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Fantastic map of the American West by Duflot de Mofras, with period annotations

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From Smithsonian to Paris, Hardin designer's native-inspired fashion stuns



Great Hornbill

Photographer: Joby Varghese



Carte
 DE LA CÔTE DE L'AMÉRIQUE
 SUR L'Océan PACIFIQUE SEPTENTRIONAL
 comprenant
LE TERRITOIRE DE L'OREGON,
 LES CHAMBERSIAIS LA MER VERMORELLE,
 Partie des Territoires de la Compagnie de la Baie d'Hudson,
 et de L'AMÉRIQUE RUSSIE.
 Paris 1811

PUBLIÉ PAR ORDRE DU ROI,
 par le Capitaine
 DE M. LE MARSHAL DEU DE DALRYMPLE,
 Directeur du Canal des Indes,
 DE LA BUREAU DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES.
 Paris 1811

- ÉCHELLE
- 1 pouce = 10 lieues
 - 1 pouce = 100 toises
 - 1 pouce = 1000 toises
 - 1 pouce = 10000 toises
 - 1 pouce = 100000 toises
 - 1 pouce = 1000000 toises

Fantastic map of the American West by Duflot de Mofras, with period annotations

Eugene Duflot de Mofras / Jacobs and Hacq, engravers, *Carte de la Cote de L'Amérique sur l'Océan Pacifique Septentrional le Territoire de l'Orégon, les Californies, la Mer Vermeille, Partie des Territoires de la Compagnie de la Baie d'Hudson, et de l'Amérique Russe. Dressée par Mr. Duflot de Mofras, Attache à la Legation de France à Mexico; Pour servir à l'intelligence de son Voyage d'exploration. Publiè par Ordre du Roi, sous les Auspices de Mr. Le Marechal Duc de Dalmatie, Mr. Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères.* Paris, 1844.

Engraving, 36 ½“h x 22 ¾“w at neat line plus margins, outline and some wash color. Segmented and recently rebacked with a sheet of antique linen, original mapseller's label re-affixed to verso.

\$15,000 https://bostonraremaps.com/inventory/duflot-de-mofras-oregon-california-1844/?utm_source=Boston+Rare+Maps+subscribers&utm_campaign=53eb5231a7-Recent_acquisitions_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3d73b433c0-53eb5231a7-62831089

A landmark map compiled by French diplomat and spy Eugène Duflot de Mofras during the contest for control of the [American West](#), complete with exciting period annotations by French prospectors.

In the early 1840s the American West Coast was very much up for grabs: Mexico had already lost Texas, and its administration of California was shambolic; Americans were pushing steadily westward in ever-greater numbers; Britain lay claim to much of the Oregon Country while the tentacles of the Hudson's Bay Company reached as far as California; and Russia had established settlements as far south as the Ross Colony in modern-day Sonoma County.

Sensing opportunity, France sent young diplomat Eugène Duflot de Mofras (1810-1884) on a fact-finding tour—or as some suggest, an espionage mission—to California and the Oregon Country,

“in order to ascertain, independently of a political point of view, what advantage might be offered to our commerce and to our navigation by mercantile expeditions, and the establishment of trading-posts in those regions still little known to France.” (de Mofras, *Explorations*, quoted by [Bancroft](#), p. 248)

In the course of his travels Duflot de Mofras covered a huge amount of ground, from Mexico City to the Bay Area and as far north as Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River. He also had extraordinary access, traveling at times with A.G. Rotchev, the Governor of the Russian Colony and George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson Bay Company; and establishing cordial relations with Charles Wilkes and John Sutter, among others. With this wealth of first- and second-hand information, and drawing on previous work by Lewis & Clark, Stephen Long, [John Arrowsmith](#), and no doubt others, he compiled this extraordinary map. It was published in 1844, offered both separately and in the atlas volume of his *Exploration Du territoire de l'Orégon, des Californies et de la mer Vermeille*.

The map

De Mofras' map covers a vast area, bounded roughly by Hudson's Bay, the southwest coast of

Mexico and the southeastern coast of Alaska. He has packed his work with a staggering and apparently meticulous array of topographic, toponymic, and political detail. A full treatment is simply not possible here, so we highlight just a few of the more interesting elements.

