmly aligns it with the pre-1767 series of maps, and illustrates, in the same fashion as could be seen in his 1743-4 maps for Charlevoix, Bellin's lack of aversion to incorporating contradictory material within the same volume or atlas. For additional details on Bellin, see the essay by Duane Foyt accompanying Plate 7, the Jacques-Nicolas Bellin map of 1752-7.
References Cited


Braun, Conrad 1725 Die Reise des Johann Martin Haid zu den Celestinen in den Westagard (Braun and Hafner, 1785).


Green, Keith 2000 Inlay Carving. Embroidery, Embroidery, and Embroidery. Manuscripts in preparation; research notes on file, Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa, Iowa City.


Weidel, Mildred M. 1959 Osceola Sites on the Upper Iowa River. The Missouri Archaeologist 16(2-4).


An Atlas of Early Maps of the American Midwest: Part II
An early map of the American Midwest.