



## Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

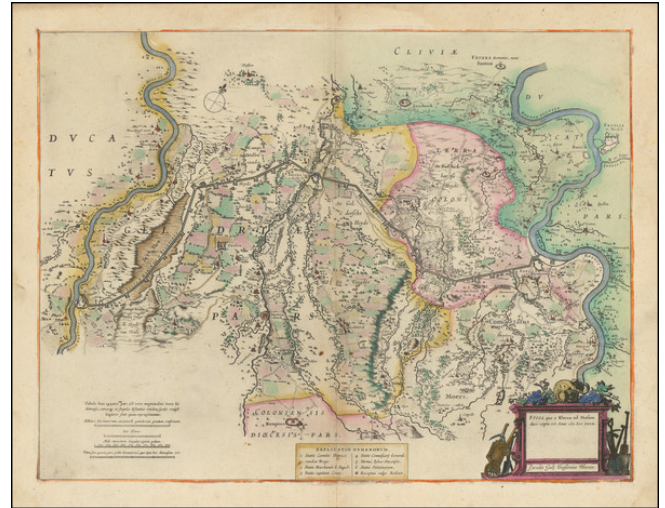
7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
La Jolla, CA 92037

[www.raremaps.com](http://www.raremaps.com)

(858) 551-8500  
[blr@raremaps.com](mailto:blr@raremaps.com)

### [ Rare First State! ] Fossa quae a Rheno ad Mosam duci coepta est Anno MDCXXVII

**Stock#:** 99170  
**Map Maker:** Blaeu  
**Date:** 1630  
**Place:** Amsterdam  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 19.5 x 15 inches  
**Price:** \$ 475.00



#### Description:

#### ***Fossa Eugeniana -- An Early 17th Century Attempt To Circumvent The Dutch Blockades by Canal During the 80 Years War***

Fine old color example of the first state of Blaeu's map of the Fossa Eugeniana, an early canal which was intended to connect the Maas River (at Venlo) with the Rhine River at Rhineberg.

The map first appeared in Blaeu's Appendix in 1630. The map final state of the map is revised with a large cartouche around the scale of miles (Keuning, *Imago Mundi* XIV, pp 74-89).

The Fossa Eugeniana, an ambitious canal project, conceived in 1626 under the auspices of the Spanish Netherlands, then governed by the Cardinal-Infante Ferdinand of Spain, a key figure in the Habsburg monarchy. The primary impetus for this project was the strategic necessity imposed by the Eighty Years' War (1568-1648), specifically the need to create a navigable link between the Rhine and Meuse rivers.

The historical backdrop of the Fossa Eugeniana is deeply interwoven with the broader context of the European wars of religion, especially the conflict between the Habsburgs and the Dutch Republic. In the early 17th century, the Spanish Netherlands found itself in a protracted struggle against the burgeoning independence movement of the Dutch. The blockade of the River Scheldt by Dutch forces significantly hampered Spanish control over vital trade and military routes. In response, the construction of the canal was envisioned as a strategic bypass, facilitating the movement of troops and resources, thereby circumventing Dutch-controlled territories.



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Initiated in 1626, the construction of the Fossa Eugenia was a remarkable engineering feat for its time. The route was planned to extend from Rheinberg on the Rhine to Venlo on the Meuse, covering a distance of approximately 50 kilometers. Despite the considerable efforts, the Fossa Eugenia remained incomplete. By 1629, the project was abandoned and never completed.

**Detailed Condition:**

Original hand color.