DIS-Map-New England- Parkhurst-1677

*A Map of New England, Being the first that ever was here cut, and done by the best Pattern that could be had, which being in some places defective, it made the other less exact; yet does it sufficiently shew the Scituation of the Country, and conveniently well the distance of places.*

*A Map of New England* in William Hubbard's *A Narrative of the Troubles with the Indians in New-England.* London: Thomas Parkhurst,1677.

Medium: woodcut.

Size of original: 295 x 385 mm.

The 1629 Massachusetts Bay Colony charter established her northern boundary three miles north of the Merrimack River, but since its origin was unknown, several expeditions were sent to find its origin which was found in 1652 to be Lake Winnipesaukee. Massachusetts then claimed its northern boundary to be three miles north of Merrimac River's origin thus infringing not only on Maine's claim but also on the Narragansetts and the Wampanoags who rose against Massachusetts in 1675 in the bloody war known by the Wampanoag's chief, King Philip.

John Foster (1648-) of Dorchester was a graduate of Harvard College class of 1667 and his father, Hopestill, was a member of the General Court and Captain of the militia. John Foster began teaching English, Latin and writing in his native town in and he set us his printing press at "The Sign of the Dove" in Boston in early 1675, the year after the 1664 decree by the General Court forbidding any printing in Massachusetts Bay except at Cambridge was repealed. Thus, his 1677 *Map of New England* came early in his printing career. It was based on William Reed's 1665 survey which was the best at that time. Foster was also politically motivated, since he designed his map to serve as a guide to the battles of the British-Wampanoag conflict which purposely lent legitimacy to Massachusetts' inflated boundary claims. Foster placed two parallel lines that established the northern boundary of Massachusetts through Lake Winnipesaukee, and he placed the southern boundary in conflict with Plymouth Colony's 1629 charter, although a compromise had been reached with Plymouth in 1664 which is shown as a diagonal line near Scituate (Scituat*).*

On Foster's map sixty European settlements are indicated, identified by numbers. England was eager to have these land claims established as well. This led to two nearly identical woodblocks of the map. The first map was printed at "The Sign of the Dove" in Boston in 1674 by Foster and is regarded as the first map printed in North America. The second map was re-cut in London sometime after June 27 (when it was licensed by the Stationer) from a proof of the Boston block and was printed by Thomas Parkhurst. Between these maps several variations exist.

The engraver of the Boston woodblock had used typeset for many place-names, while the London printer had the original map which he placed face-down on a fresh block, varnished the back of the impression to render the paper transparent, and then cut a new block through the paper using the revealed lines of the original as a guide. However, the London woodcutter was hampered by indistinct letters and the poor quality of his original pull, both of which introduced errors into the London edition (Woodward 1967). For example, Martha's Vineyard is shown as *Martins Vineyard* on the Boston edition, while the London woodcutter took the "i" of Vineyard to be the right vertical stem of the letter "N," resulting in *Nnyard.*

The following comparison indicates the misreadings by the London woodcutter.

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| John Foster's Boston 1677 Edition | Thomas Parkhurst's London 1677 Edition |
| White Hills | Wine Hills |
| Martin's Vineyard | Martin's Nnyard |
| Newport | Newper |
| Ipswich | Ipswieh |
| Casco | Caseo |
| Hamton | Haniton |
| Lancaster | Lancasten |
| Chensford (Chelmsford) | Chensforo |

References: Woodward, David. "The Foster woodcut map controversy: a further examination of the evidence," *Imago Mundi* XXI (1967): 52-61.