

# PROCEEDINGS

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# The Identity of Christopher Columbus

Ruth G. Durlacher-Wolper  
Director  
New World Museum, San Salvador

## ABSTRACT

This treatise has been prepared to unravel the mystery that veils the identity of the great Admiral of exploration and discovery, Christopher Columbus. Historians wonder how he became so knowledgeable in many subjects; why his passionate mysticism and curiosity never failed. After studying the writings of Columbus and reconstructing some of his journeys, I concluded that the Discoverer was Byzantine, from the Royal Palaeologus family, and that he came from the island of Chios in Greece.

## INTRODUCTION

Many books have been written about the illustrious navigator, Columbus. Each writer interpreted words or theories which were copied from historians who preceded him; many mistakes in history books, as well as on maps, were made and repeated through centuries by armchair historians and cartographers. It is time to solve this mystery as the quincentennial draws near.

Thirty-two years have passed since my research began. Columbus' *Logs*, Ferdinand's *Life of the Admiral* and Morison's translations from Las Casas' famous *Historia de las Indias* were the beginnings of my research. The countries that have claimed Columbus as coming from them are now participating to unveil the mystery of his life before he reached Portugal in 1476. Who was this man? Was he the Colombo from Genoa or another person by the name of Colón from a different place under the rule of Genoa? The research for this answer was conducted in the Bahamas, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain and the United States.

I believe the following paper provides the answers to questions asked for almost five hundred years. However, more investigations should continue to unravel the misty details of the identity of the Discoverer. Columbus' spiritual vision gave him the strength to continue his persistency after sixteen years of rejection until he finally received the support from Spain for his dream — the Great Enterprise!

## COLUMBUS' BACKGROUND

### The Prevailing Theory

The conclusions made in this paper about the identity of Christopher Columbus have been derived from the precise meaning of his writings. Ferdinand wrote a biography which was filled with a son's admiration for his father, and Bishop Bartolomé Las Casas, the eminent historian, wrote that he "copied the exact words of the Admiral." Las Casas and Ferdinand agreed on important issues of events, descriptions, and sayings of the illustrious Discoverer of the New World. An analysis of Columbus' writings, as presented by Las Casas and Ferdinand, is the foundation of this investigation into Columbus' true identity.

Many historians have written that his origin was from several cities, islands, and countries. They did not believe Columbus when he wrote that he and his ancestors always followed the sea.<sup>1</sup> They called Columbus vain, boastful, and filled with fancy ideas. Perhaps Columbus' ancestors did follow the sea!

History states that Columbus was Genoese, and this is well accepted as fact. But, did he come from Genoa or did he come from an island governed by Genoa?

### Unresolved Questions Concerning The Prevailing Theory

Records reveal that Cristoforo Colombo, son of a poor woolweaver's family, Domenico Colombo and Susanna Fontanarossa, had a little house in Genoa now marked as CASA DI COLOMBO. In Paolo Emilio Taviani's book, *Christopher Columbus*, the brilliant Italian author wrote, "By 1451, the probable year of Christopher's birth, Domenico must have been married, although there is no documented record of this event and the first mention of his wife was in 1471."<sup>2</sup> Taviani is considered one of the greatest living scholars on Columbus, and even Taviani shows doubt.

Colombo family records also indicate additional family members: Giovanni Pellegrino, another son Giacomina, and a sister, Bianchinetta. Where were they when Ferdinand searched endlessly in Genoa and wrote, "... I have not been able to find out how or where he (my father) lived."<sup>3</sup> Why?

The eminent late Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison, USNR, wrote that the Colombos were illiterate, and when a dispute was settled or when they had business transactions, they went to a public notary who wrote down the essential facts, and whose word was accepted in any court. It seems unlikely that this Colombo and the intellectual, brilliant navigator are the same person. How could Columbus suddenly become knowledgeable about navigation, science, astrology, psychology, and nature? How could Columbus suddenly become an extremely educated man who knew Latin, Catalan, Castilian, and some Greek?

