



# 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)

## Africanische Jagt. Cuncta licet superet brutorum corpora barrus, Afrorum multis ictibus aequè cadit

**Stock#:** 89436  
**Map Maker:** Rugendas (I and II)  
**Date:** 1740 circa  
**Place:** Augsburg, Germany  
**Color:** Color  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 19 x 15 inches  
**Price:** \$ 1,400.00



### Description:

This mezzotint, titled *Africanische Jagt*, created circa 1740 by George Philipp Rugendas in Augsburg, strikingly portrays the intensity of an elephant hunt in Africa. The scene vividly captures an elephant, besieged by multiple hunters, grappling with two of them in the foreground with its trunk while others continue their assault with arrows and spears from the flanks.

During the mid-18th century, European interest in exotic lands was at a fever pitch, fueled by the age of exploration and colonial expansion. Artworks like *Africanische Jagt* were crucial in shaping the Western perception of distant lands and their fauna. The depiction of the elephant, a creature scarcely seen in Europe at the time, reflects both fascination with and misunderstanding of African wildlife and customs. The brutal imagery in this piece, while unsettling, provides insights into contemporary attitudes towards nature and the 'otherness' of foreign lands.

Rugendas, known for his detailed and dramatic renditions, employs mezzotint, a printmaking process popular in the 18th century, notable for its ability to render subtle gradations of light and shade. The choice of blue ink adds a unique, almost surreal quality to the scene, distinguishing it from typical mezzotints of the period. The dynamic composition, with the central elephant figure entangled in a life-and-death struggle against human hunters, is a powerful representation of the era's artistic fascination with dramatic, action-filled scenes.

The piece is an important historical print, shedding light on the era's artistic styles and the European view



**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)

---

**Africanische Jagt. Cuncta licet superet brutorum corpora barrus, Afrorum multis  
ictibus aequae cadit**

of exotic wildlife. It also serves as a poignant reminder of historical attitudes towards nature and the often-grim reality of human-animal interactions.

**Rarity**

Even in black ink, this print is extremely rare. In blue ink, it might be unique.

**Detailed Condition:**

Mezzotint in blue ink on laid paper. A few expert marginal repairs.