



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## (Satire of the 1720 Dutch Bubble) De schynschoone actie-sphinx springt hier zig zelven dood, zo dra als Edipus het vals geheim ontbloot [The falsely-fair Share-Sphinx springs down from the high rocks, Oedipus having discovered the false secret.]

**Stock#:** 104249  
**Map Maker:** Anonymous  
**Date:** 1720  
**Place:** Amsterdam  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 12.75 x 8.25 inches  
**Price:** \$ 145.00



### Description:

Engraving by an anonymous artist satirizing the Dutch financial crash of 1720 caused by the South Sea and Mississippi Bubbles, from printer Isaak Stokmans' *Het groote tafereel der dwaasheid* (The Great Mirror of Folly) accompanied by verse.

A sphinx leaps from the top of a cave toward the busy scene below, the city of Vianen in the background, guarded by soldiers and a fence. A free city until 1795, Vianen became known as a refuge for debtors, its reputation bringing forth the Dutch euphemism "Naar Vianen gaan" (literally "to go to Vianen") for "to go bankrupt".

In the foreground, a man is slumped over a barrel, retching up papers with the names of the Dutch cities Utrecht, Weesp, and Enkhuizen, "Op hoop" ("In hope"), and "Kladpapier" ("Blotting-paper"). Behind him is a man holding a sheet with "2 per cent, ik ben bedrogen" ("2 percent, I was cheated"). Inside the barrel is a French rooster, a nod to the Scottish-French financier John Law who set up the Banque Générale Privée and directed the Mississippi Company. Two men look up at the share-cat ("Actie-katjen" in the verse below) in a tree, as a man drowns, unnoticed, in the river. A man is picking up papers from the vomited pile and handing them to a boy (holding "Of ik been Gek vond" or "I have found a fool"). Behind them are another two men handling the papers, the one at the right with "Kan ze u dinen, to't kwart geef ik ze" ("If it will serve you, I will give it to you for one-fourth") in hand, and the man at left, a crowd forming behind him, with "de Zuid Zoo", or "The South Sea", in one hand referencing the South Sea Company and raising his other to a caricature of a Jewish usurer. The crowd inspects more papers, "Vrak" ("Wreck"), "Was ik ze



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maar kwyt" ("f only I were rid of them"), and being ripped, "Weg die prullen" ("Away with the rubbish"). "Goet om te brande" ("Good to be burned") is in the smoke of a fire, in front of which is a youth undressing and holding "Hier zyn ze het best toe" ("They, the shares, are fittest for this") behind his back. A man floats over the scene, ballooned bladders attached to his waist, carried by the wind, an allusion to the *windhandel* or *windnegotie* (wind trade or wind commerce), terms used for the high-risk speculative trade.

**Detailed Condition:**

Minor faint foxing.