Columbus' strong religious beliefs as a Franciscan helped him to realize his ultimate dream: to sail west to meet the east and to prove the world was round. Columbus wore monk's robes even when he died. His closest friends were men of the cloth. It seems probable that Columbus wrote the truth.

Lionel Cecil Jane, historian, wrote that "Columbus never used Italian even when corresponding with those of his own nationality."<sup>4</sup> Taviani wrote that Columbus used the Castilian tongue and mistakes he made when writing in Latin were typically Spanish. "While none of his writings is in Italian . . . to the end of his days, he wrote in Castilian . . ."<sup>5</sup> Historians have been puzzled. Is it possible that Columbus was not the same Colombo from Genoa?

Columbus had two brothers: Bartholomew and Diego. None spent time in Italy. Bartholomew was a chartmaker, knew Latin and was well informed in seamanship. Where did he learn these things? Columbus sent Bartholomew with his "Map of the World" to present Columbus' plan to the King of England, Henry VII, hoping for support; Columbus had been struggling for sixteen years to get ships for his dream. On this map were verses in Latin and Columbus signed it; "Columbus de Terra Rubra" or Columbus of the red earth.<sup>6</sup> Although the King of England accepted the Admiral's project, by the time he summoned Columbus to come to court, Bartholomew was in the service of King Charles VIII of France, who informed him that Columbus had returned from discovering a New World. Bartholomew was later sent to Espagnola with three ships, and Columbus appointed him Governor.

Columbus' youngest brother, Diego, was "virtuous, wise and peaceful." Diego sailed with Columbus on his second voyage in 1493 and arriving in the New World, Columbus appointed him President of the Council of Isabella.<sup>7</sup> All three brothers were well educated, cultured, and brilliant. This implies a background rooted in royalty because of the life style of the time.

How did an ignorant woolweaver marry into one of the noble families of Portugal? Columbus married Doña Filippa Moniz de Perestrello; this was a mystery to all historians. In 1480, they had a son, Diego, at Santo Porto, Portugal, where Columbus' father-in-law was colonizer and Governor. They lived in Santo Porto until Columbus' wife died. In 1484, Columbus left Portugal (after his friend King John II refused his project to keep all discoveries for Portugal's explorers) and went to Spain, leaving his son Diego, at the monastery, La Rábida, at Palos.

In 1488, Columbus fell in love with Beatrix Enriquez de Harana in Cordova and had a son, Ferdinand, who accompanied his father on his fourth voyage. Before Ferdinand wrote the biography of his father, he searched in Italy for his family, but could find no relatives anywhere, and wrote, ". . . although (my father) endowed with all qualities that his great task required, chose to leave in obscurity all that related to his birthplace and family."<sup>8</sup> His father never married Beatrix, a peasant girl, but provided for her in his will. Was this because he was from a family of nobility?

Although Columbus never mentioned the family of *Genoa* in his will, he did mention his sons, and Spinola, Di Negro, and Centurione families related to the Palaeologi.<sup>9</sup>

Columbus read profusely; his scientific research included Plato, Aristotle, Ptolemy, Strabo, Pliny, Alfragan, Eratosthenes, and Marco Polo. His vast interest showed in his book collection: Seneca, Pierre D'Ailly and his *Imago Mundi*, in which Columbus wrote remarks in the margins. Ferdinand also had documents which implied that only Fra Machena and Toscanelli knew Columbus' secret. One letter written in 1474 from Toscanelli reveals that Columbus told him his plan to sail west to meet the east.<sup>10</sup> Columbus also knew about the globe of Martin Behaim and had heard about Lief Erikson.

