

## Don McGuirk, MD

Don McGuirk, MD is a retired pediatrician and a resident of Denver. His interest in antique maps spans 31 years. He has written multiple articles and has presented papers from San Francisco to Vienna on this topic. His recent book, "The Last Great Cartographic Myth: Mer de l'Ouest," has been published on a flash drive to allow zoom imaging of the maps presented and instant access, through the Internet, to the references provided in the book. Dr. McGuirk is also an avid bike rider, has an MBA from Regis University (Denver) and was a Colonel in the United States Army Reserves.



Cartobibliographies have been a vital source of information about antiquarian maps for collectors, researchers and map dealers. For example, no fewer than three cartobibliographies have been published about what is perhaps the best-known cartographic myth: California as an island. Throughout the 18th century another myth appeared on maps of North America: Mer de l'Ouest (Sea of the West), an imagined sea extending

the navigable waters of the Pacific deep into the North American continent, at times nearly connecting the Pacific to Hudson Bay or the Great Lakes, and thereby promising the long sought for Northwest Passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Don McGuirk has collected and researched maps that depict the Mer de l'Ouest, and he has now written a cartobibliography covering the entire history of this fascinating cartographic delusion. The cartobibliography lists 242 maps (many in multiple states), and most of the entries are accompanied by one or more high-resolution images.