

François Joseph Bressani/Francesco Giuseppe Bressani, S.J.
Researched by Diane Wolford Sheppard

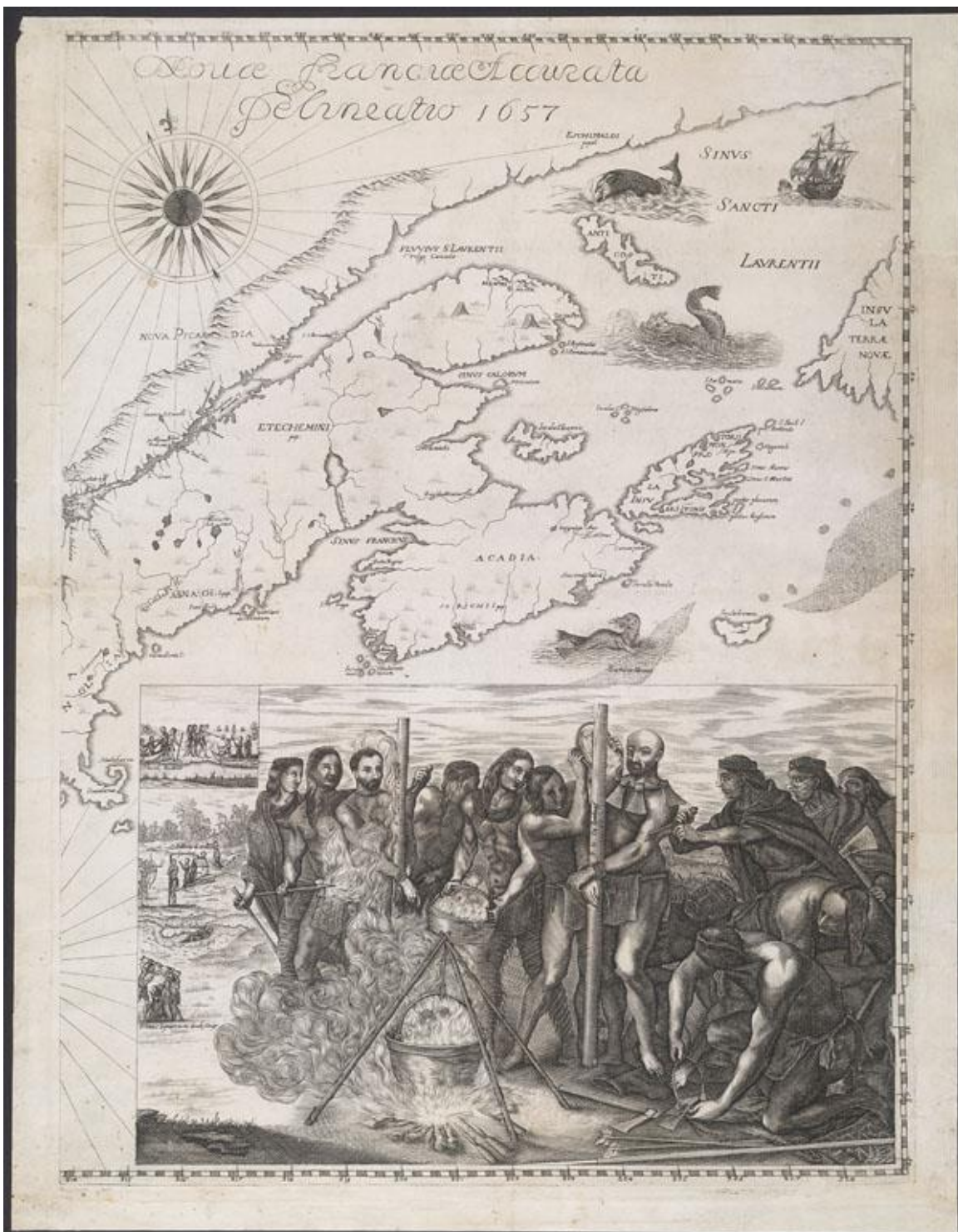
While François Joseph Bressani/Francesco Giuseppe Bressani, S.J., was en route to Huronia in 1644, he was captured by the Iroquois and tortured extensively, eventually losing all but one finger on his right hand. Following his adoption by an old Iroquois woman, she turned him over to the Dutch for a small sum. The Dutch treated him well and he was able to return to France; the following year he returned to New France and departed for Huronia in the fall of 1645. Bressani remained in Huronia until 1649, having made two trips to the St. Lawrence settlements to seek help from the Governor for the Huron who had been under attack from the Iroquois. Following the destruction of Huronia, the Jesuit superiors sent a number of missionaries back to France. After his return to France, Bressani wrote a relation of his time in New France, devoting most of the work to the Huron and the Jesuit martyrs.¹ Bressani also drew the map that follows after his return to Europe. The Jesuits used the map and illustrations as an education tool for later missionaries in New France.²



Detail from: *Novae Franciae accurata delineatio 1657*
(see the following page for the full citation)

¹ Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online: http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio.php?id_nbr=88. You can read more about the destruction of Huronia in Part 2 of the timeline that on the FCHSM website on our History of New France Page: http://www.habitantheritage.org/french-canadian_resources/history_of_new_france.

² Raymonde Litalien, Jean-François Palomino, Denis Vaugeois, and Käthe Roth (translator), *Mapping a Continent – Historical Atlas of North America – 1492 – 1814* (Georgetown, Ontario, and Sillery, Québec: Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, McGill University Press, and Les éditions du Septentrion, 2007), p. 94.



François Joseph Bressani, S.J., *Novae Franciae accurata delineatio 1657* – Library and Archives Canada, Mikn # 3805607 (http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/lac-bac/search/arch_adv)