## NEW THEORY OF THE IDENTITY OF COLUMBUS

### Columbus' Identity

Logic argues for another Genoese who claimed that he was not the first Admiral of his family, that he had devoted himself to the sea since he was fourteen, and that he sailed with his kinsman, a renowned man of his name and family, who was "Colón-the-Younger," the Greek corsair in the service of the King of France.<sup>11</sup> Las Casas, historian, confirmed this and wrote that they sailed together for a long time. "Colón-the-Younger" was George Palaeologus Dishypatos, from an old illustrious family, who was a friend of King John II of Portugal and the King's father, Alphonso V, whom he accompanied from France to Portugal. King John II was the nephew of "Henry the Navigator" under whom great voyages of western discovery began early in the 15th century. Columbus or "Colón" and "Colón-the-Younger" sailed for twenty-three years under France.

Research reveals that the experiences of these two men enabled them to know the Kings of France, England and Portugal. If they were not of royal background, they would not have had their positions and ships. Another person from the same family was Bishop Las Casas (Fig. 1), and perhaps this was the reason why Las Casas had possession of the original Journal, also used by Ferdinand. The Palaeologus Crest (Fig. 2) is Las Casas' Crest of 1552. According to the biographer, Illorente, a man from a French prominent family, Casuas, accompanied Columbus on his first voyage; his name appears as an alias on the title page of some of his writings.<sup>12</sup> He was Antoine Las Casas, father of the magnificent historian Bartolomé de Las Casas.

The last Palaeologus Emperor, Constantine Palaeologus XV, sailed to Constantinople in a Catalonian ship in 1449. In 1453, many men changed their names in fear of being captured by the Turks and killed, and consequently fled to France, England, Magna Graeco and to the Kingdom of Majorca. The Palaeologus Dynasty with the Crest of the Two-Headed Eagle came to an end with the fall of Constantinople in 1453.

The Byzantine Empire of the Graeco-Roman civilization was divided into two parts: the west spoke Latin, the east spoke Greek, a Hellenistic civilization. This empire had existed for eleven centuries. As early as the 14th century, a large band of Spanish adventurers known as the Grand Catalan Co., overran many provinces of the Byzantine Empire and settled in Greece. During the 15th century, several Catalan families lived on the island of Chios, Greece, during the time when Columbus wrote that he was there. Is this where he learned to speak the Catala language? Is this why his *La Carte de Colón* to Luis Santangel, treasurer to Their Royal Sovereignities, was written in the Catalan language?<sup>13</sup> Is this why he signed his name "Colom" which is Catalan, on all his letters? No letters were ever signed "Colombo". (Borromeo)

Christopher Columbus, Discoverer of the New World signed legal documents with Xpo-Ferens (Fig. 3), in the Graeco-Latin form which is Byzantine for Christophorus. He instructed his heirs to sign in this way and the late Don Cristobal Colon XVII stated that legal documents are signed in this way and always have been. The old Byzantine aristocracy and the new aristocracy of the Genoese families have been intermarried for over 600 years since the Genoese overtook Chios. (Fig. 4)

### Navigation

Admiral Morison described Columbus' navigation as follows: ". . . negotiating the difficult currents in the D'Orso Channel (in Greece) between Andros and Euboea, and then with luck catching a fresh norther for the last leg to Cape Mastika, Chios . . . Colón (Columbus) learned to 'Hand reef and steer, to estimate distances by eye,' to let go and weigh anchors properly, and all the other elements of seamanship."<sup>14</sup> However, an examination of the methods used before and during Columbus' time indicates the accuracy of Columbus' measure of distance. It is assumed that sailing directions were written several hundred years before Christ, because it was more difficult to *explain* how to get to a place than it was to *draw* a diagram. The first charts known are relatively accurate and cover large areas, and therefore, it seems logical that these served as guides for cartographers.

The size of the earth was measured at least as early as the third century B.C., by Eratosthenes, who is believed to have been the first person to measure latitude by using the degree.<sup>15</sup> From his own discoveries and from information contained in manuscripts of mariners, explorers, historians, and philosophers, he wrote an outstanding description of the known world, which helped elevate geography to the status of a science.

