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[Early Photographic Facsimile] Kunstmann II ("Four-Finger Map")

Stock#: 66513
Map Maker: Anonymous / Vespucci
Date: 1502 -1506 (but circa 1890)
Place: n.p.
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 23 x 20.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Early Facsimile of the Kunstmann II Portolan from the Collection of Edward Luther Stevenson.

Fascinating early facsimile of the Kunstmann II map, one of the earliest maps of any kind to show the new world. The map is sometimes attributed to Amerigo Vespucci, though the authorship remains uncertain.

The map shows the exploration of the new world that were undertaken by Miguel Corte-Real and Amerigo Vespucci in 1501-1502. Greenland, Newfoundland, and Labrador are shown. Cuba and Hispaniola are rendered as large islands. The coastline of South America from San Lorenzo on the Gulf of Maracaibo to the mouth of the Orinoco is also shown. The coastline from Cape San Roque to Rio Cananea follow the information gathered on Vespucci's 1501-1502 voyage.

The map has long been seen as one of the most important cartographic documents for the early Americas and thus was included in F. Kunstmann's *Atlas zur Entdeckungsgeschichte Amerikas* (1859), plate 2, from which its common name is derived.

The original map is now held in the BSB.

Detailed Condition:

Hand-colored carbon print (?) photograph dissected in four sheets and mounted on early linen.