Louis Nicolas, S.J.

Les Raretés des Indes

(Unique Features of the [West] Indies)

ca. 1670

A selection of the 180 drawings of the inhabitants, flora, and fauna of New France (eastern Canada) created by Fr. Louis Nicolas, S.J., published as Codex canadiensis (Paris, 1930).

Original drawings in the collections of the Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

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Sauvage de La Nation des onneiothega

Il fume de tabac a Lh’onneur du soleil qu’il adore comme son genie particulier

Indian of the Oneida Nation

He smokes tobacco in honor of the sun whom he worships as his personal deity
Cet Icy un députe du bourg de gannachiou avé (?) pour Aller inviter au Jeu les Messieurs de gandouagoahga. Ils tiennent que le serpent est Le dieu du feu. Ils l’invoquent le tenant en main en dansant et chantant.

This is a deputy/representative of the village of Gannachiou to go and invite the men of Gandaouagoahga. They consider the serpent to be the god of fire. They call upon it, holding it in their hands while dancing and singing.

Portrait of an illustrious one-eyed man: this captain had an eye put out by an arrow. He was a great warrior and terrorized the various nations along the coast of his country. He harangued his soldiers through a tube made of the bark of the birch tree. he incites them to listen to him, saying pissintaouik nikanissitak, listen to me, my brothers. His name was Iscouakité, which means burning firebrand.
Iroquois Indian of the Nation of Gandaouaguehagu in Virginia [Canada]

This young man practiced for war in my presence by having some of his fingernails pulled out, the tip of his nose cut off by his friends who led him as if in triumph around the village, wanting everyone thus to know that he would bravely suffer all the torments that the enemies of war would make him suffer if he were captured.
La pesche des Sauuages passionneek. Je decris cette pesche ailleur qui est une des choses tres merveilleuses touchant La Pesche.

Instrumens pour La pesche.

The fishing of the Passonasseke Indians. I describe this type of fishing elsewhere, which is one of the very amazing things about fishing.

Equipment for fishing.

Louis Nicolas, *Les Raretés des Indes (Unique Features of the [West] Indies)*, New France (eastern Canada), 1670s, p. 15 [full page]
Figure d’une femme prise a la guerre a qui on avoit arraché avec les dans toutes les ongles. Je lay veue brulé dans le bour de toniotogehaga durant six heures pendant lesquelles on l’escorcha a petit feu; elle fut mangée en partie par les Iroquois et par leur chiens.

Portrait of a female war prisoner from whom all teeth and fingernails have been pulled out. I saw her being burned in the village of toniotogehaga for six hours during which time she was scratched by inches; she was partly eaten by the Iroquois and their dogs.

Bourreau Volontaire qui s’offre volontiers pour bruler et faire souffrir les prisonniers de guerre

Volunteer executioner/torturer who offers himself to burn and make suffer the war prisoners.

Louis Nicolas, Les Raretés des Indes (Unique Features of the [West] Indies), New France (eastern Canada), 1670s, p. 22 [top of page; fig. 38]
Medecins qui se masquent de La facon qu’on voit Icy pour en chantant et dansant autour d’un malade que je represente au bas de cette page couché tout nu sur une peau de beste Sauvage. Toute la drogue de ces medecins consiste a danser ou chanter ou . . . (?) fer de l’air pour la malade pour Epouvanter le diable qui la fait malade

Doctors who mask themselves in the manner shown here singing and dancing around a sick person whom I represent at the bottom of this page lying down naked on the skin of a wild animal. The entire medication given by these doctors consists of dancing or singing or fanning the sick woman in order to scare the devil who made her ill.
La granadille qui produit Les Instrumens de La passion de N. S. J. c. [Notre Seigneur Jesus Christ]
Granadilla [passion fruit] which produces the instruments of the passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Elan ou caribou alcex selon Les Latins

Elan or caribou alcex/reindeer, according to the Latin people [Europeans?]

femele de les lan avec les trois petits dune seule ventrée

female lan with the three little ones from the same litter
Michinnenh petite tortue
Michinnenh small turtle

micipichik ou le dieu de Eaux selon les Americains
Micipichik or the god of Waters according to the Americans

Michinak grande tortue du L’Isle de s’Elaine qui est si grande quon fait L’Imperiale d’un grand carosse
Michinak big turtle from the island of Saint Elaine; it is so big that it is used to make the top cover of a large coach

Louis Nicolas, Les Raretés des Indes (Unique Features of the [West] Indies), New France (eastern Canada), 1670s, p. 39 [full page]
coup de coucou...\(\text{quon entend la nuit de trois ou quatre Lieues loins dans La foret ou au bord des rivieres}\)
coup de coucou that we hear at night from a distance of three of four leagues in the forest or alongside the river

La grue
Crane

Louis Nicolas, *Les Raretés des Indes (Unique Features of the [West] Indies)*, New France (eastern Canada), 1670s, p. 52 [full page]