

CHAPTER 11

AMBUSH OF INDIA TO THE WEST

*Never in all this time was found a pilot, nor mariner,
nor philosopher, nor of [any] other science, not
one who said that my enterprise wasn't false.*

DON CRISTÓBAL COLÓN

We have just reviewed in the previous chapter how a number of Colón's lies, including a letter where the admiral secretly maneuvers against the Spanish court with his brother along with his son and his agent Vespucci, had been misinterpreted as proof that he always believed to have reached India.

Let us now read an even more interesting letter from King João II of Portugal addressed to the future Admiral as "*Xpovam Colon, our special friend Seville:*"

Xpovam Colon: We D. João by the grace of God King of Portugal and of the Algarves, on this side and that of the sea in Africa, Lord of Guinea send you many greetings. We saw the letter you wrote us and the good will and affection that through it you show being in our service. We greatly thank you. And as far as your coming here, certainly, both, for that which you point out as well as other things for which your industry and good ingenuity are necessary to us, we desire it and it will make us very happy if you come because in that which is already due you, you will be given in such form that you will be very happy. And if by chance you sense any fear of our justices, for reasons of certain things to which you are obligated. We by this our letter give surety to you for the coming, remainder and returning, that you will not be arrested, held, accused, cited, nor demanded for anything whether it be civil or criminal, of any kind. And by the same we order to all our justices that they comply as stated. And then, we pray and bespeak that your coming be immediate and for that have no reservations whatsoever and will therefore thank you and have it much in our service.

*Written in Avis, March 20, 1488, The King*³⁰⁸

This indispensable letter to Admiral Colón's biography (SEE FIGURE 11.1) was found in his descendants' archives and is the best evidence for proving his true and secret ties to the king of Portugal.

Is it not interesting to see that king, whom everyone told us countless times had sent Colón away because he was an ignorant and uninformed fantasist, write a letter exposing that Colón was actually in his service and held him in his highest esteem? Isn't it interesting to read, that contrary to what others had written, that the king of Portugal actually saw Colón as his necessary ally?

King João II admits that Colón was "industrious and ingenious" and that his talents were very "necessary to the crown of Portugal." These are all qualities for a successful secret agent. Furthermore, "the goodwill and affection that you show being in our service" clearly proves that the Admiral was serving King João II in Spain. The old Portuguese word *teerdes* means "being" thus João II's meaning is very clear. It is not "wanting to be" nor "were" but "**presently are**" in our service. How could Colón be in the service of king João II if he was living in Spain, was getting frequent payments from Queen Isabel for doing "things of our service" and, according to all, João II had rejected and betrayed him, thus Colón had run away to Spain filled with so much hatred that he never wanted to hear that king's name again?

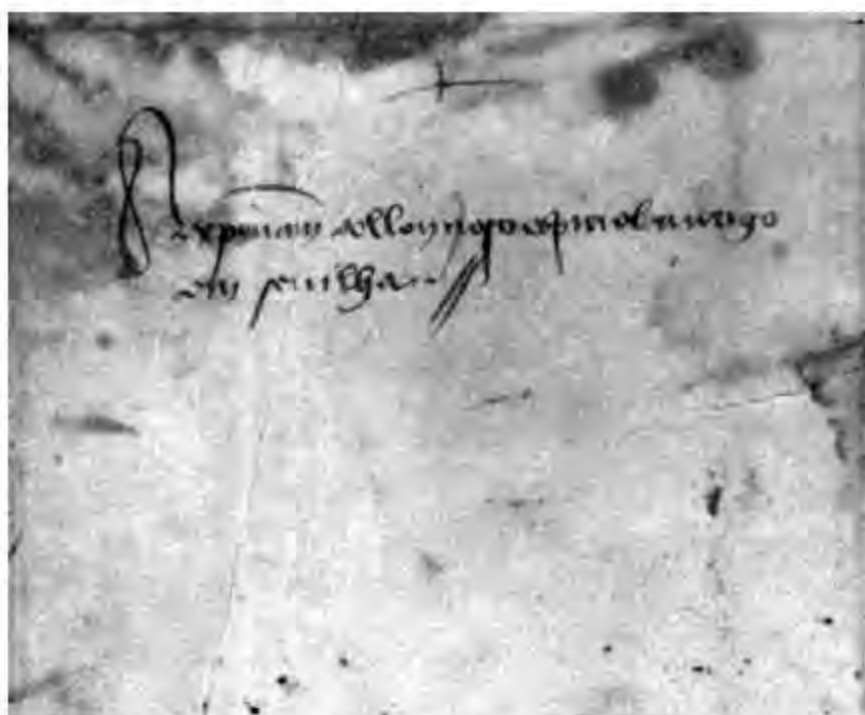


Figure 11.1A: Letter from King João II as it was folded and addressed on the outside to "Xpovam Collon, our special friend in Seville".

Figure 11.1B: Once opened, João II's letter addresses "Xpovam Colon" (enlarged below). Xpovam is the form of the Portuguese Cristóvão while Xpovam is the old form of the Spanish Cristóbal. At the end is the year 1488 and the João II's signature of "ElRey" with some lines and other elements. Below the king's signature starts a "Translation" in text indicative of more recent times, such as the 19th Century.

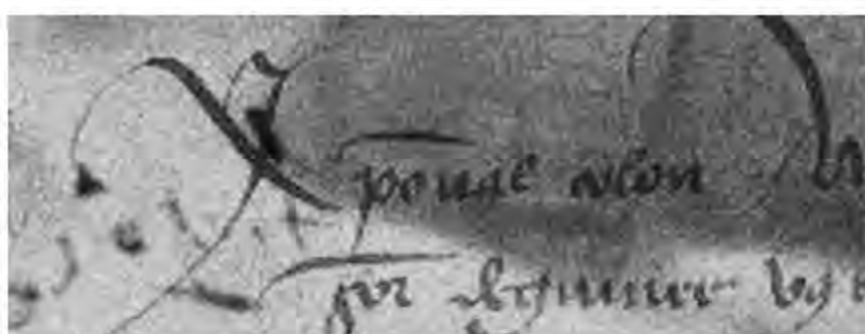
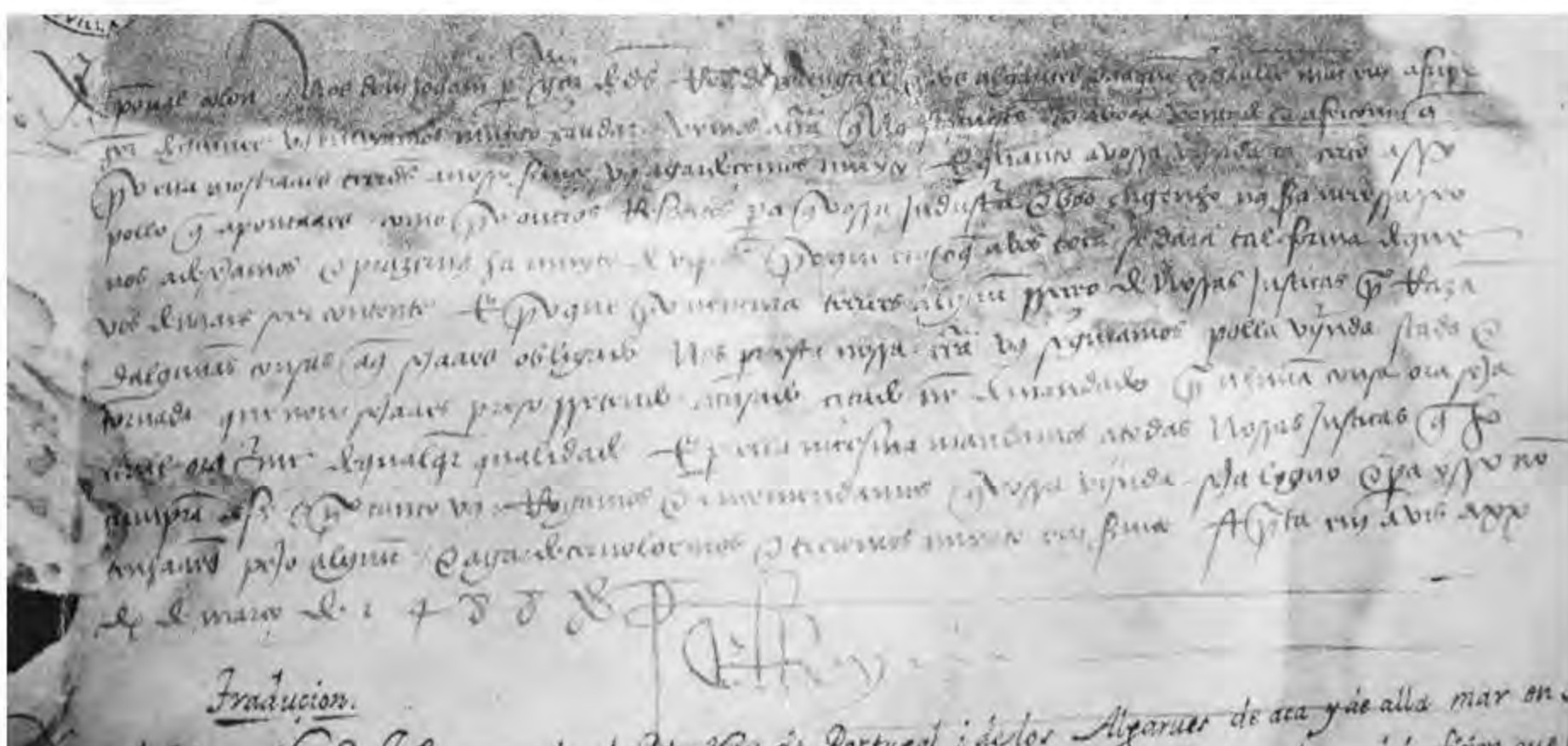


Figure 11.1C: Letter from King João II to Xpovam Colon confirms the discoverer's was not known as Colombo at the Portuguese court in 1488.

Note that there is no reason for Colón to be worried because "in what is already due you, you will be paid." The king does not use future or past, but present tense "what is already due you." Another words, Colón was owed a reward because he had never ceased to serve the king of Portugal, just as João II declares. Colón was at the king's service in Spain and was going to be paid for it.

How, then could it be possible for Colón to have so much "hate for the king and the kingdom that he wanted nothing more to do with Portugal," as many chroniclers tried to convince us was the case? If four years after having left Portugal Colón continued being in the king's service and was being so well paid that he "would be very pleased" with what was due him, what service was Colón performing for Portugal in Spain?

João II insisted that the future Admiral return to Lisbon immediately "logo" because Colón possessed such great *qualities and ingenuity* that were *important and necessary* to the king and would get

a just reward for services rendered in Spain. This letter proves that both, João II's "rejection" of Colón and Colón's "hatred" of João II, were merely simulated to fool the outsiders, so as to not blow Colón's secret agent cover in Spain. The false hatred worked perfectly as a cover.

Cristóbal Colón ran away to Spain "secretly" at the same time as his traitor nephews did. However, unlike the traitor nephew D. Lopo de Albuquerque, Count of Penamacor, who, in this same year of 1488, was arrested and placed in the London Tower at João II's request. And unlike the traitor Fernão da Silveira who would shortly be "killed by steel" in France, Cristóbal Colón had nothing to be concerned about from João II, or from the king's henchmen.

While João II's traitors were being pursued and killed, Colón was in Portugal with João II and Dias going over the secret news of the greatest discovery up to then; the Cape of Good Hope.

One must also take note here that in 1488, the same year Admiral Colón's nephew D. Lopo was arrested in London, Admiral Colón's brother, Bartolomé Colón, was in London meeting with the King of England and that the other traitor, Fernão da Silveira, would next be killed in France, exactly where Bartolomé Colón headed to after leaving London! The correlations are undeniable. Was Bartolomé Colón sent as João II's intermediary in England and France?

Admiral Colón was not only welcomed by João II but was even being paid "in such a way that you will be very happy." Therefore, unless Colón remained in the service of the King of Portugal during the four years he was living in Spain, how else could he have been in Portugal's service and be due any rewards?

Note as well that Colón's trip to Portugal was with an already planned return to Spain because "we assure your safety for the coming, staying and **returning**." Therefore, this was clearly a temporary visit for which João II requested Colón's presence. Why did the king need him in Portugal so *immediately*?

The answer is found in one of Colón's notes about Bartolomeu Dias, in which Colón admits he was present with King João II and Dias in 1488, (SEE FIGURE 11.2):

*Note that in this year [14]88, in the month of December, Bartholomew Dias landed in Lisbon, captain of three ships, which had been sent by the most serene King of Portugal to Guinea to discover the land. And he gave an account to the Most Serene King of how he had sailed beyond what had already been sailed 600 leagues, that is 450 to the South and 250 to the North, to a cape which he called Cabo de Boa Esperanza (Cape of Good Hope)... The said voyage he drew it and described it league by league on a sea chart, to be presented before the eyes of the Most Serene King. In all this I took part.*³⁰⁹

Figure 11.2: Page from Cardinal Pierre d'Ailly's book, *Imago Mundi*, owned by Cristóbal Colón. Colón had written on it many notes, as he did in most of his books. In the note on top left, which we enlarged (arrow), writing in Latin, Colón declared that he was part of the secret committee that was present with Dias (*Didacus*) and the king of Portugal reviewing the details of Dias's voyage to Cape of Good Hope. The note ends with *In quibus omnibus interfui*, which translates to *In all this I was intervened*. Meaning *I took part in all of this*.



Before fleeing “secretly” to Spain, Colón and King João II had been discussing secret evidence of lands to the West. That evidence included “big bamboo and pine branches” that arrived at the Portuguese islands of Azores and Madeira.

In 1485, within only one year of fleeing “secretly” to Spain, Admiral Colón is “present” in Portugal and participating in another secret of Portuguese navigational technology with José Vizinho and King João II.

In 1488, we again find Colón “present” sharing with King João II and Bartolomeu Dias the utmost secret of how the Portuguese had just unlocked the shortest sea route to India around Africa.

Again in March 1493, Admiral Colón is meeting with João II at Vale do Paraíso discussing his just completed voyage of exploration to the New World. While at Vale do Paraíso Colón received yet another secret from King João II, information that “*there is a continent*” at West and South of the Equator: Brazil.³¹⁰

These events show an ongoing relationship of complete trust between King João II and Admiral Cristóbal Colón, which is so well verbalized in the king’s 1488 letter.

It was not an antagonistic relationship of hatred neither by Colón towards João II nor by João II towards a “vain and boasting idiot.” Rather it was a continuous friendly, respectful and considerate relationship. Instead of accepting what others, the outsiders, wrote about their attitudes towards each other, let’s see what Colón wrote on his log about his meeting at Vale do Paraíso on March 9 to 11, 1493:

*The King also received me with great honor, paid me many respects, asked me to sit down and spoke very kindly.... the King again told me that if I needed anything it would immediately be given to me, and he discussed the voyage with me at great length, always inviting me to be seated, and treated me with great respect... I took my leave of the King, who gave me some messages to be given on his behalf to the Monarchs, always showing me great affection.*³¹¹

In their own words, Colón wrote greatly of the king and praised the king of Portugal and João II wrote of Colón’s talents and wisdom as “industrious, ingenious and necessary,” a huge contradiction exists with all that has been written by outsiders about the relationship between Colón and João II.