Later cartographers built on this knowledge and constructed charts with latitude and longitude, and in 1409, Ptolemy's map of the world fixed north at the top.<sup>16</sup>

The first recorded attempt to establish a tangible standard length of measurement was made by the Greeks, who used the Olympic stadium as a

unit called a *stadium*. A stadium was 600 Greek feet (607.9 modern U. S. feet) or almost one tenth of a modern nautical mile. The Romans adopted this unit, but extended it to 625 Roman feet, after the Roman Stadium.<sup>17</sup>

Columbus wrote that he kept two logs: one for his men, and the other was his "secret accurate reckoning." Columbus' knowledge of the various methods of measuring distance becomes obvious when one analyzes his logs, although many historians assumed his measurement was inaccurate. Morison stated that Columbus overestimated the distance by 9 percent. It seems logical that Columbus must have used a different length mile: four miles to the league. The origin of the *Mediterranean* mile of 4,035.42 U. S. feet is attributed to the Greeks. The Roman mile of 4,858.59 U. S. feet was also used. The statute mile is now established as 5,280 feet in the U. S.; and in 1730, a longer nautical mile gradually became established. The Wolper-Landfall Expedition of 1959 utilized the Mediterranean mile, which appears to have been Columbus' "secret accurate reckoning."<sup>18</sup> By utilizing the Mediterranean mile, Columbus' Journal is accurate.

## XIOS

Xios was under Genoese rule from 1346-1566 and during Colón's time by the Genoese firm of Giustiniani.<sup>19</sup> Xios was actually under the sovereignty of Genoa, but was administered by a Chartered company called Mahona or Maona. Although trade exports of mastics, silks, cotton and wool were extremely active, money was kept in the Bank of St. George *in Genoa*, which was a State Institution. Genoa had jurisdiction over all Genoese colonies, of which Xios was one.

Colón knew much about the mastic of Xios. He knew how easily it grew, its use, and for how much it sold. In the 1493 letter of Colón on his first voyage, he wrote "... besides spice and cotton, as much as Their Highnesses shall command, and gum mastic, as much as they shall order shipped, and which up to now, has been found only in Greece, in the island of Xios, and the Seignory sell it for what it pleases, and aloe wood, as much as they shall order shipped and slaves, as many as they shall order who will be idolaters."<sup>20</sup>

These were the Admiral's words when he landed on October 12, 1492, on the first island, called Guanahani, which he renamed San Salvador after the Saviour who guided them to safety. Ponce de Leon, remembering the mastic, stopped in 1513 to restore his ships with mastic. Mastic can be found on the island today.

Columbus also mentioned slavery in his letter. Although slavery was illegal in Spain, the main industry in Xios was the making of wine and many slaves were used. There were 100,000 slaves to 30,000 freemen in Greece. In the same letter, Columbus has mentioned the spices, cotton and aloe wood found on San Salvador, and these too grow on the island today.



Under the sovereignty of Genoa, the Genoese influence was far reaching, affecting customs (Fig. 4), language, folklore, and architecture (Fig. 5) as well as the costumes (Fig. 6) of the Chians. Garments worn by the men looked similar to the Italian costumes of the 15th century in Europe known as Genoese Fashion. Is it any wonder when Peter Martyr, the Italian writer of his time, called Colón "Genoese" that this caused a mistake in identification? (Fig. 7) Is this why historians thought he came from Genoa?

The originator of the Genoese legend, Peter Martyr of Anghiera (1455-1526), was the first Italian historian who wrote about Colón and his discovery.<sup>21</sup> In 1487, Martyr went to Spain and was employed as a teacher to the youthful noblemen of the Spanish Court, served as Ambassador of the Spanish Sovereignities, and later was made Court Treasurer by the Queen. He had met Colón and before Columbus' discoveries, were intimate friends.<sup>22</sup> However, Peter Martyr never fulfilled his promise to inform friends about Colón's voyages. Why did this prolific Italian writer, who reported events, cease to mention his illustrious friend, even to praise him for the glory of Genoa? Did his silence have meaning? Peter Martyr left over 813 letters and in only 12 letters does he mention the great Discoverer of the New World!<sup>23</sup>

In a recent book about Chios island, John Haniotis states: "In 1492 Christopher Columbus disembarked on the beach of Daskalopetra before setting off for America. He was hospitably received at Villa Homerica by the famous Genoese, Andrea Banka (Bianco)."<sup>24</sup> Did he return to invite his cartographer friend to sail with him?