First, de Mofras does his best to account for territorial claims by the United States and European powers, including the vast stretch of [Canada](#) controlled by the Hudson's Bay Company; the border between the United States and [Mexico](#) as defined by the 1819 Adams-Onís Treaty; the boundaries in western Canada negotiated between Russia and the United States (1824) and Great Britain (1825); a rather restrained treatment of the then-independent Texas; and the huge, disputed Oregon Territory, with conflicting boundaries as proposed by the United States and Great Britain in 1814 and 1826. Of particular interest is the Russian Colony in northern [California](#), established by the Russian-American Company in 1812 and sold to John Sutter in 1841. De Mofras visited the Colony during his mission, and this is the first careful treatment of it on a published map.

Second, de Mofras pays much attention to routes of exploration and travel, with the major ones highlighted in red. Among these we find the "Route de Lewis et Clark", the "Route par eau des Américains des États Unis au Rio Colombia", the "Route des caravans de la cie des fourrures" (an apparent reference to John Jacob Astor's Southwest Fur Company), the "Route des Américains des États Unis en Californie", and "Route des Wagons des États-Unis". One route worth noting, if nothing else because its presence underscores the meticulousness of de Mofras as a mapmaker, is the "Route des Chariots des États-Unis." Running east-west and passing through Santa Fe, and later known as "The Old Spanish Trail", this connected northern New Mexico with Southern California prior to the construction of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Wheat suggests that this is the first time this route appears on a printed map, though de Mofras places it too far to the south.

Third, we find numerous references to the Native American presence in the region. In most cases these are simply attestations to which tribe roams which areas, but there are also many instances in which important cultural information is conveyed. For example, we see references to the Sampiche and Moquis tribes as sedentary agriculturalists, living in wooden houses and tilling the soil. Conversely, the barren deserts of Chihuahua are described as a haven for local Indian tribes, to which they would withdraw after raids. In the Sierra Nevadas, the tone is somewhat different. While the native peoples are mentioned, it is usually in relation to practical matters such as trade and encampment.

Finally, in the context of his mission to identify opportunities for commercial exploitation, we note Mofras' enthusiasm for California, where he has inserted a number of notes, including this long one in the Central Valley:

"This immense valley, between the Sierra Nevada and the Californian mountains, is watered by small rivers and filled with freshwater lagoons full of fish. This country is even more beautiful than the inhabited part of California, its climate is milder, it presents fertile grounds, superb timber and vast prairies where herds of Deer, antelopes, bulls and wild horses." (rendered from French by Google Translate)

In all, de Mofras' map offers innumerable opportunities for further research; it is so densely labeled that a thorough treatment would necessitate volumes. While he clearly drew on early work by Lewis & Clark, Stephen Long, John Arrowsmith and no doubt others, there had to be very few men alive at the time capable of weaving them together with so much information gathered first-hand.

Contemporary notations bring the map to life

De Mofras' map of course predates the California Gold Rush by several years, and his interests generally lie elsewhere than mining. In several places along the alluvial fan of the Gila River, however, he adds notes emphasizing the rich gold deposits present there and the possibility of finding nuggets as large as ten kilos. And indeed, though they were not his target audience, this copy of the map features annotations by one or more adventurous French prospectors seeking their fortunes in the New World. These indicate that he (or they) were engaged in at least two prospecting missions in the ore-rich region of southwest Albuquerque, heading out the first time from near Mexican Monterey in 1849, and apparently again from Mexico City the following year. Their annotations sketch out the prospecting routes they took and in one case extend to the California coastline near Los Angeles.

Some of the notes, such as what *might* be "Patchitlou", await interpretation by a future owner of this map. The meaning of others is clear: "argent" (silver) and "or" (gold) are written prominently in pencil along the prospecting route, near the village of Arizona just south of the Gila River, while "or" is inscribed *in gold ink* on either side of the River. The prospector's optimism jumps off the page even now, nearly 200 years later.