We could not bring a higher authority about Cristóbal Colón than King João II. João II left his personal views of Colón, whom he knew well, written in his own hand, it is not hearsay from second or third hand as were João de Barros, Damião de Góis and a multitude of others who wrote about this for centuries.

There are way too many words of friendship and praise from the King about the Admiral and from the Admiral about the King, for theirs to have been a relationship between two people who hated each other. Their outward “hatred” was just a sham to deceive those around them so that nobody would suspect their true friendship, a deep friendship and trust between a faithful undercover agent and his employer, or between an initiated member and his master.

Time and time again historians have minimized the *March 20, 1488* letter by insinuating that King João II “anxious for not having news of Bartolomeu Dias, called *Columbus* to Lisbon as an ‘*alternative*’ to Dias.”

Arguments like these show the constant contortions others have gone through to maintain the current history from being questioned. On the one hand they say that João II thought nothing of their weaver *Colombo*’s capabilities, seeing him as an unrealistic incompetent dreamer and, on the same hand, they tell us that their *worthless idiotic dreamer* was João II’s “alternative” to find the sea route to India!

How could they conceive that the “King of the Navigators”, who had at his disposal people like Cabral, Cão, Gama, Velho, Corte-Real, Dias, Pacheco Pereira, along with thousands of other Portuguese captains, all highly-trained in piloting ships, could find no other “alternative” to captain his Portuguese ships to India except for a “foreign weaver” whose ideas, if they had been true, would seem so imprudent to João II in those days as they seem to us today?

The Portuguese historians again are at fault here for accepting and promoting such a contradictory invention that claims the same man who they insisted had been rejected by João II because he

had a plan “based on fantasies,” suddenly became the king’s only “alternative” hero, so much so that João II wrote him to come back to Portugal from Spain.

The Portuguese historians, unable to conceive of any other reason for the above letter and without ever going to inspect the document, wrote that João II’s letter could not be authentic. They presumed there was not even a letter and that Colón, who they erroneously presumed to be a peasant weaver, could never be receiving private letters from the King of Portugal. Therefore, some Portuguese historians simply denied that such a letter existed and did not do any research into it.

Unable to fit an explanation for this letter into their tall tale, those who did not reject it explained the letter by claiming that the “weaver Colombo” was the “only alternative” to a desperate and pilotless King of Portugal. Another words, they merely theorized that, since Bartolomeu Dias had set sail one year before to find the end of Africa and had not yet returned, King João II saw no other qualified person except their “fantasist Colombo” to lead a new expedition.

Was Portugal so void of qualified Portuguese pilots that the king had no other person to turn to, except their weaver whom they claim João II had already ridiculed and rejected?

Instead, they should have interpreted the king’s letter to Colón as a request for a secretive conference between the king and his secret agent in Spain, so that the next steps of the secret mission could be plotted out. In covert missions, all of the details are impossible to keep current by letters and messages alone and a face to face meeting is always more productive.

From the moment that we change our perspective and begin to look at the life of this man, who assumed the false identity of *Cristóbal Colón*, in the framework of a life-and-death international game of espionage, it becomes obvious that his late 1484 “secret flight” to Spain was a ruse to protect King João II’s projects from his enemy. One must accept that the King of Portugal put this whole scheme into play.

Once this new perspective is accepted, the many collaborators that worked hand in hand with Colón in Spain become obvious co-conspirators in the covert plot. Those collaborators were also well connected to King João II of Portugal and João II had to be the one who sent them to Seville, (SEE CHAPTER 12.)

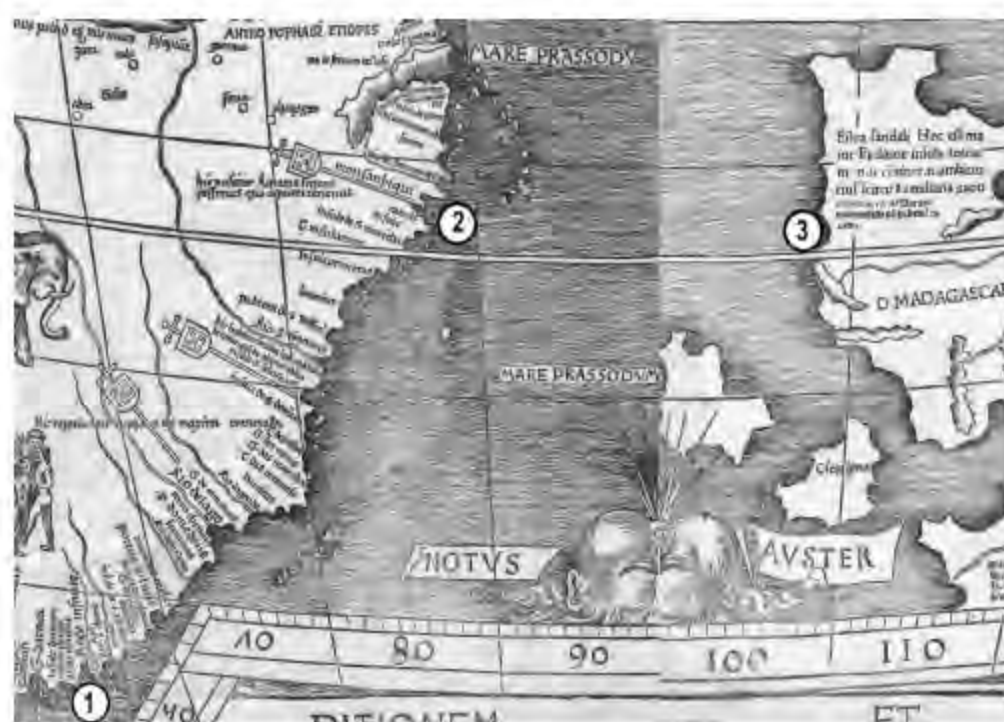
This new perspective on Colón’s life, as a Portuguese double agent, creates an important paradigm shift that allows all the loose pieces of this unsolved puzzle to fall into place and bring us to a resolution. All the lies perpetrated by Colón, his family and the royal chroniclers begin to fit into the truth and all the deceptions begin to reveal their true purpose... and just off our field of vision, pulling all the strings in this massive international conspiracy, we find that most perfect of all the kings of Portugal: KING JOÃO II.

Year after year, decade after decade, with precision and regularity, the Portuguese caravels left Portugal seeking a sea route to India, around Africa. In December 1488, Bartolomeu Dias arrived in Lisbon with the fabulous news that aroused such “great hope” in the kingdom that João II named the end of Africa *Cape of Good Hope*.

Finally, Portugal had found the southern tip of Africa.

João II’s ships had not only found the tip of Africa, but had sailed beyond Port Elizabeth into the Indian Ocean as far East as a river they named Rio do Infante (River of the Prince) today called the Great Fish River, (SEE FIGURE 11.3).

Figure 11.3: Named as Río do Infante by Bartolomeu Dias, today’s Great Fish (1) in the Indian Ocean, was the furthest point reached by Dias during his 1487-1488 voyage. From there, the already mapped Sofala (2) and Madagascar (3) were just a few days sailing away. (Waldseemüller’s map)



By the end of 1488, both king João II of Portugal and Cristóbal Colón knew that the shortest route to India was around the Cape of Good Hope. They both knew that there was now only a distance of less than 10 degrees of uncharted seas between the furthest spot Dias had reached and the already known city of Sofala. That distance was a mere 180 leagues, the same distance as from Portugal to the Canary Islands. The Portuguese ships had reached a point just a few days sailing from the famous island of Madagascar. Already in the 10th century, Al-Masoudi - known as the Arab Herodotus – had described the land of Sofala and the Arabs called the well-known Island of Madagascar as the Island of the Moon.

In 1488, Bartolomeu Dias confirmed that Africa was surrounded by navigable ocean and the gateway to the famous Indian spice trade was finally opened to Portugal.

The Portuguese ships were knocking at the gates of India. Now that João II was on the brink of fulfilling his long-term national goal, one would expect intense activity in the ports of Portugal in preparation of an immediate voyage to India, so that Portugal would arrive at the Spice Trade first, before the nemesis “daredevil” Colón got there with the Spanish fleet by heading west.

Instead of hurrying to India, now that the sea route was open, Portugal stopped! No ships are ordered made ready for the voyage! Not one ship leaves for India.

This phenomenal news that Bartolomeu Dias had rounded the tip of Africa and had reached the Indian Ocean was not advertised to the four winds, contrary to how Colón’s voyage was advertised, instead, this great achievement was kept under lock and key, even by Admiral Colón. The discovery of the Cape of Good Hope became just another one of the highly guarded Portuguese secrets.

On the other hand, as soon as Admiral Colón returned from his First Voyage of discovery, the news was reported to the four corners of the world, long before Colón arrived in Barcelona to speak with the Spanish Monarchs: Fernando and Isabel. In contrast, the extraordinary feat of rounding Africa remained in top secret silence. The worldwide glory that was due to Bartolomeu Dias was never bestowed upon him. Unlike Colón, whose name became a household word for a much lesser feat, Dias lived and died almost as an unknown.

The fact that Dias had rounded what he fittingly called the *Cape of Torments* was never mentioned to the public. This decades-long goal of the Portuguese crown, a tireless pursuit, during which countless ships and souls were sacrificed to the Atlantic’s depths, always with the *good hope* of success was finally accomplished in 1488. Yet the Portuguese “news media” remained completely silent about the kingdom’s achievements, as always has been.

The two feats of Dias and Colón are two sides of the same coin. The same person that maintained silent the presses about Bartolomeu Dias’s success is the same person who greased the wheels of propaganda for Colón’s “India.” That person was King João II. Colón’s voyage needed to be advertised worldwide, it was the only way for the ambush of India to succeed in enticing the Spanish to want to protect it, just as it did.

Dias’s voyage, which opened the sea to the real India, needed to be kept top secret, only this way would Portugal succeed in preserving that route for itself, just as it did.

For nearly ten years no Portuguese ships received orders from João II to sail to India. Instead of preparing a voyage to India, King João II lay silently in wait. What was João II waiting for? Why did Portugal decide to wait silently beginning 1488, while Cristóbal Colón relentlessly pressured the Spanish Monarchs to sponsor his “brilliant” voyage to India?

More importantly, is the question of why Colón, in August 1492, did NOT decide to sail to India by the shortest route, via the Cape of Good Hope, since he already knew that this route was opened up in 1488?

Furthermore, why did Cristóbal Colón keep the discovery of the Cape of Good Hope secret from the Spanish Monarchs, as well as from the rest of the world, the same way that João II was doing?

Why did Colón maintain all of King João II’s secrets to himself?

SELLING A FALSE INDIA

In March 4, 1493, successful and triumphant, Admiral Don Cristóbal Colón entered the Tagus River into Lisbon Port, wrote to Portugal's *Perfect Prince*, João II letting him know he was waiting his orders, and then wrote to the Spanish Monarchs saying:

I come from the Indies with the fleet that Your Highnesses gave me, where I arrived in thirty-three days after I left from your kingdoms...

At the same time, Colón wrote the now famous letter to Santangel. This was a letter of propaganda sent to all corners of the globe, and suddenly everyone knew Portugal's long-held secret that there were lands to the west. It was such a thunderous promotion that by early April 1493, in less than one month after the letter was written, there were at least eleven editions of Colón's "*First Letter*" published. It was published in Spain, Italy, France, Switzerland and the Netherlands – but no letter was published in Portugal, because there, land to the west was not news, it was an old fact.

The invisible phenomenon of those decades and decades of "super secret" Portuguese Atlantic explorations, plus the opposition of academia to accepting the evidence available that shows that other Europeans had gotten to America long before Colón, such as the Pizzigano Map of 1424, facilitated the perpetuation of the current story of "discovery" by Colón.

This story asserts that Colón was the first to reach those lands; that he really believed that the lands were the real India; and also propagates the lie that Colón had invented this great idea of sailing westward, yet none of these things are true.

The truth is exactly the opposite. The idea of reaching India by sailing west had been discussed twenty years prior, according to the 1474 letter by Toscanelli, and King João II had already rejected that idea as unrealistic. Rounding Africa was always seen as the best solution to reach the real India. Rounding Africa was calculated to be the shortest distance, as both Cristóbal Colón and the Portuguese king knew this very well. After December 1488, with the news of the rounding of the Cape of Good Hope, there was no doubt that going around Africa was the shortest route.

No serious historian accepts today that Colón was the first to reach the Americas. Cristóbal Colón's secret role was not to "discover" the New World, but merely to be the first Portuguese navigator authorized by the Portuguese King to disclose the existence of those secret lands. If this fact had been accepted centuries ago, the mysterious and deceptive life of Admiral Cristóbal Colón may have been analyzed with greater rigor and this mockery of a history, still taught in our textbooks, would have ended long ago.

Instead, authors kept perpetuating this view and increasing the confusion. The lies and errors were piled on from century to century and now it is important for us to analyze those mistakes in order to understand how to correct them. Fernando Colón was part of the conspiracy to mislead us. For example, in Chapter 11 he says:

King João II... showed himself, however, lukewarm in accepting his enterprise, because of the great labors and costs he was employing in discovery and conquest... all without any fortunate thing having happened, nor having been able to go beyond the Cape of Good Hope.

The reader, as a detective of this crime against truth, must always perform a careful scrutiny of all statements from the conspirators. Where is the lie? From his father's notes, Fernando Colón knew that the Cape of Good Hope was only discovered in 1488, however in the above note Fernando says that the discovery was made before Colón was rejected by the king of Portugal. That is, before the future Admiral had acquired "so much hatred towards that city and nation." This would mean that the Cape of Good Hope would have to be discovered before Colón left "secretly" for Spain with his son D. Diego in 1484.

Much of the intentional confusion served to conceal, not only the family's true lineage, but also the real reason Fernando's father moved to Spain from Portugal. Fernando Colón also needed to protect the perilous position that the Colón family was at the time facing in the court of Spain. D. Fernando Colón knew very well that the communications between his father and Portugal had never ceased. Colón wrote to the Portuguese king and João II wrote to him saying, "We saw the letter you

wrote us.” The Admiral continually hid his secret connections with Portugal and lied to Spain about his close ties and his many visits to Portuguese territory.

Cristóbal Colón stopped in Portugal during three out of his four trips, a total of six stops, and he lied to the Spanish Monarchs about these stops. If the declarations of Fernando Colón on his father’s “hatred” for João II, the Portuguese and Portugal were true, there would have been no more contact after 1484: after the alleged secret escape to Spain.