### The Name COLÓN

Ferdinand wrote that the "... surname of Colón which he (Columbus) revived was a fitting one, because in Greek it means "member," and by his proper name Christopher, men might know that he was a member of Christ, by Whom he was sent for the salvation of those people. And if we give his name its Latin form, which is Christophorus Colonus, we may say that just as St. Christopher is reported to have gotten that name because he carried Christ over deep waters with great danger to himself, and just as he conveyed over people whom no other could have carried, so the Admiral Christophorus Colonus, asking Christ's aid and protection in that perilous pass, crossed over with his company that the Indian nations might become dwellers in the triumphant Church of Heaven."<sup>25</sup>

In Martyr's letters, he called Colón "Colonus." History tells us that Columbus was a good friend of Giovanni Borromeus, Count of Maggiore, Milan. The concealed secret Peter Martyr knew was revealed in 1929, when a document known as "Ex Libris Borrome" was found in the Borrome library in Milan in an old book belonging to the noble family of Borromei.

This newly found document (Fig. 8) was sent to the University of Barcelona to Dr. Manuel Rubio Borrás, the paleographer, and upon examination,

was determined to be genuine. His son, Don Manual Rubio Borrás, directed Don Renato Lianas de Niubo, a lawyer in Barcelona, to send a photostatic copy of the original to the New World Museum on San Salvador Island in the Bahamas in 1959.

“I, Giovan de Borromei, although lacking authority to reveal a secret declaration made by Signor Pedro de Angliere, treasurer to their Catholic Majesties of Spain, but at the same time not wishing to deprive history of the truth herewith states Christophorens Colonus is a native of Majorca (an island close to and forming part of Catalonia) and not of Liguria. The said Pedro de Angliera judged it expedient to counsel Giovanni Colón for political and religious reasons to represent himself as Christopherens Colón in demanding aid and ships from the King of Spain.

I must add that Colóm is not the name of Colombo, for the navigator of the West Indies must not be confused with a certain Christophoro Colombo Canajole, son of Domenico and Susanna Fontanarossa who, I know, lives in Genoa. BERGAMO A.D. 1494”

In the analysis of the document, it was found that the name COLÓN was changed to COLOM with the N changed to an M, which made this name Catalan.

*Columbus' sophistication in letter of 1501.*<sup>26</sup>

In a letter that Columbus sent in 1501 to the most Serene Catholic Sovereigns, he wrote the following:

“Very High Kings:

From a very young age I began to follow the sea and have continued to do so to this day. This art of navigation incites those who pursue it to inquire into the secrets of this world. I have passed more than forty years in this business and have travelled to every place where there is navigation up to the present time. I have had dealings and conversation with learned men, priests, and laymen, Latins and Greeks, Jews and Moors, and many others of other sects. I found our Lord very favorable to this my desire, and to further it He granted me the gift of knowledge. He made me skilled in seamanship, equipped me abundantly with the sciences of astronomy, geometry, and arithmetic, and taught my mind and hand to draw this sphere and upon it the cities, rivers, mountains, islands, and ports, each in its proper place. During this time I have made it my business to read all that has been written on geography, history, philosophy, and other sciences. Thus Our Lord revealed to me that it was feasible to sail from here to the Indies, and placed in me a burning desire to carry out this plan. Filled with this fire, I come to Your Highnesses. All who knew of my enterprise rejected it with laughter and mockery. They would not heed the arguments I set forth or the authorities I cited. Only Your Highnesses had faith and confidence in me.”

## UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

1. Why did Columbus sign his letter "Colom," and legal documents with a Byzantine signature "Xpo-Ferens" which is Christophoros in Greek-Latin?
2. Why did Columbus spell Chios with a Greek X in Chios-Xios?
3. Why didn't Columbus speak or write in Italian?
4. Why didn't Columbus ask the King of Italy for ships?
5. Why didn't Columbus reveal his "secret accurate reckoning" used in his log?
6. Why didn't Columbus mention the Colombo family in his will?
7. Why did Columbus mix easily with royalty, marrying into the first family of Portugal?
8. Why did Columbus use Greek words in places he named and often in margins of books?
9. Why did Columbus say that he was not the first Admiral of his family?
10. Why did Columbus use the Catalan language in *First Letter of Discovery* to Santangel?
11. Why did Columbus say he sailed with his kinsman, the Greek corsair to the King of France? Why did Ferdinand and Las Casas agree with this statement?
12. Columbus was brilliant. How could he have been illiterate as historians wrote?
13. Why did the measurements of an experienced sailor seem inaccurate?

## CONCLUSION

Assuming arguendo that Columbus was Genoese, and that he came from the island of Chios, which was under Genoese Rule, then logic dictates that Columbus was not illiterate but chose to conceal his true identity.

Indeed, the questions which were previously unanswered have perfectly logical answers. Further research of Columbus' identity, such as the "First International Convention for the History and Culture of the Island of Chios: Chios-Genova 1326-1566" to be held June 1987 on the island of Chios will reveal more evidence. I believe historians will soon acknowledge that the Admiral of the Ocean Sea had the knowledge, skill and courage of an experienced navigator, who came from one of the royal families of Chios.

## CHRONOLOGY

- 1346-1566 Chios was under the Genoese sovereignty.
- 1439 . . . It is possible that Columbus was born on Chios, Greece. As a youth, he learned to sail around the Aegean islands and the Peloponnesus. Chios led in navigation. It is no wonder his interest began at an early age by the sea.

- 1453 . . . Fall of Constantinople. Columbus wrote that he began to follow the sea at fourteen. Columbus (Colón) and Colón-the-Younger fled to France where they were under King Charles VIII. Ships were given by him to fight off the Turks, Venetians, and Infidels. This was the end of the Palaeologus Dynasty.
- 1456 . . . Portugal was granted exclusive jurisdiction by the Pope over the coast of Guinea "and past the southern shore all the way to the Indies" meaning the real India. While on the seas, Columbus could have heard about this in Guinea (Ferdinand, p. 12).
- 1459-1461 Columbus wrote that he was once a Captain of King René when he made a voyage from Marseilles to Tunis to capture the galley Fernandina. It was here Columbus sailed to Cape Carthage instead of returning to Marseilles by "changing the point of the compass" to fool his men (Ferdinand, p. 11). Columbus was twenty-two in 1461. Mediterranean nations were at war.
- 1467 . . . Columbus had sailed a hundred leagues beyond Thule and to the Fort of St. George de la Mira, belonging to the King of Portugal (Canoutas, p. 21).
- 1469 . . . The King of Portugal continued to seek a southern route to India. In Portugal maps were made of the World since 1457 and 1460. The cartographer, Andrea Bianco, was a close friend to Columbus and his brother.
- 1470 . . . Columbus sailed to Chios many times with Genoese of the Palaeologi family.
- 1471 . . . There were two Greeks called "Colón." The Venetian Government tried to safeguard the Flanders Galleys against the attacks of Giovanni Griego and Giorgio Griego. The latter is George, known as "Colón-the-Younger," and it is certainly possible that Giovanni, John, could be the person in the Borromeo Letter. (Descriptions of the Colóns in Canoutas, pp. 63, 64, 65). The name of "Dishypatos" was Byzantine, and both Colóns had this name also.
- 1474 . . . Columbus was thirty-five. The two Colóns are still at sea. "Colón-the-Younger" became Commander of the French Fleet sailing between the English Channel and the Bay of Biscay. Columbus made many voyages here too, and his knowledge of winds and tides prepared him for his "Great Enterprise," (Canoutas, p. 117, n. 32).
- 1476 . . . Columbus was thirty-seven. The two Colóns were together in a fierce sea battle against four Venetian Galleys which they intercepted between Lisbon and Cape St. Vincent at Portugal. There was confusion with much fire, and as the story is reported,