De Mofras' tour of California and Oregon, 1841-42

Formally, de Mofras was part of the French diplomatic presence in Mexico City, having been stationed there in 1839. But his posting came with an intelligence brief to explore Mexico's northwest regions. The official reason for embarking on such a perilous journey up the Californian coast was to investigate mercantile opportunities in a land still largely controlled by Spanish missions and populated primarily by indigenous peoples and occasional fur traders and prospectors. All true, but he was also to reconnoiter and assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of the various stakeholders in the region.

In 1840, de Mofras initiated his great tour. He began by visiting Jalisco, Colima, Sinaloa, and Sonora, and then sailed from Mazatlán to California's Monterey in May 1841. From here he continued, in the company of Commandant Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, to the Russian settlement at Fort Ross, just north of San Francisco.

He returned to Monterey in July 1841 to escape the heat of the summer, but resumed his travels in early September, when he sailed up the Sacramento River with A.G. Rotchev, the commander of Fort Ross. Their destination was New Helvetia, where de Mofras met with John A. Sutter, a Swiss entrepreneur who would become one of the most influential and defining businessmen in the history of California. After his meeting with Sutter, de Mofras continued on to San Jose, Santa Cruz, and San Francisco, before traveling to Fort Vancouver, an outpost of the Hudson's Bay Company. He returned to San Francisco with Hudson Bay Company Governor Sir George Simpson. In January 1842, de Mofras sailed via Santa Bárbara to San Diego, then returned to

Mexico. Two years later he published this map and the *Exploration Du territoire de l'Orégon, des Californies et de la mer Vermeille*.

The abundance of information collected by de Mofras collected on his long tour made his map one of the most accurate and densely informative of its time. Moreover, published in Paris, it became the first major chart of the American West that was intended for, and seen by, a European audience. While the French never had the strength or real opportunity to vie for power in California, the map did become a primary source for European mapmakers trying to produce reliable maps for gold seekers in California and Oregon a few years later.

References

For the map: Phillips, *Maps of America*, p. 642; Rumsey #4119; Wheat, *Trans-Mississippi West*, #474. For the *Exploration*: Graff #1169; Howes, *U.S.-Iana*, #D452; Sabin #2114; Streeter #3323. Background from

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Indian Roller.

Photo: @inderajitsingh

"Justice requires us to remember that when any citizen denies his fellow, saying, 'His color is not mine,' or 'His beliefs are strange and different,' in that moment he betrays America, though his forebears created this nation." — [*Lyndon B. Johnson, 1st Inaugural Address*](#)



[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

[Floyd Collins - Western Shoshone Oral History](#)

[Part of the 2016 Great Basin Indian Archives \(GBIA\) Elder History Presentation. Floyd Collins of Duckwater discusses growing up in the Ely area, including des...](#)

**LAS VEGAS, NV EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM - CALL FOR APPLICANTS
Informational Webinar and Q & A Session on January 28, 2021 at 10:00am PST
[Click Here to Attend](#) (No Registration Required)**

The U.S. Small Business Administration's Emerging Leaders Program has been a huge success and we are offering this beneficial program again in 2021, in Las Vegas to increase growth opportunities for local small businesses. The Emerging Leaders program provides participants with the knowledge, know-how, resources and connections to help them grow their businesses strategically. This comprehensive approach has helped thousands of small businesses across America significantly increase revenue, create new jobs, and strengthen local communities. This innovative program is an intense 26 week course that offers approximately 100 hours of training per participant and provides the opportunity for small business owners to work with experienced professionals and develop connections with their peers, city leaders, and financial communities. Over 3,500 small business owners around the country have completed the program.

"Emerging leaders was a pivotal, expansive and functional program that helped me immensely professionally as the CEO of Mothership Coffee Roasters. I made friends and connections that add so much value to my daily life. Each person brought individual and wonderful experiences to share in class." Juanny Romero, CEO Sunrise Coffee/Mothership Coffee Roasters

The only cost is your time and commitment to complete the curriculum over the course of seven months (about 100 hours). All other costs are covered by SBA.