But the Admiral, as a secret agent in the service of Portugal, needed to have others believe in a false antipathy “much hatred” for that “city and nation.” This advertising of Colón’s “hatred” was done to conceal his true role so that no one suspected that his false India at the west was a secret mission of diversion planned by Portugal to get the Spanish occupied as far away as possible from Portuguese interests. One of those interests was the true India and its Spice Trade.

The false “India” at west was sold as a great perilous sacrifice that Admiral Colón had reserved **only** for those “carefully” chosen Spanish Monarchs, enemies of King João II and of Admiral Colón’s homeland:

Now, most serene princes, recall, Your Highnesses, that I left wife and children and I came from my homeland to serve you, where I spent all that I had, and I spent seven years of time and received a thousand opprobrium with disgrace and suffered without many necessities, and I did not want to make an agreement with any other princes who implored with me... Written in the sea of Spain, March 4, 1493.³¹²

From the letter, it is apparent that Colón left his *homeland* of Portugal for that was the only place he came from and where he had a wife. He also had to work for seven hard years to succeed in convincing Spain to bet on his proposal, indicating that it was not an easy idea to sell. It was imperative that the Spanish not suspect his loyalty or his reasons for the proposal. If it was such a great idea, Spain would ask, “Why was Portugal not attempting to sail in that direction?” The whole idea sounded suspicious to the Spanish Monarchs and it took a lot to convince them. Colón succeeded in convincing them and it was not an opportunity that the Admiral was going to squander because he *did not want to make an agreement with any other princes who implored with him*. It had to be the Spanish Monarchs and nobody else, because the Spanish Monarchs were the only enemies of Portugal in Europe.

A WORLD FOOLED

One can make excuses for those Spaniards, who were fooled by the lies of Colón, because they were being expertly deceived, and for those writers who repeated atrocities, because they had not stopped to reconsider why most of this story made no sense and who had a difficult time getting evidence of what was the truth.

But what excuse can be provided today for those who, having clearer facts and knowledge, still refuse to accept Colón’s deception?

They defended the theory of the confused Colón, as if he were completely innocent, “Oh, that poor fellow did not know where he was; he was simply the son of a wool-weaver, a merchant who had never sailed before; he had never piloted a ship, how could he know what he was doing; he was completely lost, the poor guy; no one had sailed the high seas before him, he was a pioneer, so it is understandable that he would be lost, after all, no one had ever traveled west and these were lands that no one had ever seen, how could such an uneducated weaver ever understand he was not in India?”

Can anyone who scrutinizes the diagram drawn by the Admiral in FIGURE 11.4 be convinced that someone without years of training and study and without advanced knowledge of mathematics, geometry, navigation and cosmography could have drawn it and even make sense of it?

Could some unschooled ignoramus peasant have enough knowledge to deceive the world for five hundred years with so many well-constructed lies, as did Admiral Colón? Clearly only a very wise, well-trained, worldly experienced and well-trusted person, with the support of many other conspirators, could have done so.

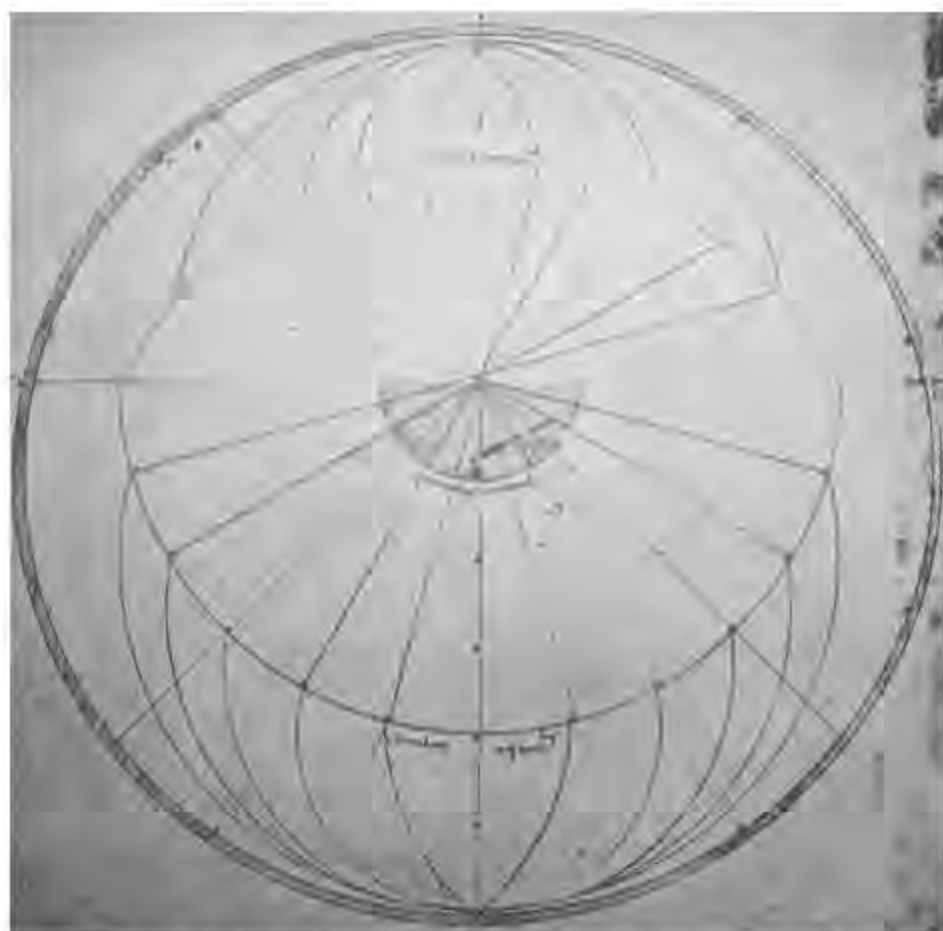


Figure 11.4: Apprentice or Master? Amongst the papers Colón left behind are maps and other documents, including this diagram where the Equinox Circle and the Arctic Circle are drawn, along with other details relative to the celestial bodies, including the Horizon, and the West. This document shows, not only that he possessed great knowledge of the skies, but also circles, angles, lines, arches and curves.

Contrary to what historians had decided that Admiral Colón was, writing that he was unschooled and of low birth, that is not what the kings and the wise men of Portugal, Castile and Aragon, considered Colón to be. They, not only accepted that he was a high nobleman but considered him to be a true sage in geography and navigation.

Here's what Master Jaime Ferrer, considered an expert in his own right, says on a letter addressed to the Spanish Monarchs during the negotiations of the Treaty of Tordesillas. It shows how this expert scientist viewed Admiral Colón:

And I say that to understand the rule and the above said practice that it is necessary that one be a Cosmographer, Mathematician and Mariner, or know this art. And whoever these three sciences has naught, it is impossible to be able to understand this, nor by any other form or rule, if expertise in these three sciences he has naught... I will always defer to any correction by those who know and understand more than myself, especially from the Admiral of the Indies, who today in this matter knows more than anyone else.³¹³

The same Jaime Ferrer on a letter to Admiral Colón wrote “of all this Your Lordship knows more sleeping than I do awake.”

Admiral Colón was such an advanced specialist in navigation, mapping of lands, winds, ocean currents and regional phenomenon that, even while stuck on land and hundreds of miles away from the ship that was carrying Princess Margaret of Austria, Duchess of Savoy, Colón was able to predict the exact date of the ship's arrival in Spain:

Letter to the Monarchs, Granada, February 6, 1502: *Your Highnesses know well what happened in the year 1497, while Your Highnesses were at Burgos, and the people were in such a state of anxiety on account of the severe storms which raged one after another... Your Highnesses had already decided to leave Burgos and go to Loria... But that very night Your Highnesses received a letter of mine in which I said: “The wind began to blow on such and such a day; the fleet cannot have set sail that day, but must have waited until the weather settled, which probably was on Wednesday. If the fleet started then, it will reach the Isle of Wight (in England) on Thursday or Friday, and, if it does not stop there, it will enter Laredo (in Spain) next Monday, or else, all the sailors' calculations will prove to be false.” This letter of mine, coupled with Your Highnesses' desire to see the Princess sooner, caused Your Highnesses to abandon the idea of going to Loria, and put the judgment of the seafarer to the test. On Monday, indeed, one of the vessels which had refused to stop at Wight, because of the scarcity of her provisions, entered the Port of Laredo, [as I had predicted].³¹⁴*

Master Jaime Ferrer considered Colón to be the person in Spain who knew more than anyone else in the subject of navigation and geography, Colón proved this by predicting the arrival of the ships into Laredo and Queen Isabel considered the Admiral the greatest navigator of her kingdom

King João II, the king of the kings of navigation, called Colón “*industrious and ingenious*.” Therefore, the only conclusion is that Cristóbal Colón was very well versed in all the sciences and arts necessary to captain ocean going fleets and to determine the location of ships and lands by the stars combined with the careful measurement of the distances travelled.

Admiral Colón, not only boasted of how good he was at all these sciences, but he proved it countless times even deceiving his own experienced pilots by tricking them into believing they had sailed less leagues west than they, themselves, had measured.

Being a man of letters, a theologian, a cosmographer and cartographer, hailed as an expert in the arts of mapmaking and navigation by all who knew him, Cristóbal Colón was equipped with all the skills required to mislead his crew. He even made his crew believe at one time that they were sailing in the opposite direction.

He did whatever was necessary to achieve the objectives of his missions. In one case, he manipulated the compass to make the crew believe they were sailing to a particular place when, in fact, they ended up at the opposite location. This episode was written in a letter dated January 1495 from Haiti to the Spanish Monarchs, in it Admiral Colón, explains:

With me it happened that King René, whom God has, sent me to Tunisia to capture the galleass Fernandina. And arriving at the island of San Pietro in Sardinia, I was told, that with the said galleass [Fernandina] were two ships and a carrack, from which the people who were with me became alarmed and determined not to go further on the voyage, but instead to return to Marseilles for another ship and more people. And I, seeing that I could not force their will without some trick, agreed to their demands, and changing the point of the compass, I ordered the sails raised, being it night already. And in the next day at sunrise, we were inside Cape Carthage, having all of them for certain that we had been sailing for Marseilles. (FIGURE 11.5)



Figure 11.5: Fernando Colón's *Historie* relates the Admiral's exploits for René d'Anjou, King of Naples saying that at location (2) Colón made the crew believe the ship was sailing to location (1) while he continued to location (3).

Both Budinger and Gandia, place this event of the capture of René's ship Fernandina in August 1473, showing that Colón was already an experienced navy captain and worthy of the confidence of kings. This event took place 21 years before he set sail on his grand voyage of discovery.

Although in 1473 and in 1492 he tricked his crew by pure slight of hand (adjusting the compass in 1473 and falsifying the distances travelled and the degrees where they were located in 1492-1493), in 1494 he used a whole different approach.

In 1494, The Admiral forced all those who were aboard the Niña, to sign an oath falsely claiming that Cuba was Asia. Admiral Colón forced them all to be complicit in his betrayal of the Spanish Monarchs, and kept them silent in their lies by threatening to charge them a fine of 10,000 maravedies and cutting out their tongues, if any of them ever contradicted this signed oath, (see Appendix oath aboard the Niña, the June 12, 1494).

To prior historians, who accepted a confused and ignorant Colón, this oath is presented as their "solid proof" that the Admiral was blind in his belief that he was at the lands of Asia.

If one ignores the facts presented in the prior chapters, one could accept the view that Colón was lost, however, this forced oath constitutes clear proof of the fraud that Colón conspired to build against Spain. The date of this signing, June 12, 1494, is of great importance, being that the text of the Treaty of Tordesillas was written on 7 June, 1494, ratified on 2 July, 1494 by Spain and then ratified on 5 September, 1494 by Portugal.

Therefore, it was extremely important that no one on that Second Voyage botch the conspiratorial tactics that were so cautiously in progress and which had been carefully planned and accomplished over the prior 10 years.

The oath aboard the Niña was meant to solidify to the court of Spain Colón's lie of being in "India," and nothing more. Nobody who truly believed they were in Asia, as the oath claims they did, needed to be threatened to sign it. The oath was signed under duress.

The threat was needed because all the sailors aboard the Niña understood that Colón's claim of being in Asia was simply outrageous.

Furthermore, note that among the signers of this fraudulent oath appears the name of Juan de La Cosa, who was not only a highly experienced pilot and navigator, but was a master chart maker, who made the first large map of the New World in 1500 (SEE FIGURE 11.6). Juan de La Cosa had to be an integral part of Colón's conspiracy to deceive Spain.

We suspect La Cosa's involvement in Colón's fraud, because of La Cosa's role in the first voyage. La Cosa was not only that "Master" of the ship Santa Maria, which, as we showed in the previous chapter, never sank off the coast of Haiti, but he was actually the owner of that same ship Santa Maria.

Yet, in his account of the First Voyage, Colón says that La Cosa had refused to save his own ship: *The master of the ship [Juan de La Cosa], whose watch it was, came out, and the Admiral ordered him and the others to take the rowboat which they towed astern and grab an anchor and drop it astern of the ship [Santa Maria], and he [Juan de La Cosa] with the others jumped into the rowboat, and the Admiral thought that they were doing as he had commanded. They did not concern themselves with nothing except to flee to the caravel [Niña].*

The Santa Maria belonged to Juan de La Cosa, who, on the 1492 voyage held the post of Ship's Master. Juan de La Cosa was an experienced seaman with decades of time at sea. Would it make any sense for a veteran seaman, being already safe in the rowboat, to decide to flee from his own non-sinking ship rather than try to save it? Especially since saving it would have required such a simple effort as dropping an anchor astern?

Since the Santa Maria never ran aground and never sank, as explained before, Admiral Colón invented this whole episode about the Ship's Master not following his orders and running away. Juan de La Cosa never lodged a formal protest against the Spanish Monarchs to recoup the money for his ship, which Admiral Colón had dragged onto shore and marooned on Christmas 1492.



Figure 11.6: Juan de La Cosa's map shows that, not only the Caribbean Islands, but the Americas, from Canada to Brazil, had been sailed by 1500. La Cosa included an image of Admiral Colón depicted as Saint Christopher over Central America, (enlarged at bottom left). On the close-up at bottom right we can see Colón had blond hair and beard. [Image graciously provided by Museo Naval, Madrid, Spain]

Then, Juan de La Cosa reenlisted to sail on Colón's Second Voyage and ended up creating the first map of the New World where he painted Admiral Colón on it as St. Christopher. The more we review these facts, the more it becomes apparent that Juan de La Cosa had to be taking part in Portugal's conspiracy against Spain.

We believe that Juan de La Cosa is the very pilot to whom King João II gave the

espadims (gold coins) at Vale do Paraíso, as Admiral Colón recounted in his log, while carefully hiding the pilot's name. Was João II rewarding La Cosa for his loyalty to the plot with this gold gift?