- Columbus grabbed an oar, jumped into the sea, and swam a distance of about two leagues to a place near Lisbon, where his younger brother Bartholomew lived. Later that year, they went into chartmaking.
- 1477 . . . The two Colóns were close friends with the King of Portugal. When Alphonso V was brought by them from France to Portugal, his son, John II, wrote Columbus was his "special friend." King John II preferred to keep all secrets of discovery for Portugal and not for outsiders.
- 1479 . . . Columbus, forty years old, married into an illustrious family. An intellectual of aristocratic roots, he married a lady of noble birth, Doña Felippa Moniz Perestrello. No one understood how he married into an old distinguished family of Portugal.
- 1480 . . . A son, Diego, was born at Santo Porto, Portugal.
- 1484 . . . Columbus had been refused ships, his wife died, and so he departed from Portugal to Spain. He left his son, Diego, at La Rábida, the monastery at Palos. Columbus sent his brother, Bartholomew, to England to King Henry VII, with his Map of the World, who accepted his proposal and summoned him to court. This map was stolen from a Spanish ship, copied later by Piri Reis, 1513, the Turkish cartographer. Bartholomew went to France where he stayed and drew charts until King Charles VIII told him that Columbus had already gone and returned from the New World, receiving the news from England too late. Bartholomew joined Columbus on his second voyage and from this point on most historians agree with the historical facts.
- 1488 . . . Columbus forty-nine years old, fell in love with Beatrix Enriquez de Harana, peasant girl, whom he did not marry. Is this because there was a law in Spain that royalty could not marry outside of its class? A son, Ferdinand, was born at Cordova, Spain.
- 1492 . . . Columbus, refused for many years for his enterprise, continued believing in God. Finally, Luis de Santangel, an Aragonese gentleman, secretary and treasurer to Their Royal Majesties, was extremely influential, and loaned Columbus funds for his dream. Meetings were arranged, and Columbus was given three ships and letters from Their Royal Majesties to take to the New World, to the Great Khan and to other kings. The Great Khan was from the House of the Palaeologi with the Crest of the Two-Headed Eagle.
- 1506 . . . Columbus died on May 20, 1506 in the city of Valladolid . . . 67 years old.
- 1513 . . . The Admiral's remains were brought to Seville where they are now.

It is universally accepted that Columbus made four voyages to the New World, but it is disputed where the remains of the Admiral are at rest. Don Cristobál Colón XVII gave me 182 documents from the Veragua Library (Madrid) in 1962. These documents prove that the great Discoverer's remains are in Seville, Spain.

#### NOTES

1. Ferdinand Columbus, *The Life of The Admiral Christopher Columbus* (New Jersey, 1959), p. 5.
2. Senatore Paolo Emilio Taviani, *Christopher Columbus* (London, 1985), p. 24.
3. Ferdinand Columbus, op. cit., pp. 4-5.
4. Lionel Cecil Jane, *Select Documents Illustrating the Four Voyages of Columbus* (London, 1932), p. xxxvi.
5. Sen. Paolo Emilio Taviani, op. cit., p. 30.
6. Ferdinand Columbus, op. cit., p. 36.
7. Seraphim G. Canoutas, *Christopher Columbus* (New York, 1943), p. 45.
8. Ferdinand Columbus, op. cit., p. 3.
9. Seraphim G. Canoutas, op. cit., p. 134.
10. Ferdinand Columbus, op. cit., pp. 19-22.
11. *Ibid.*, pp. 8, 12.
12. Justin Winsor, *Narrative and Critical History of America* (New York, 1889), p. 304, n. 1.
13. Admiral Samuel Morison, *Letter of Columbus* (Madrid, 1959), p. 1.
14. Admiral Morison, *Admiral of the Ocean Sea* (Boston, 1942), p. 31.
15. Justin Winsor, *Christopher Columbus* (Cambridge, 1892), p. 118.
16. Nathaniel Bowditch, *American Practical Navigator* (Washington, 1958), p. 19.
17. *Ibid.*, p. 26.
18. Ruth Durlacher-Wolper, *The Identity of Christophoros Columbus* (Virginia, 1982), p. 25.
19. Ferdinand Columbus, op. cit., pp. 6-8.
20. Ruth Durlacher-Wolper, *Light, Landfall, and Landing* (Smithsonian, 1964), p. 5, n. 4.
21. Justin Winsor, op. cit., p. 34.
22. Seraphim G. Canoutas, op. cit., pp. 3, 4.
23. *Ibid.*, p. 4.
24. John Haniotis, *Chios Island* (Athens, Greece, 1971), p. 77.
25. Ferdinand Columbus, op. cit., p. 4.
26. *Ibid.*, p. 10.