Program eligibility criteria:

- In business for at least 3 years
- Annual revenue between \$250,000 and \$10,000,000
- At least one full time employee besides the owner
- Interested in growth
- Attend the 13 workshops and seven mentoring sessions
- Complete required homework and group assignments

Program Highlights

- Customized training for “C” (CEO, COO, etc.) level executives with demonstrated business sustainability of at least 3 years in business and annual revenue of at least \$250K
- Participant recruitment begins in January through SBA’s local district offices and classes typically begin in April
- A three-year strategic growth action plan with benchmarks and performance targets to help the participant emerge as self-sustaining businesses that creates jobs and build communities
- Includes 100 + hours of professional specialized training and peer-to-peer counseling delivered over the course of seven months
- Specialized areas of training include:
 - Growth Strategies Plans
 - Financing and Access to Capital
 - Government Contracting
 - CEO Mentoring

Application Period is now until February 22, 2021 at: www.interise.org/sbaemergingleaders
Las Vegas Point of Contact: Barry Van Orden, barry.vanorden@sba.gov 702-388-6674 is available to answer your questions

"The words have been spoken during rising tides of prosperity and the still waters of peace. Yet, every so often, the oath is taken amidst gathering clouds and raging storms. At these moments, America has carried on not simply because of the skill or vision of those in high office, but because we, the people, have remained faithful to the ideals of our forebears and true to our founding documents." — Barack Obama, 1st Inaugural Address

A federal court just struck down Trump’s attempt to make power plants even dirtier

The Affordable Clean Energy rule, which replaced Obama’s Clean Power Plan, would’ve led to more power sector emissions. Read in Vox: <https://apple.news/AcAAN2JOJSTO6MaR7WoWfjQ>



[France Cave Art Paintings & Rock Art Archive](#)

www.bradshawfoundation.com > [france](#)

So far, about 350 sites have been *discovered*, from the southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula to the Urals. Of these, nearly half of them are *located in France*. With ...

[What Do You Get When You Beat Chevron in Court? 500 Days of Home Detention](#)

"As my physical world has shrunk, the online world has expanded by multiples of thousands. And once I get through this, I have no doubt that Chevron will be paying this judgment such that thousands of Indigenous people and rural communities will have a clean environment and thousands of lives will be saved. That's what this is ultimately about." Steven Donziger

On Friday, Steven Donziger passed **500 days of home detention** for refusing to turn over his computer, phone, and passwords to be given to Chevron.

Donziger is a perfect example of the lengths to which the fossil fuel industry will go to **deny communities justice**. But we continue mobilizing, bringing to light **Chevron's persistent attempts to evade responsibility**.

As civil rights attorney Ron Kuby stated, "There has never been a misdemeanor defendant who has been held in home confinement for **even as much as a day, let alone 500 days!** The effect is to incapacitate, impoverish, and punish Steven, and most importantly, to **prevent Steven from engaging in the legal and political work** necessary to enforce the Chevron judgment."

For video and more: <https://amazonwatch.org/news/2020/1222-what-do-you-get-when-you-beat-chevron-in-court-500-days-of-home-detention>
utm_source=Amazon+Watch+Newsletter+and+Updates&utm_campaign=9bff399789-2019-07-29bolsonaros_deadly_brazil_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e6f929728b-9bff399789-342176125&mc_cid=9bff399789&mc_eid=[ae20820fb0]

Distinctly Montana ·

"The Crow tribal member has shown her fashions in cities like Paris, Chicago and Phoenix. She shares the beading and design work that surrounded her every day growing up in Hardin."



nbcmontana.com

[From Smithsonian to Paris, Hardin designer's native-inspired fashion stuns](#)

[With two of her dresses honoring missing and murdered indigenous women in the Smithsonian, Montana designer Della Bighair-Stump wants to bring awareness to Native American issues and history to the world. The Crow tribal member has shown her fashions in cities like Paris, Chicago and Phoenix. She sh...](#)

**Here on the pulse of this new day
You may have the grace to look up and out
And into your sister's eyes,
Into your brother's face, your country
And say simply
Very simply
With hope
Good morning.**

~ Maya Angelou