Regardless, the fact that Juan de La Cosa would sign an oath stating that Cuba, which they knew to be an island, was the Continent of Asia, makes him an accomplice to Colón's lie. He is furthermore complacent by never declaring publicly that the Santa Maria never sank, being that he knew full well that the ship had deliberately been put onshore at Caracol Beach in Haiti and sabotaged with a cannon shot.

100 LEAGUES BEYOND TILE

In 1477, Cristóbal Colón must have been sailing in the company of Danish pilots in the employ of another king. Their mission was to travel to the lands of Canada in a secret expedition for King João II of Portugal and King Christian of Denmark:

I sailed in the year 1477, in the month of February, beyond Tile Island, one hundred leagues... and it [Tile] is not inside the line that demarks the West, as Ptolemy says, but much more to the West [of the Canaries line]... at the time that I went there, the sea was not frozen, although there was such a tide there that in some places it rose and fell 26 fathoms.

To clarify Colón's trip and show that it reached Canada in 1477, it is necessary to leave out some problematic words in the rest of Colón's note, because we do not have the original text and we can't verify if a mistake was made in the transcription. Therefore, we will just take the text that appears to be correct and which makes sense.

In his *Historie*, Fernando Colón further confused this event by writing, "It is true that *Tile*, that one which Ptolemy mentions, is located where he said. And this one by the moderns is called *Frislanda*."³¹⁵

What Fernando meant "*quella*" (that one) is that Ptolemy's *Tile* is where Ptolemy said it was and that one is *Iceland*. However, "*questa*," (this one) the one Colón was referring to outside of Ptolemy's line is called *Frislanda*. Therefore, when Fernando wrote *Tile* he should have written *Thule*, the correct name that Ptolemy used for Iceland.

Although it is true that Ptolemy's Thule is undoubtedly Iceland, Ptolemy's Thule Island is clearly not the *Tile Island* that Admiral Colón described. Colón's *Tile Island* was *much more to the West* of the line in Ptolemy's map "marking the western limits."



Figure 11.7A: Ancient Map of Tullia. Tullia is the crescent shaped landmass in the upper left (SEE FIGURE 11.7B). It is clearly Greenland with Iceland and England below it to the right of it. One can easily identify Iberia, Africa and the Mediterranean Sea. The circle of fish includes the head of a penguin at the bottom and even a sea lion above the coded inscription. [From the Map Collection of the Library of Congress, Washington, DC, USA]



Figure 11.7B: Ancient Map of Tullia. Section of the map showing the Island of Tullia, (left) described as “tullia ultra ultima thule” at the end of the second line.

For, if the western most land known to Ptolemy was *Thule* (Iceland) on the same line as the Canaries, it could not, at the same time be the *Tile* that Colón indicates is located *much more to the West* of Ptolemy's line.

Having sailed “*ultra Tile*” as the Admiral wrote in Latin, meant that Colón had gone beyond this particular island of Tile and seeing that Colón declares his Tile not to be Ptolemy's Thule, because it was west of Ptolemy's limits, then, it must be another island further west of Iceland.

Colón's *Tile* that was “much further west” of Ptolemy's 0° line could only be Greenland and the land that Colón visited at one hundred leagues beyond Colón's Tile/Greenland is Canada.

The medieval map in FIGURE 11.7 shows that Greenland was the island of “*Tullia*,” and therefore Colón's “*Tile*” is not Iceland. In the Latin inscription on this map is clearly written “*Tullia ultra Ultima Thule*” {Tullia [Tile] beyond Ultima Thule}. It is only logical that Colón sailed 100 leagues, not beyond Iceland, as many thought, which was called Thule, but beyond Tile, which was Greenland. Those 100 Leagues beyond Tile puts the 1476-1477 Portuguese-Danish expedition in the lands of Canada.

Furthermore, the “News” that the Admiral wanted to report on his note was not that he sighted Iceland, already revealed by the Greek explorer Pytheas in year 330 BC, thus an island known for over two millenniums. The news Colón reported was the huge tides found 100 leagues beyond that island, located far west of the line of Ptolemy.

Those huge tides that Colón so marveled at exist there still today. They are seen at the Bay of Fundy (from Portuguese *Baía Funda* meaning *Deep Bay*) located just west of Greenland in Canada, it has one of the highest vertical tidal ranges in the world.

In everything we scrutinize, it becomes obvious that Admiral Colón was an expert navigator, geographer and scientist and it makes no sense that he would not be able to tell that America was not India. To accept that an experienced navigator and cartographer would commit such an enormous error as to say that he was in India while at Haiti, where he really was, is ludicrous. The two locations are 180° opposite on the sphere, it is necessary to close our eyes to all science, logic and reason to accept such a thing. This is not a mere swapping of names but of locations. Based on the scientific data

Colón collected and the position of the stars he measured, he could not have swapped his location unless the stars had also swapped their positions. The North Pole star is still located today where it was 500 years ago.

The Admiral did everything correct as a pilot and his navigation never faltered, his description of those places was accurate and his travel time and his distances travelled left no doubts that he was only 5 time zones west of Europe.

There should be no doubt that Colón created this confusion intentionally. But he did not do it for the benefit of Castile, or for his own benefit, since this lie of “India” severely affected his posts, his titles, got him arrested and could have even resulted in his death. There was only one kingdom in this game that benefited from Castile being tricked into believing Colón had reached India. That kingdom was Portugal who immediately began its preparations to protect the true India for itself.

In the letter that Vespucci carried to Don Diego Colón, the Admiral warns them that *everything must be done in great secret so they are not suspected*. Who can accept that these words are those of a madman, an ignorant, or from someone who was truly confused?

Can there still be reasons to refuse to see that Cristóbal Colón was quite aware of the fraud he was implementing? Do we need yet more evidence to show that Colón knew he was nowhere near the real India in order to convince the most skeptical?

Perhaps the reader thinks we are interpreting more from Colón’s words than what is written, or that the facts are not so clear, because if the facts were this clear, then others would have uncovered Colón’s fraud long ago.

From ancient times the real India was known to be located between the River *Indo* (on the western side) and the River *Ganges* (on the eastern side) and this is on Ptolemy’s map. The Ganges River was one of the famous great rivers of the world and was well known like the Nile and the Euphrates.

Find this river and you find the famous India the same way that, by finding the Nile you find the famous Egypt. Therefore, we ask the reader the following questions:

If Cristóbal Colón was so convinced that he was in Asia and in India, as history books have insisted, and if Colón learned that there was a great river nearby, would he have any reason to doubt that this river was not the famous Ganges of India?

And if he truly believed to be in India, would he not actively seek out this famous river Ganges and instruct his men to do the same, so that he could find the great Hindu civilization that lived on the shores of the Ganges?

Finding the great Ganges would be more proof that he was in India. However, here is clear proof from Colón, that in 1498, Colón knew that he was not anywhere near India or anywhere near the Ganges. He clearly was never expecting to find the Ganges on the shores of the Americas where he was sailing.

When his scout sailors returned to the ship from discovering the Orinoco, Colón was implicit that it was not the Ganges without even going to see it:

*In the straight of the Gulf of Pearls, North South, and go around to see from where so great abundance of freshwater was coming, and if it came from rivers, as the sailors were claiming, which he [Colón] says he [Colón] does not believe, because neither the Ganges, nor the Euphrates, nor the Nile, had he heard could bring so much freshwater.*³¹⁶

As it becomes clear, Colón saw the Orinoco as something other than the *Ganges*, the *Euphrates* or the *Nile* and therefore he understood that he was nowhere near any of those three great rivers.

Researching the history of Admiral Colón is the same as investigating a crime, one must function as a detective, because Colón’s words are full of deception and often are contradictory to his actions. The proof is in statements like the one above, whose words we have to look at carefully. If the reader was Colón and was fully convinced that he had reached the lands of the real India, would you not expect to locate the mouth of the famous river Ganges somewhere in those coasts?

Clearly, finding the Ganges, a great and famous landmark, would mean that India was right there. But Colón, learning of a great river bringing so much freshwater into the sea does not shout, “Thanks

be to God! We have found it. This must be the famous **Ganges** in India. Praise the Lord. I knew I was right and here is the proof."

Instead, the Admiral, without having seen the river to confirm anything, writes defiantly "I do not believe" that there is any big river here as these sailors say, because not even "the **Ganges** brings so much freshwater."

He does not hesitate. Obviously he was not expecting to find the Ganges anywhere near there because, for him, the river discovered was not, without doubt, the Ganges or the Euphrates or the Nile. Further evidence of this fact is contained in Colón's letter to the Kings dated July 7, 1503:

The animals and birds natural to these lands are very small and bitter, contrary to what I hear from those who talk of the Indies... Geronimo de Santestevan, Genoese, in the year of 1498 sailed from Colocuti [Calicut in the Real India] to the east... In his letter he writes me extensively about this and says that Your Highnesses' ships are in the best of the Indies and does not give any importance to Colocuti.

Note that Geronimo de Santestevan is connected to the Portuguese court, his letter was published by Valentim Fernandes in 1502.³¹⁷ From this note it is clear that Cristóbal Colón, who knew that Calicut was in the real India and that it was there that Vasco da Gama had arrived in 1498, informs the Catholic Monarchs to not give any importance to Calicut, in the **real India**, because the Spanish ships that Colón captained had reached a much better place further to the orient than Calicut or India. The perception of where the Admiral Colón knew he had sailed to could not be clearer. He was not near Calicut and he was not near the Ganges. He was nowhere near India.

The Admiral knew he was nowhere close to the Ganges or to Calicut and, therefore, he knew that he was not in the real India, but he kept lying by insisting that he was.

In almost everything that Colón wrote to the court, there is misinformation. In reading the following pieces of misinformation one can be deceived into believing that Colón truly accepted that he had reached India and thus, we may completely overlook the deception that Colón so expertly perpetrated against the World.

On March 14, 1493, after leaving Lisbon he writes: *I write this, whereby you will know how in thirty-three days to reached the Indies.*

On November 16, 1498, he writes: *in the year of 1492, it was agreed that I go to discover the Indies, I established with their Highnesses, that I would have one eighth of everything.*

Another time he wrote: *As it was with the finding of the Indies that sounded all over the world.*

In describing the third voyage, he writes: *Solomon, who sent from Jerusalem to the end of the Orient to see Mount Sophora, the said ships took three years. The said [Mount Sophora] Your Highnesses now possess in the island of Española. Nor of Alexander [the Great], who sent to see the regiment of the island of Taprobana in India.*

Look again at his allusion to the island of Taprobana *in India*. It is clear that the Admiral knew Taprobana [today's Sri Lanka] to be in India, as he admits here, not in his Spanish Indies, but in India, therefore, the real India. Then, in a letter to Pope Alexander VI, written in February 1502, he transforms his Española [Haiti] into all the famous lands in the world, including the Japan of Marco Polo:

This island is Tharsis, is Cethia is Ophir and Ophaz and Cipango, and we have called it Española. In this trip I sailed so far to the West so that when at night the Sun set for me there was left for those in Cadis, Spain only two hours to the East, so that I traveled ten lines [10 time zones] of the other hemisphere. And there could not have been a mistake because there was then a Lunar eclipse on fourteen of September.

Is it not amazing how many false statements are contained in this letter?

How could the same Española that was India, be also Solomon's Sophora as well as all the other famous lands, including Cipango (Japan)? But the biggest lie is the one where Colón utilizes the eclipse he witnessed on September 1494 which he correctly noted on his own secret notes to be five time zones west of Cape San Vicente. Yet, to the Pope he changes it to *ten time zones* into the "other

hemisphere” – this is twice the distance of his own notes. If this were true, he would have reached a spot way beyond Hawaii in order to be only two time zones short of Ptolemy’s eastern line.

This of course would be impossible, since he would have to find a way to cross over the American Continent first.

Furthermore, despite all this extra distance that Colón tells the Pope he traveled, the supposed 10 time zones, Colón never left “his Indies”! He was still in *Española*, (Haiti). For this to be possible, India would need to cover more than 10 time zones, half the globe. And yet he never encountered the Muslim ships, or the Portuguese ships, or the Hindus. He was still in the lands of naked natives with dug out tree trunks for boats!

On another occasion he wrote: *The year of 1494, I sailed on the 24th degree west the limit of 9 hours, and could not be an error because there was an eclipse. The Sun was in Libra and the Moon in Aries.* There is no way he could have sailed beyond the 5 hours he accurately noted down in his personal note, because the Atlantic ends at the American Continent. He could not have sailed any further time zones west.

Again the Admiral utilizes the same event (the eclipse of 1494) to mold reality into the way he intended others to accept it.

Cristóbal Colón’s contemporaries believed him because they were misinformed, but we, today, must not continue to believe in these blatant lies. Even less so, after reading his private notes and letters, including the eclipse shown in the previous chapter. To describe the same event with three different measures (5 hours, 10 hours and 9 hours), the Admiral had to be either crazy or an incredibly good liar. Crazy he was not.

In the note to himself he gave the correct 5 hours, but after the events turned dangerous at the Spanish court, his *India* began to look suspicious and he was arrested. Having lost all his posts and privileges, he was putting at risk his son’s future and the future of his whole dynasty.

As he was leaving for his last voyage, uncertain of the future, he begun to create false support for being closer to the real India than he was, in order to aid his son in asserting his privileges in the court case Diego Colón would soon initiate against the crown.

Cristóbal Colón complains to the Pope that “The government of all this had been granted to me in perpetuity, now with fury I was taken from it all.” The Pope, who had been given the false information, might have been called to arbitrate.

At this same time, in 1502, Colón made out his true Last Will and ordered all his important documents to be copied into several duplicate volumes we call the *Book of Privileges*. He then distributed these copies among his trusted co-conspirators to guard them. These *Book of Privileges* show us that all was not well between the Admiral and the Spanish Monarchs. Colón felt so persecuted by the court, that he saw the only way to protect his family’s rights was to make copies of all legal grants and awards the crown had given him and safeguard each copy in a different place.

The lies that had served to help Portugal in 1494 had become his last resort to help strengthen the rights of his children. He could not go back now and say it was not India.

WHY DID HE CALL IT INDIA?

It is important to keep in mind that the First Voyage was not done on a whim. Cristóbal Colón did not get up one morning in August 1492 and get on a boat without being prepared to set sail across the sea. No! The time he spent in planning and urging the Spanish Monarchs that, only for them and under their flag he would sail to India by the west, lasted from 1485 until 1492. That was a minimum of seven years of planning. Spain did not have the slightest interest in sailing to India. Therefore, Colón had to constantly insist, only with these Monarchs, until they caved in and accepted the proposal.

Colón had to present persuasive and cohesive arguments and had to convince knowledgeable people that it was a feasible voyage. No one would have financed a “Voyage of no Return”.

Colón had to prepare three ships with sailors, supplies and fittings, as well as merchandise for trade. Colón fitted the fleet with all that was necessary not to fail but to succeed in the journey. Being the person responsible for everything, Colón did not fail to include the hawk's bells that would mesmerize the naive natives into handing over their gold. Colón did not forget to pack the sticks of cinnamon to trick Martín Pinzón into thinking that it grew in this newly christened "India."