**Fig. 1. Bishop Bartholomé de las Casas Authored Historia de las Indias**

(courtesy Winsor)



**Fig 2. The Palaeologi Crest of the Two-Headed Eagle that Belonged to Las Casas** (courtesy Winsor)



Christophoros Columbus, discoverer of the New World, signed his name, *Xpō-Ferens*, (Christophoros) in the Graeco-Latin form, which is Byzantine.

· ς ·  
· ς · Α · ς ·  
Χ Μ Υ  
: Χρ̄ο FERENS. /

**Fig. 3. Columbus's Byzantine Signature**



"Κολομβος" (Columbus)

Over many doors in Pyrgi and Cimbori the name "Κολομβος" appears carved in stone. A priest named Columbus said that his family was there for over-600 years, and that the Genoese had intermarried with the Greeks. The old Byzantine aristocracy and the new aristocracy of the Genoese families were bound by the same interests. They were intermarried since 1346.

**Fig. 4. The Priest "Κολομβος" in Pyrgi on Chios (M. Mamounas Interpreted Conversations Between Him and the Author 1979)**



**Fig. 5. Italian Sgraffiti on Buildings in Chios**

## CHIOS UNDER GENOESE RULE

dytracto vel alium  
 pro consilio sine  
 aliquibidem per  
 in dictis locis seu  
 vnde suppositi  
 in rectoribus  
 per dictos emptores  
 dictis locis vel  
 nris et forystatis



et oportet substatu  
 et oportet loco ipa  
 per mandatum  
 res semp tunc ad

Fig. 6. Genoese Fashion of the 15th Century in Chios

(courtesy Argenti)

Christophorus Columbus was called "Genesee..." Did the myth that surrounded this legend mean he came from Genoa?  
 The originator of this Genese legend, Peter Martyr of Anghiera (1455-1526), was the first Italian historian who wrote about Columbus and his discovery.

Fig. 7. Peter Martyr de Anghiera, Historian, was the Originator of the Genese Legend (courtesy Bettman Archives)



GENESE LEGEND

Io Gio: Borromeo esendomi tutto manifestar  
la uerita secretamente conosciuta se mezo del Signor  
Pier d. Amphora teponico da Re Catholico di  
Spagna; el sicome debi esser in tunc perpetua  
memoria in confider alla historia cyer Colonus  
(Christophoreus) della Mayora et no della Liguria.

Il dicto Pier d. Amphora istimo che fusse nauigante  
l'actua usata da Gio: Colonus pche capion  
di politica et religiose lo hauean conquisato di  
francesi (Christophoreus) et dimandau li ajuti  
delle navi di Re d. Spagna. Et diu aratura  
cyer Colonus usate a Colombo pche haueudo  
disseperto che uine in Tenoua un quidam  
Christophore Colombus lanajole figlio d. Do-  
menico et Susana Fortanari a nauiganti  
a confunder col nauigatore dell'India  
occidentali.

D. Borromeo, n. d. 1494

Fig. 8. The Borromeo Letter of 1494

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