In the end, taking all that was then known about the civilization of the real India and about the Eastern Hemisphere, by sailing to the West from the Canary Islands, what would any reasonable person expect to find first? Japan, that island Marco Polo placed 1,500 miles offshore of China... or at the very minimum China itself. But never India. To accept the India hypothesis, one would need to have ignored what all the facts were as well as having to accept that Japan and China had magically disappeared, leaving only India. In D. Fernando Colón's *Historie* one can locate more information about Colón's fraud:

*They rebuked the Admiral, saying that they should not be called the Indies because they are not Indies. The **truth** is that the Admiral did not call them Indies due to them having already been seen or discovered by any other person... Because these lands were the eastern parts of the **unknown India**, and because they had no particular name, [having never been mapped before] he gave them the name of the nearest country, calling them West Indies, mostly because he **knew how notorious** it was to all, **how rich and famous** was the [true] **India**, through that [manipulation] he wanted to invite [lure] with this name [India] the Catholic Monarchs, who were doubtful of his enterprise... and this was what motivated him to want the backing of the king of Castile more than any other prince.*

The New World was called *India* by the Admiral, not because he accepted or believed that it was the real India, but purely to give Spain a false sense of conquest over what Spain's enemy coveted.

The "unknown India" which "had no name" was utilized by Colón to lure "the Spanish Kings" who, from the beginning, had "doubts" about Colón's proposal, initially describing it as a *burla*: a deception.

The future Admiral did not want to make an agreement with any other Prince, except Queen Isabel, because she was the only monarch in Europe that was a threat to Portugal's Atlantic conquests.

Only Queen Isabel was meddling in the territory of Guinea and attempting to kill the king of Portugal in order to gain access to those territories. However, not all Spaniards were blind to Colón's deception, as mentioned by Fernando Colón. Writing about the reproaches which the Spaniards launched against him and his brother Diego:

*Look at the children of the Admiral of the mosquitoes, the one who has discovered lands of vanity and **deception** to be the graves and misery of the Castilian nobles.*

It was not easy to convince Queen Isabel to sponsor him. After her last refusal, Cristóbal Colón had to leave the court threatening to take his project to the King of France who was another historic enemy of Spain. Why did Colón threaten to go to France? Because Portugal was already Spain's rival in the Atlantic Ocean and France was not yet an Atlantic threat. Furthermore, Portugal and France were allies against Spain.³¹⁸

By saying that he was taking his offer to the King of France, it was a perfect threat because Queen Isabel would then be stuck between two enemy kingdoms that would rival hers in the Atlantic.

This was a masterful bluff, backed by the intervention of Luis de Santangel, who made Queen Isabel reconsider the hazards her kingdom would later face, if Colón succeeded, with one of her enemies, France, controlling India, while Portugal had control of Guinea. Isabel reconsidered her position.

After seven long years, the somewhat mistrusted "Portuguese" finally managed to succeed in the first part: getting acceptance of his plan. The India deception was finally about to begin in August 1492. Admiral Colón managed to implement it so well that it lasted to this day. However, the deception was not easy to execute, as the following quotes show:

Because this witness accompanied the said Admiral don Christoval Colon, soliciting the King and Queen our Lords... at the time that the Admiral was soliciting, they made a mockery of the Admiral and of this witness, saying that they wanted to discover another new world... and he signed with his name, don Bartolomé Colon.³¹⁹

*Seven years spent I in your royal court, that to all those who were told of this enterprise, all at once said it was a deception. Now each says he is the author and declares its wonders, and even tailors beg to be discoverers and are given authorization.*³²⁰

Sending Cristóbal Colón to Spain with promises of taking Queen Isabel's fleet to uncivilized lands at West, even to Japan or to China, would never be a deception crowned with success. The gold, spices, rubies and diamonds were known to be in India. The promise of these riches were more than enough reasons to motivate Isabel to a conquest, it is evident that the plan could only result if those "non-Indian" lands were falsely called "India". Thus, India was the perfect bait.

It is, then, evident that the Admiral named those lands *India* for a special reason, as Fernando Colón declared, and not truly because Colón believed that he had reached India.

Perhaps Colón's own understanding of this truth sheds light on why Colón called himself *High Admiral of the Ocean Sea, Viceroy and Governor of the Islands and the Continent*, in his *Book of Privileges*. He did not call himself *Admiral of the Indian Ocean nor Viceroy and Governor of India*. On the other hand, the Portuguese D. Francisco de Almeida was clearly titled *First Viceroy of India*.

And the author of the *Memorial Portugués* was advising the Spanish Court in 1494 that, "*This India to the West was and is a deception and false representation by your enemy...*"³²¹

Can there still be anyone who thinks, after all this, that the Admiral truly believed that the New World was India?

In this chapter we presented the true knowledge of the lands with which the Admiral was familiar. Showed his continued deception as well as the participation of King João II in Colón's life. We showed evidence of how the truth has been denied, interpreting it as a lie and how the lie came to be established as the truth.

Continuing to look at the Admiral and his arrival in the Americas as a mistake while he sought India is to continue being a pawn in this fraudulent game of 500 years. Colón never tried to take Queen Isabel's ships to the real India. While King João II was alive, Colón worked with him on behalf of the interests of Portugal. Unless one looks at the events from this perspective, one may never come to understand what is the truth and what is the deception.

Again King João II emerges through the murky waters of time as the master pulling the strings in this international fraud. The King, with his loyal knights and trusty spies, managed to carry out an international fraud that continued until today. Certainly in the coming years more evidence will be located in Portugal, perhaps in documents and books of the military orders, who knows, even a record of the payments made to Admiral Colón will be found and, if we are lucky, even his real name will be discovered in the Portuguese archives.

The plan was perfectly executed by the double-dealing Admiral who everyone came to regard as a completely lost and confused peasant. But he was the one who was confusing everyone and the plan worked like a charm.

Who would ever suspect that these two, who the world sometimes described as the "Tyrant King" and the "Lost Admiral" were working hand-in-hand to deceive the world?

CHAPTER 12

A TEAM OF INFILTRATORS

*He complied with everything and gave his account to the said
Most Serene King of Portugal, while I was present.*

DON CRISTÓBAL COLÓN

As Admiral Colón's secret double-agent role for Portugal becomes more and more clear, one must ask, "If the King of Portugal had been so determined to divert Queen Isabel's attention away from its African trade monopoly and away from the future Indian Spice Trade by giving Spain a false India at the west, would King João II trust the execution of such a monumental undertaking to only one 'special friend in Seville' or to a team of agents?"

Knowing full well that with each Portuguese voyage around the Cape of Good Hope it would be impossible for Portugal to keep secret the route to the spices of India, wouldn't it be crucial to keep Spain occupied somewhere else?

If getting Spain off of Portugal's back was of such paramount importance to King João II, would he not send as many secret agents to Seville as possible to help Colón and increase the chances of Cristóbal Colón's success?

João II was not only King of Portugal but was also Master of the Order of the Military Knights of Avis and of the Order of Military Knights of Santiago. In the last 10 years of his short reign, after putting an end to the treasons, João II was effectively Supreme Lord of his domains and that would make him "the King" of this international chess game.

In this chapter, some of the people who are implicated in this plot against Spain, directly and indirectly, as agents of João II will be exposed. Who else would be in Spain working with Cristóbal Colón on this chess game of the Enterprise of India? What resources would João II have employed and how did he utilize his trusted servants and spies in this high stakes mission against Spain?

THE PAWNS

In the book *As Relações Externas de Portugal Nos Finais Da Idade Média* (The Foreign Relations of Portugal at the End of the Middle Ages) a book by Professor Manuela Mendonça (Ediciones Colibrí, Lisboa, 1994), we find a Perestrelo listed as a spy for King João II. What is more surprising, is that this spy Perestrelo, just like Cristóbal Colón, was known by two names, the second being Marcial Barroso.

This Perestrelo was part of a team of secret agents sent by King João II to Italy on a secret mission to meet with Bernardo Bando, Pedro Baldo, Luíz de Veneza, Luis Duke of Milan, and with Barbarigo, Doge of Venice. Judging from the documents, these agents were quite busy but we don't have details of what they were doing.

King João II's letters are intentionally vague but their secret mission was, no doubt, very important and it was not a one-time thing either. Using such agents was a "customary" practice of João II as his letters states:

Persons from our house, to take care of some issues. I ask you to abide, as instructions real, legitimate and unquestionable as if coming from us in person.

Illustrious and generous Doge, to ask for your intervention in matters of our interest... any issue that they have to deal with there, do not fail to give them the usual assistance.

Jerónimo and Marcial will communicate to you on our behalf and in the usual way assist them, which we consider not as a trivial service, but a favor without par.

João II described the help he was receiving through his agents and friends as having unparalleled value, or “incomparable.” There was clearly a lot at stake and dependent on these agents’ success. This proves that João II had a Perestrelo spy at his service and Perestrelo was the family of Cristóbal Colón’s wife.

When one takes a broader look at Colón’s mission to search for India for Spain at a location where he knew India not to be located, what other individuals could be working alongside him in Spain on the same plan and be attributed to King João II’s involvement? Colón’s own words guided us to some of these agents:

*Your Highnesses already know that I spent seven years at your court persisting with you about this. Never in all this time was there found a pilot, or sailor, nor philosopher, nor of any other Sciences, that all did not say that my enterprise was false. That I never found help from anyone except from friar Antonio de Marchena, after that of eternal God.*³²²

Colón declared that Friar Antonio de Marchena was the only soul in Spain who believed in Colón’s twisted plan! Who was this friar Antonio de Marchena, besides being the lone voice supporting Colón’s idea at the court of Queen Isabel? Queen Isabel accepted Marchena as an expert in cosmography, as she wrote to Colón.³²³ However, Marchena appeared to believe in Colón’s unrealistic proposal to find India at a short distance west, in the complete opposite direction from where India was known to be located.

Any expert in astronomy and geography would have serious doubts in placing India 1,000 leagues west of Lisbon, while Ptolemy and others had been placing it at 1,900 leagues east of Lisbon for centuries on end.

However, while Spanish pilots, sailors, philosophers and other scientists agreed that Colón’s project was not feasible, that it was a *burla*, a deception, it is of vital importance that this Portuguese friar sided with Colón and was instrumental in getting the Queen to believe in Colón’s mission.

Why?

Was Marchena truly convinced it was a good idea while the others saw the impossibility? Or was Marchena aiding in Colón’s deception? What was Marchena actually trying to do, as an expert in cosmography, in helping to convince the Queen to sponsor Colón?

After some research, we discovered that indeed this friar was a Portuguese member of the Orden Militar de Nuestra Señora de la Merced (Military Order of Our Lady of Mercy).³²⁴ Was it just a coincidence that friar Marchena was an influential Portuguese, a member of a military order, an expert in cosmography, the only person in Spain who believed in Colón’s unbelievable plan, and was waiting for Admiral Colón at the Friary of La Rábida in Heulva in 1484?

When Cristóbal Colón fled *secretly* from Portugal and went to La Rábida in Spain, there was Friar Antonio de Marchena waiting to meet Colón. It appears that Marchena was in Spain waiting for Colón specifically to help convince Queen Isabel to accept this “false mission.” Did the Portuguese king not send Marchena, one of his subjects, to Spain ahead of time specifically to aid the future Admiral?

Since Colón headed straight to La Rabida and found there waiting for him a Portuguese cosmographer with direct connections to Queen Isabel and the only person who accepted his false theory, was it the greatest stroke of luck? Or was it completely and carefully planned?

In the court case initiated by the Second Admiral, Don Diego Colón, against the Spanish Monarchs, (*Probanzas del Almirante de las Indias* 1512-1515,) we learn that the friar actually worked for Cristóbal Colón. Among the witnesses presented by the Second Admiral was Juan Rodriguez Cabeçudo who testified that:

*He saw the said former Admiral... negotiating to go discover the Indies with a friar of San Francisco that came along with him, and from this witness the said former Admiral demanded to rent a mule on which the said friar could go to the court negotiate and he gave it and the said friar went on that mule to negotiate on behalf of the Admiral.*³²⁵

Furthermore, the chronicles say that when Colón arrived at La Rabida in 1484, he announced that he was coming from the court of “His Highness,” a strange expression to use when referring to the court of Spain. The court of Spain had a queen and a king and was, therefore, the court of “Their Highnesses.” This terminology would be correct if Colón was announcing that he was coming directly from the court of Portugal.

Reading carefully the words of another witness, we have to admit that, not only Colón came to La Rábida with an embassy from the King of Portugal, but that the friar who met him spoke to him in his native language. Antonio de Marchena being one of the friars at La Rábida, and a Portuguese, would not the language of Colón be also Portuguese? García Hernández, a physicist, declared:

D. Cristóbal Colón arriving at La Rábida with his son D. Diego, who is now Admiral, on foot, came to the Rábida which is a monastery of friars in this town, the said demanded at the gates to be given to that toddler, who was a child, bread and water to drink. And being thus there this witness, a monk named Friar Juan Perez, who is now deceased, wanted to talk to the said Don Cristóbal Colón, seeing him with foreign disposition of another kingdom, in his language he asked who he was, and where he was coming from. And that the said Cristóbal Colón told him that he came from the court of His Highness, and wanted to give part of his embassy, and that he had gone to the court and how he was returning. And that the said Cristóbal Colón told to the said Fray Juan Perez, how he had presented a proposal to go discover before His Highness and that he obligated himself to give him the continent, if His Highness would help with ships and the pertaining things necessary for the said journey and that many of the knights and others, who were there for the said evaluation, made light of his words and that his proposal was not accepted, but instead they mocked his reasoning saying that for so long now it was tried and ships sent in search, and that all was a bit of air and that there was no grounds for it. That the said Cristóbal Colón, seeing his rationale lost in so little knowledge of what he offered to do and accomplish, he came from the court and was going right from this village to the town of Huelva to talk with and see his brother-in-law, married to the sister of his wife, who at that time was married, and was named Muliar[te].

Read it again carefully, because Colón had offered to give to **His Highness** the [desired by Portugal] continent [of ‘India’], but it had been so long now that [Portugal] had attempted it and had sent ships to look for it and there was no evidence that [it] exists [at the West].

At that time, Cristóbal Colón could never, in any way be coming from an interview with the Spanish Monarchs and was clearly coming from Portugal, the only place where “*for so long now it was tried and ships sent in search.*” It was, then, from the court of Portugal that he was coming from and it was to a friar of this monastery to whom Colón said he wanted to give *part of his embassy*.³²⁶

D. Diego was a “toddler.” Having been born around 1480 Diego, was about 4 years at the end of 1484, so we think it was at this precise moment, when the Admiral, “*in late 1484, with his child D. Diego, secretly left Portugal*” as said Fernando Colón, came to La Rábida to meet with Marchena.

The words that implicate that Colón’s embassy was coming from the court of Portugal are “*for so long now it was tried and ships sent in search*” because, in Spain, this was not true. In Spain, they had never sent any ships in search of lands. Therefore, the future Admiral went from His Highness, King João II’s court directly to La Rábida with João II’s “embassy.”

How likely would it be for Colón to find a monk to speak with him in his *own language* and who would support his crooked plan? Since the Portuguese speaking Antonio de Marchena was at la Rábida, would not the language they both spoke in be Portuguese?

We should not rule out the possibility that Friar Juan Perez and Friar Antonio de Marchena were the same person, there is confusion regarding the presence of these two people at La Rábida, seeming at times that they are one and the same. It was not unusual for monks to take on other identities, for instance Saint Anthony of Padua was actually born in Lisbon baptized *Fernando Martins de Bulhões* and Jacinto de Sousa became a friar named *Jeronymo de Sousa*, but he was, at the same time, a writer named *Prior Don Tivisco de Nasao Zarco, y Colona* (SEE CHAPTER 15.)

THE KNIGHTS AND THE BISHOP

One of João II's highly influential servants was a knight named Martim da Bohemia (Martim Behaim). Martim was a member of João II's Council of Mathematicians and builder of the famous Nuremberg Globe. The Nuremberg Globe is the oldest globe known and was built under Martim's supervision in Germany during Admiral Colón's First Voyage. It is currently housed in the Germanisches National Museum.

This globe shows the coveted India at a location so close to Europe, to the West, without any land blocking access to it. However, before 1424, the Portuguese already knew that the lands of America were across Portugal to the west, and so did Colón.

Behaim's globe, by ignoring the lands of Antilha, lent credence to the proposal that Admiral Colón was presenting to Spain, that the Atlantic was navigable all the way to India's shores.

Many academics have denied that Martim Behaim was an expert in geography because this globe is so "imaginary" and unrealistic. They have put forth the idea that Martim made himself pass for a scientist when he wasn't, just as they did with Colón, saying Colón made himself pass for a noble, and thus, both fooled everyone.

From their point of view, the peasant Colombo had fooled everyone into thinking he was a nobleman and the ignorant Behaim had fooled others into thinking he was a cosmographer.

Their only proof that Martim Behaim was incompetent is the lack of rigor and unfathomable mistakes contained in this globe. They hold the globe up as their proof that Behaim was unlearned in geography, unskilled in cosmography and incapable of measuring sea and land masses.

Here's what Henry Vignaud wrote one hundred years ago:

Behaim's globe and the so-called Toscanelli map are cartographical documents closely related, inasmuch as they are the expression of the same conception and cosmographical ideas... Columbus and his brother Bartholomew must certainly have known of Behaim's works, for Behaim dwelt in Portugal at the same time as them, took an interest in the same occupations, was, like Columbus in personal relations with the king... Columbus must have been acquainted with the cosmographical ideas of Behaim... Moreover, Behaim shows us the Cape Verde Islands, the Canaries, and, above all, the Azores at so vastly exaggerated a distance from the western shores of the Old World, that one is driven to ask how a man who passed for a learned cosmographer, and who pretended to have made voyages in the Atlantic, could have so set them down. In 1493 the exact bearings of the Atlantic Islands were perfectly well known, particularly by the Portuguese; yet Behaim, who actually lived on Fayal, one of the Azores, [wrongly] places this island at 50 degrees from Lisbon.³²⁷

However, Martim Behaim was a trusted member of King João II's expert council. Was Behaim's globe, instead of factual, an intentional fraud as part of an international plot to support the undertaking of Colón's deception of "India to the west?"

The fraudulent globe, therefore, could have been created as a ruse to deceive the world. In particular, it was important that Spain be fooled into accepting India just a few weeks sailing to the west. By supporting the same idea that Colón was presenting to Queen Isabel, Behaim's globe has to be seen as a part of the same ruse.

It is not probable that Martim's voyages from Lisbon to Faial and from Faial to Lisbon, lasted one week, and that he would then place Faial on the globe at four weeks away from Lisbon. It is not probable that Prince Henry would put Faial at 260 leagues from Portugal already in 1450³²⁸ and forty years later Martim would place the same island at 600 leagues west.

King João II trusted Martim as a cosmographer, which is why he allowed Martim into this council of experts. Is it possible that so famous a cosmographer, as Martim was, would have committed such a serious error as to place the island where he lived in the wrong location? How could Martim, being the island of Faial effectively at a distance of 20° from Lisbon, make such a mistake as to place it in the already known Portuguese *Antilhas* – today's Canada – at a distance of 50° from Lisbon? This is more than twice its actual distance!

It becomes clear that Martim changed the position of the islands, but the Azores are not mobile islands and still remain today at the place that they were discovered over 600 years ago.

Furthermore, Martim moved Marco Polo's provinces, including Cathay and the Great Khan's capital, Cambaluc (near Beijing), all to east to be much closer to Europe. He then placed Cipangu (Japan) and the mainland of Asia only 90 and 120 degrees, respectively, west of the Canary Islands. Another words, they were just a few days sailing from Faial.

If Martim knew where the Azores were located, as did all Portuguese cartographers, why not just leave empty sea beyond those islands instead of moving the island to places he knew they were not located? Moreover, as we saw in Chapter 10, Valentim Fernandes of Moravia and Prince Henry showed that the exact distance between the island of Faial and Lisbon was very well known at that time. How could Martim not know?

What geographic knowledge then, did Martim possess to get involved in creating a globe? Who was he trying to fool?

The year of the creation of this globe, 1492-1493, coincides exactly with the date of Colón's First Voyage. Was it pure coincidence? Was this globe, which shows Cristóbal Colón's theory of Asia next door to Europe yet another false propaganda of King João II against the world in support of the long and arduous work Colón had been entrusted with in Spain?

Martim Behaim's connection with Portugal goes much deeper than the simple fact that he lived on one of the Azores islands. King João II knighted this noble German on February 18, 1486 and made him a Knight of the Military Order of Christ. This was just a little more than one year after Colón had "secretly" left the kingdom to go to sell his fake plan of "India to the West" to Queen Isabel.

Furthermore, Martim was a trusted member of King João II's Council of Mathematicians. We must recognize that King João II had to have very high regard for Martim to knight him and to allow him into his trusted Council of Mathematicians, where all the Portuguese navigational secrets, secret spy missions and high tech knowledge were discussed and shared.

The individual in charge of the Council of Mathematicians was none other than Bishop Diogo Ortiz de Vilhegas Calçadilha, mentioned by both Las Casas and Fernando Colón, also an expert in cosmography. Could Martim have lied about his knowledge of cosmography and geography to the point of fooling the experts of the Council of Mathematicians and even fooling King João II? Could a king, whom Jerónimo Münzer (Hieronymus Monetarius) described as a "thorough investigator" of all things, be so easily fooled by Martim? Not likely.

The King of Portugal was the wisest and most knowledgeable of all kings in regards to Atlantic navigation and geography and would not have consented, nor tolerated, incompetency in his council of scholars. Martim was not only tolerated by the king and the other members of the Council of Mathematicians, but, around 1488, Martim was given the hand in marriage of Joanna de Macedo, daughter of Josse van Hurter, Captain of the islands of Faial and Pico, in the Azores.

Thus, Martim Behaim must have been an exceptional and valuable expert for the king. Otherwise, he would not have made it into the Portuguese Council of Mathematicians. All these facts, especially the fact that the Council of Mathematicians was involved in training spies and preparing secret spy missions for the king, make Martim Behaim a member of the innermost circle of João II and a knight militant, with the vow of obedience to a Portuguese military order.

Martim's actions should be suspect because he has the king of Portugal and the Order of Christ behind him pulling the strings. João II trusted and respected Martim Behaim and frequently sent him to the area of Guinea to conduct experiments, take measurements of the Sun, as well as utilizing Martim's wisdom to improve and modify navigational instruments.

We not only refuse to accept the widespread belief that Martim Behaim was incompetent but refute it. If Martim, while working closely with Duarte Pacheco Pereira and the other council members, could not figure out how to tell the size of the globe and also, for more than ten years of being in the Council of Mathematicians, neither the king nor any other member noticed his supposed in-

eptitude, one must truly question the competency of the whole group of scientists, which is absurd and unrealistic. The only logical option is to accept that Martim was highly competent and question why his globe is so incorrect.

We realized that Martim was preparing something much more ominous with this globe, and did a bit of investigating into his life. We discovered that, about the time of the manufacture of the globe, he had left Portugal for Flanders on a secret mission that King João II had entrusted to him. Martim wrote this in a letter to his cousin. What secret mission was this?

The globe was constructed at that time. Was not Martim's secret mission for the king of Portugal to supervise the creation of such a fraud as a globe showing India to the west, without the already known *Antilhas*, and almost within walking distance of Europe, exactly the same version that Admiral Colón was publicizing in Spain?

Why did a knight of the Order of Christ who, like Colón, worked closely with João II, the Council, and Calçadilla in secret matters of geography and navigation, have to go all the way to Germany to build a globe? Were the construction materials not available in Portugal? Did Martim not perceive the insurmountable problems he would have with King João II's wrath once he returned to Portugal: facing João II's sentence of death for publicly exposing Portuguese navigational secrets to foreigners on a globe?

But Martim was not put to death upon his return, he died much later in the German Hospice of St. Bartolomeu, in Lisbon on July 29, 1507. Regarding his secret mission for the King of Portugal, Martim gives no other details on the letter he wrote to his cousin Michael. However, it is enough to prove that Martim Behaim was another secret agent of João II, a confidential agent who was entrusted with highly sensitive missions and that during one such mission he built this false globe that one can still view today.

Martim's globe should not be viewed as representing what the Portuguese scientists knew but, instead, as presenting to the other kingdoms that which King João II wanted them to believe their world to be. A world where India was moved half way around the globe and within reach of Spain's ships.

King João II had many secret contacts and subjects willing to do what he wanted, not only in Portugal but also in other European countries and in Africa. Therefore, we should not think it odd to have this deceptive globe fabricated in one of those friendly kingdoms, especially in part of the kingdom of his cousin Maximilian I, with whom João II had just finished implementing a treaty of mutual protection against Spain.

Yet another person involved in João II's secret plan came from Nuremberg, sent by Maximilian I.

João II, in collusion with his cousin, King Maximilian I of Germany, turned to a wise agent for an intelligence-gathering journey through Spain and to bring that information to the king of Portugal. This secret agent was then sent back to Spain to make a proposal to the Spanish Monarchs, which was the same plan orchestrated by João II that Cristóbal Colón had already proposed: forcing the Spanish Monarchs to take up the reconquest of Jerusalem, (SEE APPENDIX.) The man chosen for such a delicate mission was Jerónimo Munzer (Hieronymus Münzer.)

The same way that Martim Behaim and Cristóbal Colón were seen as incompetent, it was long accepted by scholars that Munzer was "someone so out of touch with reality" that in July of 1493, he had no idea that the New World had already been discovered by Colón, who had returned with the news of "India" in March of that year.

It so happens that in that same March 1493, Pietro Parenti had already announced Cristóbal Colón's discovery in his *Chronicle*.³²⁹ This could only have happened if Pietro Parenti had received the news first hand from João II or Colón seeing that Colón's letter to Luis de Santangel was only printed in Barcelona on April 1493 by the typographer Pedro Posa.³³⁰ Who else would send the information to Pietro Parenti?

After Barcelona, Colón's letter was printed in Rome, April 29, then in Florence on June 15, before it spread to other parts of the world. The time elapsed between the time that Luis de Santangel receives Colón's letter and the time it gets printed by Pedro Posa can only have been about two weeks, but it was still too late for Pietro Parenti to introduce it into his March *Chronicle* meaning that Parenti had to have received it from another source. The only explanation is that several copies of the letter were sent out from Lisbon with the intentional intent of publicizing the discovery.

With all these news of Colón's "discovery" on everyone's lips, how could Munzer, on July 14, 1493, write a letter to João II proposing a journey across the Atlantic to "India" over the same route that Colón had just returned from a few months earlier, unless it was another intentional deception?

Once we learn that the "right person" Munzer was proposing for this great adventure to India was none other than the aforementioned Martim Behaim, João II's secret agent and Templar Knight of the Order of Christ, it leaves no doubt of the collusion. Munzer wrote, not only as if he had never heard of Colón's voyage, but also as if João II had never heard of this Martim Behaim. Behaim had been knighted by João II, was married in Portugal and had already been living in Portugal for at least ten years, yet Munzer acts as if Behaim is a total stranger to King João II, as he declares:

Maximilian, [João II's ally against Spain] invincible King of Romans, wants to invite Your Majesty to seek the eastern land of Cathay, very rich... And you will also have, if you please, for this voyage as a partner, sent by our King Maximilian, Mr. Martin de Bohemia, exclusively to accomplish this feat.

It is impossible that all the propaganda made worldwide of Colón's triumphant return, which began four months earlier, would have gone unnoticed by Munzer, a learned man who, in 1479, received his Ph.D. from the University of Pavia, unless Munzer was living as a hermit in a cave. And besides, how could King Maximilian propose to send Martim to Portugal when Martim was already living there as a Knight of the Order of Christ, working with the João II's Council and married there with a child?

After this, King Maximilian sent the same Jerónimo Munzer on a secret mission into Spain before he met up with King João II. This is a complex plot, because João II was using the agent Munzer, who was under his cousin Maximilian I's control and not under his direct control. The authors of the book *Viaje por España y Portugal* (Journey through Spain and Portugal,) about Munzer's expedition, seem to reach the same conclusion of the secret agent, but failed to see the hand of King João II pulling the strings:

We have grounds to speculate about the true reason for Munzer's trip to the Peninsula, considering with good logic that it may well have been a secret embassy sent by Maximilian with a dual mission: find out all that he could about the results of the first Colombian voyages and gather information on what intentions the Spanish court was hatching, while at the same time, explore the possibilities of a cooperation agreement with Portugal in the overseas enterprise.³³¹

Munzer traveled through many towns of Spain, meeting with numerous of its learned men and taking notes, including friar Bernardo Boil, about whom he wrote:

*The Aragonite Fray Bernardo Boil, who was sent to the Indies as a true discoverer. His intimate treatment in Madrid served me well **before the king**, and he talked a lot about those islands.*

Looking at Munzer's words we can see what looks like a slip of Munzer's pen, when he writes that Boil's help served him well "**before the king!**" Exactly which king? Maximilian or João II? Munzer, after all, did not meet alone with king Fernando of Spain. Fray Bernardo Boil must be the same *Friar Bernal Bnyl* that is linked to Portugal, who was one of the first vicars Portugal later sent to the real India.

After gathering a mass of information in Spain, Munzer goes to the city of Évora, in Portugal, where King João II was waiting with the court. João II wasted no time in meeting with Munzer, immediately seating him at the king's table.

In contrast to João II's warm approach, Munzer received a cold reception from the Spanish Monarchs, who may have wisely suspected Munzer's true motives for being there. While João II wasted no time in greeting Munzer as soon as he reached Évora, Munzer had to wait six days, from 18 to 24 January, to get his audience with Isabel and Fernando in Spain. There, Munzer had to kneel through-

out his whole presentation to the Spanish Monarchs and as soon as his presentation to Isabel and Fernando was over, Munzer and his entourage left the city.

Apparently, Munzer waited for six days merely to make this speech to the Spanish Monarchs, which lasted a few minutes. What was Munzer's speech? It was that Spain should take up the *reconquest of Jerusalem*, a proposal that only served to further the interests of João II of Portugal, as it pertained to his enemy next door.

However, before going back to make that speech in Spain, Munzer had extensive audiences and conversations with the king of Portugal, from November 17 to 25, in Évora, eating and rubbing elbows with João II, who Munzer said was:

Extremely friendly and a thorough researcher into all matters, listens carefully to all those who come to him, boasting of his military science, maritime science and others. And he orders that demonstrations and tests be made, if the results are true and capable, he gives them the means for their enterprises... The king gave us letters of passage for the border and of recommendation for Lisbon, with the instructions that they show us all. He seated me four times at his table and talked to me about many issues, always being very deferential. He knighted my companion, Don Antonio Herwart, of Augsburg, publicly on the eve of St. Catherine, in her chapel, as a Knight of the Golden Spur, giving him the sword, golden scabbard, spurs and helmet. And as we said goodbye to him, on the day of St. Catherine, after dinner in the palace, he gave me a hug. We saw some of the bamboo that sea storms from the west toss onto the islands of Madeira and Fayal... and a world map very well drawn on a large golden table, whose diameter was fourteen spans [palmos]... the eve of San Andrés, by order of the King, they took us to his [Casa da] Mina, which is a large building in the port, where are stored and guarded the large quantities of mercantile goods... We also saw a large factory with many furnaces, where are produced anchors, spikes, etc., and everything else connected with seafaring. Everyone that he had there working, were so blackened by their furnaces, that one could believe them to be Cyclops in Vulcan's cave. Finally, we saw, inside four huge buildings, his large and beautiful pikes, which were without number, also darts, shields, armor, mortars, rifles, bows, spears, and all excellently produced and in the greatest abundance. Without mentioning all of other armaments that are scattered all over the sea in his ships.

The declarations in Munzer itinerary show clearly the level of confidence that the king of Portugal entrusted in him. Despite the fact that Portugal's king had given express orders that all foreigners found south of the Canaries be killed or thrown overboard, so that there was no possibility that they would reveal Portugal's secrets of navigation and trade to the rest of the world, to Munzer he orders everything to be shown.

It is incredible how many Portuguese secrets were put in front of the eyes of this foreigner!

He was let into the secret world of the navigational projects in Portugal. He was shown the trade warehouse, the manufacturing plants, the bamboo from distant lands and, more importantly, he was taken to the command center of operations, where the great secret map of the world measuring 10 feet in diameter was kept.

The same way that King João II revealed his critical secrets to the future Admiral Cristóbal Colón, the secrets would not be revealed to Munzer unless he, like Colón, had the full confidence of the King of Portugal.

Given the level of trust that João II awarded Munzer, and if we look at the (propaganda) letter Munzer sent to João II about Martim Behaim, along with his subsequent speech to the Spanish Monarchs, it is impossible not to accept that Munzer was working as an agent of the King of Portugal. Munzer was helping press João II's plans upon Spain in order to help King João II succeed in his secret plans for Portugal.

Munzer's letter of July 14, 1493, was intended, undoubtedly, to be read at the Portuguese court so that Spanish spies would transmit its contents to the Spanish Monarchs and, thus, put even more pressure on Spain to accept Colón's recently visited India and feel an urgent need to protect it.

In March of 1493, King João II had already bluffed that he would send a fleet to take possession of Colón's "new" lands. Martim Behaim's proposed voyage was another bluff. Behaim's voyage was a direct threat against the route Colón had just returned from, proposed this time by a German, but secretly on João II's behalf.

This slew of false propaganda created and dispersed by Portugal to present America as India, appears to have been prepared in three phases: before, during, and after.

- **Before leaving on his voyage**, Cristóbal Colón presented Toscanelli's theory of a short sea route to India via West and a proposed small earthly globe of only 56 2/3 miles per equatorial degree.
- **During Cristóbal Colón's first voyage**, Martim Behaim, on a secret mission to Germany, builds his false globe, showing Toscanelli's theory of Asia close to the west across from Portugal, thus directly supporting Colón's proposal of India at the west.
- **After Colón returns successfully**, Munzer, in his letter of 1493 to João II, basically proposes what ends up being Toscanelli's theory, already proven by Colón's voyage and by Martim's globe, re-emphasizing the idea of India to the west.

However, nobody outside the King of Portugal's "inner circle," which included Colón and Behaim, seems to have heard of Toscanelli's theory of India. Should we consider it all a coincidence? Or does the Toscanelli letter require more consideration from us?

Could the Toscanelli letters be nothing more than an invented part of the deception perpetrated by João II and Colón against Spain?

Paolo Del Pozzo Toscanelli was a scientist who lived in Florence under the Medici rule. The Medici were in close collaboration with the Kings of Portugal and were visited by King João II's unstoppable spy, Pêro da Covilhã, along with his companion spy, Afonso de Paiva, in 1487, on their way to spy the ports in India. Easy as it may be to think that Paolo Del Pozzo Toscanelli may have, as a favor of the king of Portugal, invented a convincing letter and map destined to be shown to the Spanish Monarchs in a well-orchestrated theatrical scene by the actor whose stage name was Cristóbal Colón, it is unlikely.

Toscanelli was already dead by the end of 1482 and for João II to put all this into play long before the 1483-1484 Portuguese treasons that Queen Isabel supported, would be too much foresight on the part of the cunning João II.

We know that Toscanelli's letter appeared, since it is written in Colón's own notes, therefore the question is who truly wrote it and why?

This letter is a very peculiar document that has been difficult to explain. Many authors have described it as a fraud invented by Colón, while others accepted it as truly coming from Toscanelli to Colón. However, Fernando Colón writes that his father received the letter via "Lorenzo Birardi, Florentine," who was living in Portugal. Note that this Lorenzo Birardi was connected to Portugal and we will see below that he was also not some random unknown Florentine. Most of the individuals supporting Cristóbal Colón in Seville were important subjects of the court of the King of Portugal.

Another historian, Henry Vignaud, doubted the authenticity of the Toscanelli letters:

*Consequently, it is much easier to demonstrate why we should doubt the authenticity of the correspondence with Martins, Toscanelli and Columbus to find the reasons for [it] and the authors of the suspected fraud. Regarding the forger, we saw that the signs are that that person was Bartholomew [Colón].*³³²

Most, or all Toscanelli letters must be fraudulent. It is possible that there was one original letter sent by Toscanelli in 1474 to the king of Portugal. This would have been sent to a *Ferdinando martini canonico vlixiponensi* (Fernando Martins canon of Lisbon) at the request of João II expounding on subjects of geography and navigation. That letter would later, in the year 1484, be copied from the João II's own archives and plagiarized by the conspirators of the Council of Mathematicians, along with a fraudulent map, to serve as decoy props used by Colón in Portugal's deception against Spain.

Only this scenario makes sense because, if Toscanelli's 1474 letter were in João II's guarded files, as was the case with all his other communications, how would such a letter end up leaving João II's possession and end up in Colón's hands?

Furthermore, it would be useless for the future Admiral to ask Toscanelli to send him a copy of the same letter of 1474, if Colón already had that very letter in his hands. Nor could Colón, as historians insist, ever go in front of King João II to propose sailing across the Atlantic to India as his own idea, since both Colón and King João II knew very well that it was Toscanelli's idea.

The Toscanelli letter, like Munzer's letter in 1493 and Martim Behaim's false globe of 1492, must all be seen as part of the planned decoys invented by King João II, Diego Ortiz Calçadilla and the members of the king's Council of Mathematicians for Colón to have an absolute guarantee of convincing Spain that America was the real India.

The Toscanelli letters would be useful propaganda in convincing Spain to take a chance on Colón's proposal. The pseudo-Toscanelli appears to play the role of salesman of India to a reticent Colón. Yet Colón was actually biting at the bit to sail west continuously insisting with the Spanish to sponsor him. Is it not more likely that this pseudo-Toscanelli was writing to sell the idea to a reluctant Queen Isabel of Spain? Consider this as the only reasonable option.

Since Toscanelli died in 1482, Colón could only have written and received a response before 1482. Even if we accept that the future Admiral had access to the secret information without the king of Portugal and his men knowing about it, there are two very remarkable questions that arise:

First, Colón could not go in front of João II wielding a letter and an idea that had already been rejected in 1474 by João II and his wise men of the court of Portugal.

Second, Colón could never have approached João II and the Council in 1484, proposing the idea of sailing westward to India and make it out as his own idea, since Colón, João II and Calçadilha all knew that Toscanelli had presented it ten years earlier.

This scenario would be equivalent to seeing the Tower of Pisa and then propose the construction of another alike, saying it was a brand new idea. When it had already been done and, even worse, it was done badly. But Colón, as a secret agent for João II, having such a letter in his possession, would be valuable for him to show the Spanish, less versed in the Atlantic, and help convince them to approve his persistent proposal.

This letter must be accepted, in the way Colón used it, as having been copied directly from the João II's archives with the help of the king himself. Many have discussed this letter, which Harisse discovered written in the copy of the 1477 edition of *Historia Rerum Ubique Gestarum* de Aeneas Sylvius (Pope Pius II), a book belonging to the Admiral.

Following the accepted theory, there must be at least seven original letters:

- 1 – Letter from Fernando Martins, the canon of Afonso V, to Toscanelli, prior to June of 1474, prompting him to expound his idea for a westward sea route to India.
- 2 – Toscanelli's letter of response along with a map to Fernando Martins, June 25, 1474.
- 3 – Colón's first letter to Toscanelli, requesting his explanation of the theory of 1474.
- 4 – Toscanelli's copy of 1474 used by him to copy Fernando Martins's letter and send it to Colón.
- 5 – Copy of first 1474 letter and map that Colón supposedly received from Toscanelli.
- 6 – Second letter and other items sent by Colón to Toscanelli, asking for further explanations (curiously, Colón supposedly sent the wise man supplementary items to clarify the Toscanelli theory, rather the opposite occurring: Toscanelli sending him the items.)
- 7 – Finally, the final Toscanelli letter and map, responding to Colón's second request, before Toscanelli dies in 1482.

None of these letters was ever found. All we have is a Latin text, copied into the last pages of a book Colón owned and not even is his normal handwriting. If Colón had the original letter from Toscanelli, then would he need to tediously copy that letter? Does it not make more sense that the copy was made from a letter that was never his, a letter that was kept in the archives of the King of Portugal?

Furthermore, the phrases in which Toscanelli inferred to Colón as a Portuguese and mentioned the earlier letters are not part of the copied text (SEE APPENDIX). Only Fernando Colón and Las Casas include these when they cite Toscanelli as saying:

I am not surprised that you, who are of brave heart, and the whole Portuguese nation, who have always been generous men in all great enterprises, observe your heart ablaze with a great desire to put in practice the said voyage.

After analyzing this dilemma, the following appears to be a credible scenario: there was a single Toscanelli letter sent in 1474 at the request of João II, who was then already in charge of the Portuguese Discoveries. This letter was copied for Colón with the blessing of João II with the Council and Calçadilha, and embellished with the riches of India. This copy, along with another letter invented and attributed to Toscanelli were mere props for Colón to use in enticing the Spaniards.

Regardless of how one sees the letter, if authentic, it only serves to show that the original idea of seeking India to the West never was Cristobal Colón's idea. Thus, Colón never could have made the same proposal to João II and the Council who already had in their possession the 1474 letter. Obviously the idea could never be presented as his and therefore Colón lied to Spain by saying that "his idea had been rejected by the king of Portugal."

However, if the Toscanelli letter is false, as suspected, then the Portuguese court cleverly conceived it in order to help deceive the court of Spain into sponsoring Colón's charade. Since Toscanelli was dead, who could contradict the letters?

Here's what Henry Vignaud wrote one hundred years ago:

Behaim's globe and the so-called Toscanelli map are cartographical documents closely related... excellent reasons exist for alleging that these documents are apocryphal. If the map of the pseudo-Toscanelli and the globe of Behaim are not different expressions of the same conception, if one of these documents contains information directly borrowed from the other, as Peschel, Ruge, and Wagner think, the borrower cannot have been Behaim; it was the author of the [Toscanelli] forgeries.³³³

Vignaud, unaware of the plot that was being perpetrated by João II against Spain, could not link the forgeries to the throne of Portugal. The true link must be the Council of Mathematicians of the king of Portugal, where Behaim was an integral member, and their secret plans of deception.

How else do we explain why all of them shared the same obscure "Toscanelli theory" which Colón used to deceive the world? Due to the fact that very few knew that Calçadilha and Behaim worked together, and that the Council was involved in the planning of Pêro da Covilhã's 1487 secret spy mission to the real India, as well as the fact that Colón was in contact with this Council of Mathematicians before moving to Spain, the connections had been overlooked.

It is apparent that João II had put all available resources into operation against his enemies Isabel and Fernando. It was all done to convince them that Colón had sailed to the real India and to make Spain feel the need to protect that navigational route from Portugal's interference.

The approach was a classic bait and hook. Colón had to present to Spain bait that was enticing enough to divert Queen Isabel's attention from Guinea and the real India. Meanwhile, João II would provide the well secured hook (the Treaty of Tordesillas) that would bar Spain from going anywhere near the African and Indian commerce. It worked flawlessly because it took years of careful preparation and because nothing was left to chance:

- João II's spies Pêro da Covilhã and Afonso de Paiva, well prepared by the Council were sent to the Middle East and Asia in 1487 to gather information about the real India.
- Bartolomeu Dias was sent to open the way to the Indian Ocean around Africa.
- A new treaty was forged with João II's cousin, Maximilian I, Master of the Order of the Golden Fleece, against Spain.
- The ancient treaty with England was reaffirmed between João II and Henry VII, who brought João II into the Order of the Garter where Henry VII was Master and who was a Knight of the Golden Fleece alongside Maximilian I.

- A new treaty with Charles VIII or France was also signed; France had always been an enemy of Aragon a major kingdom of the now united Spain and thus the wagons were circled against Queen Isabel and King Fernando.
- Upon his return to Lisbon, the now Admiral Colón sent his letter announcing to the world that India was only 1,000 leagues to the west.
- A member of the Order of Christ, Martim Behaim, in collusion with João II, had built a false globe to support Colón's fantastic claims.
- Maximilian I had his subject, Jerónimo Munzer, send a letter of propaganda dated July 14, 1493, in which Martim Behaim is indicated as the man to seek the fabulous India to the west.
- A few months later, Maximilian sends Munzer to spy in Spain and bring the gathered intelligence to King João II in Portugal.
- The Portuguese friar, Antonio de Marchena, an expert cosmographer, working at the Spanish court, lauded and supported Colón's claims and expertise, to ensure the success of the secret mission.

When everything looked like it was falling apart, because the Spanish Monarchs were more interested in conquering Granada than India, João II sent to Spain his own battalions and even sent gunpowder, which Spain desperately needed, and which served to ensure the fall of Granada in late 1491. With the fall of Granada, Queen Isabel had no more excuses for denying the antagonistic Colón, who fought alongside the Spanish at Granada.

King João II continues to be the single link that ties it all together. He needed to protect his head from the traitors, his crown, and his monopoly over the Atlantic commerce and the sea route to the real India. With tremendous persistence and cunning, João II succeeded in diverting Spain's attention far to the west and away from his own interests.

The vague and ambiguous clauses of the 1479 Treaty of Alcáçovas had left Queen Isabel enough maneuvering space, not only to continue plundering in Portugal's controlled territories with impunity, but also to sail to India, if Isabel so chose, without any hindrance because there was no solid line of exclusion for the Spanish ships in the treaty.

Once King João II's sailors opened the sea route to India, he could not protect that trade route from Spain without having a new treaty in force. He needed a treaty with a new rigorously measured line at the distance that João II wanted: 370 leagues west of the westernmost Cape Verde Island.

The only way that Portugal could force Spain to enter into a new treaty was to give Spain new lands that Spain felt a great need to protect. To achieve this objective, João II and the Council devised an elaborate plan of India to the West. Once the trap was ready it was quickly sprung utilizing all resources. João II had carefully prepared the ground and made sure that in his network of spies were members of Queen Isabel and King Fernando's council involved in the secret negotiations over the treaty.

These agents, strategically placed next to the throne of Spain, were so loyal to João II and had such confidence with Queen Isabel that all that was secretly discussed amongst Isabel and Fernando's Council, regarding the new Treaty of Tordesillas, was immediately related to João II within a matter of hours.

The importance of this treaty to Portugal demanded that João II control everything and leave nothing to chance. Garcia de Resende, the king's personal assistant, who knew more than most since for him "there were no doors," explains how João II was driving the whole treaty negotiations:

While the said Ruy de Sousa, D. Ioam, and Ayres Dalmada, ambassadors were in those negotiations, and others of great importance, many times through horse relays that the king had, they received letters in which [João II] would tell them, "On this day you will be told by the King and Queen such and such, to which you shall reply such and such" and arriving that day they [Isabel and Fernando] would say it to them without missing a word from which the ambassadors were very surprised, and so were the King and Queen, because the ambassadors would reply unexpectedly improvising without writing to the King.

*So many partisans had he in the council of the King and Queen of Spain, that everything was revealed to him before being done, and he had such a way that to the Duke del Infantado, and other Spanish lords he would send presents, and public grants, so that the Kings of Spain suspect them and not trust them, because they were not his secret agents, and to those whom he trusted greatly he sent gifts so large and so secret, that all the information was sent to him first before anything was done.*³³⁴

Who, after reading this passage can continue believing that João II was merely a king who swayed in the waves of the events, rather than the one who was stirring the waters? Should we not accept as another of João II's double agents the same Doctor Rodrigo Maldonado, high level Spaniard involved in negotiating the Treaty of Tordesillas for Spain?

In fact, since 1483 King João II had been paying "*Dr. Rodrigo Maldonado magistrate for the royal audience and Council of the King and Queen of Spain... that he receive from us a pension every year... for as long as we wish.*"³³⁵

Why would João II of Portugal be paying the Spanish magistrate Rodrigo Maldonado an annuity unless João II was certain to be receiving a great service from Maldonado in return?

Obviously we will never get a list of all João II's secret agents because, by nature, their names are part of the secrets he took to his grave. Although João II always carried with him a book with the names of all his secret agents and connections, João II's well-guarded book disappeared after the king's death never to be seen.

King João II did not leave any room for failure.

If the Spaniards believed that Cristóbal Colón had visited the real India, it was not because Colón singlehandedly convinced the world of this "deception." It was, instead, because King João II pulled the strings of all his agents, many involved in parallel secret missions, and by doing so, João II helped the world to believe in Colón's lies because they were Portugal's lies.

Analyzing all the characters that surrounded Cristóbal Colón in Spain, their obvious links to Portugal are discovered. It cannot be mere coincidence that all these people moved from Portugal to Seville specifically to go to work with Admiral Colón. The king of Portugal must have sent them there, especially since many of them were dealing directly with João II.

Consuelo Varela writes in *Colón y los florentinos* that, "*the first feature that unites them all, except Berardi, is that they arrived in Seville after Colón and even the arrival of Juanoto Berardi [late 1484] to Andalusia coincides with the arrival of Colón to la Rabida*" and furthermore, "*all of them united and the axis Lisbon-Seville [not Seville-Genoa] remains the thread that connected all of them.*"³³⁶

Varela admits the connecting axis was Lisbon-Seville. Now, who was in Lisbon and who was in Seville? The king of Portugal was in Lisbon and his "*special friend*" Colón was in Seville working with all of them.

Consuelo Varela further wrote that Colón's right arm in all this, friar Gaspar Gorricio, had moved to Seville before 1490. Varela also suspects the special situation that Vespucci was in, when she asks: "*Why did Colón never reproach the Florentine [Vespucci] on his expeditions under Portuguese flag?*"³³⁷

One must always take into account the time interval of 1484-1506, and consider that any person appearing in Spain between those dates, coming from Portugal and seeking to enter into contact with Cristóbal Colón, must have been related to Colón's secret mission. It is evident that Colón's supporting cast was sent from Lisbon to Seville to ensure that the mission did not fail. But why would João II send Italians rather than Portuguese to support Colón? The answer is obvious. The Portuguese were mistrusted in Spain and in the New World, as evidenced by a letter sent by the Spanish Monarchs "*the same way send [back] a Portuguese who is there... because they don't desire that foreigners be there, and even less Portuguese than others, and in any case send back the Portuguese.*"³³⁸

Any Portuguese citizen who moved to Seville following and helping Cristóbal Colón would be suspected of working for king João II and would be regarded with suspicion, thus bringing more suspicion upon Colón's deception.

These suspicions could risk the whole deception that Colón was responsible for. By contrast, the Italians who moved to Seville were seen as independents and not as being under the Portuguese king's influence.

Does this not show the work of King João II as a Machiavellian genius?

Consuelo Varela pointed out those individuals well-known for their ties to Cristóbal Colón, what everyone missed was the fact that they were also connected to Portugal and to King João II.

Below are listed many of those working with Cristóbal Colón in Spain while at the same time maintaining close ties with King João II in Portugal. The list of pawns in Portugal's chess board game against Spain, helps to put it all into a better perspective:

LORENZO DI BERARDI (LORENZO BERARDO): In 1473 Lorenzo had obtained from king Afonso V of Portugal an important privilege that significantly increased his business opportunities... in Lisbon he was very well established in the coral fishery and African [Guinea] trade in general, he occupied a position of significance in Portugal. Precisely who they say gave Colón the Toscanelli letter was, as Las Casas and Fernando Colón tell us, this Lorenzo Berardi... Lorenzo is none other than the father of Juanoto Berardi, Colón's servant in Seville.

GIANNETTO DI BERARDI (JUANOTO BERARDO): Colón's agent already mentioned in an earlier chapter, was the son of the abovementioned Lorenzo Berardo. His presence is documented for the first time in Spain in 1485 in the Registro General del Sello del Archivo General de Simancas... as a slave trader with close ties to his father's partner in Lisbon, Bartolomé Marchioni, listed below. July 16, 1486 Juanoto received a letter of safe-conduct from Queen Isabel, which was renewed on April 6, 1490. *When in late 1493 or early 1494, Bartolomé Colón, hurries from the court of France and comes to Spain, where he had been called urgently by his brother, it is with Berardi [whose father is a privileged merchant in Portugal] that Bartolomé Colón enters in contact.* Juanoto Berardi wrote on his deathbed in 1495, that he was Colón's servant. "Berardi was involved in the provisioning of all fleets that were sent to the Indies as an agent of Don Cristóbal... on behalf of the Admiral of the said islands because he has a power of attorney to do so." But Juanoto Berardi was also the factor of King João II of Portugal in Seville, in charge of collecting the fifth part from all the ships that, with João II's license, sailed to Guinea. Therefore, Juanoto Berardi, at the same time that he is employed as Colón's servant, he was also employed by King João II.

BARTOLOMÉ MARCHIONI: was the privileged business partner of Lorenzo Berardo in Portugal and the manager of King João II's Casa dos Escravos de Lisboa. This is the same Bartolomeu Marchioni "Florentine" that financed João II's espionage mission of Pêro da Covilhã to India in 1487. Since 1486, through the doings of Bartolomé Marchioni and coming without any doubt from Portugal, the Berardi brothers appear in Seville, the first with intentions of staying, who were accompanied by a series of "servants" also coming from Lisbon.

LUÍS DE ORIA (LODISIO D'ORIA): cited by Antonio de Aspa as Colón's banker in Cadiz, was born in Genoa, but as a privileged servant of the crown of Portugal, had made his home in Madeira since 1480, where he had sugar factories. He paid 500,000 maravedís towards the voyage of 1492. His grandson, Luis de Oria Velloso, was a Knight of the Portuguese Order of Christ.

FRANCISCO DE BARDI: "Thus we discover that Francisco de Bardi has businesses in the islands of the Azores, like the Verdes also do." Francisco de Bardi was still in Lisbon on July 1, 1504 and married Colón's sister-in-law, Briolanja/Violante Moniz, daughter of Bartolomeu Perestrelo, after Admiral Colón had killed her first husband, Miguel Moliarte, for wanting to expose the truth to the Spanish Monarchs. In December 1505, Colón gave powers to this Francisco de Bardi to receive all the gold,

jewels and other valuables that were sent from the Indies. Francisco de Bardi was sent from Lisbon and not from Italy to succeed Berardo and Vespucci in this position.

SIMÓN VERDE: he also moved from Lisbon to Gelves, but maintained a home in Seville next to the others. As Executor of D. Diego Colón's Testament, he said that he was a resident of Seville. [Gelves was the domain D. Jorge de Portugal (Braganza), the Count of Gelves and husband of Isabel Colón, granddaughter of Cristóbal Colón]. Verde was a close friend of Cristóbal Colón and of Gaspar Gorricio. Verde was the person responsible for maintaining Gaspar Gorricio's documents while Gorricio traveled to the court.

GERARDO VERDE: Simón's brother sailed from Cadiz in 1500 to Lisbon to meet there with Bartolomeu Marchioni and Vespucci. Embarked on the expedition to the New World financed by Marchioni, the same one as Vespucci. His boat was halted by contrary winds and forced back to Portugal.

ANDRÉ/ANDREA (COLÓN?): this mysterious relative of Cristóbal Colón also came to Spain from parts unknown and in 1532 sailed with the Portuguese from Lisbon to Calicut (India) on 17 March. André was at the side of the Admiral's deathbed and the day before had signed as a witness to Colón's Testament, but always carefully leaving out his last name. This shows how carefully this family tried to hide their identities "*and Juan d'Espinosa and Andrea and Fernando de Vargas.*" The family member André was the only one with no surname. At Estreito da Calheta in Madeira lived a Polish nobleman named André de França, who moved there around 1450, (SEE CHAPTER 17). Was this André de França, or a son of his, the illusive relative standing by Colón's deathbed?

JUAN ANTONIO (COLÓN?): Said to be another relative of the Admiral. He captained ships to the New World and is shown in later writings as Juan Antonio "Colombo." However, this surname is obviously not correct since the Admiral's family was always known as Colón not Colombo. Juan Antonio is listed in 1508 as servant to Cristóbal Colón's brother, Diego Colón and as Chamberlain of the Second Admiral in 1513 when Juan Antonio deposited Admiral Colón's body in Las Cuevas.³³⁹ After the Second Admiral died, he must have become servant to Fernando Colón, in whose Testament is named his dead servant, *Juan Antonio from Fontenoy-le-Château in Lorraine, France*, (SEE CHAPTER 17).

FRANCESCO CARDUCHI: Another *Florentine established in the Court who came from Portugal to start working in Spain in 1490.*

AMERICO VESPUCIO: sailed for Portugal in 1500 as an official of Colón. Already in 1495 he was Colón's agent working alongside Juanoto Berardo, Diego de Ocaña and Jerome Rufaldi. Between November 1491 and February 1492, "Vespucci joined Giannetto di Lorenzo Berardi in Seville." Despite the distrust of Portugal in relation to foreigners taking part in voyages of discovery, Vespucci took part in the Portuguese voyages. Vespucci worked for Colón while sailing with the Portuguese fleet. In 1480, Vespucci was in Paris as secretary to his uncle, the Florentine ambassador Guido Antonio Vespucci, at the court of Louis XI, whose daughter was Anne de Beaujeu, wife of Pedro de Borbón. Anne de Beaujeu was the same *Madama de Borbón*, Regent of France, hostess of Bartolomé Colón, 1488(?) until 1493. Vespucci arrived in Seville around 1489, sent by Lorenzo di Medici with specific instructions to get in touch with King João II's factor, Juanoto Berardi, son of Lorenzo Berardi. Remember that not only João II's spy, Marcial Barroso, had visited Medici, but that the spies Pêro da Covilhã and Afonso de Paiva also visited Medici just before Vespucci was sent to Seville.

DIEGO DE OCAÑA: was another agent of Colón, as mentioned above, along with Berardi and Vespucci, who was working in Portugal with the Florentines and with Colón's in-laws, the Moniz family. Ocaña is asked to *collect on behalf of the merchant Gonzalo Hidalgo, 250 pounds of pastel [dyer's woad], on the island of San Miguel, Azores, Portugal. Francisco de Bardi makes Fernan Alvarez Cobas, resident of Terceira Island, Azores, his representative to collect from Diego de Ocaña, the maravedies, pastel and slaves owed to him.*

VIOLANTE (BRIOLANJA) MONIZ: Portuguese sister-in-law of Colón, sister of Filipa Moniz, who was renting a house in San Juan del Puerto, near Huelva, belonging to the Duke of Medina Sidonia. *Briolanja Moniz requested from Juan Rodriguez Cabrón, a resident of Ponta Delgada, on the island of San Miguel, Azores, Portugal, 30 cowhides deposited in the name of Beatriz Hidalgo, but did not actually belong to her but to Briolanja. On April 24 Briolanja is the one who gave substitute power to a Francisco Camón, to collect from Rodriguez Cabrón the 30 hides, which had been deposited in her name, by the factor of her command, Diego de Ocaña. [Is Beatriz Hidalgo a pseudonym for Briolanja Moniz?] Bardi explains, in sufficient detail, the [helpful] intervention of his wife [Briolanja Moniz] and the sorrow of the Duke of Medina Sidonia to the news from the Spanish Court that Medina Sidonia's plans to marry his daughter, Dona Mencia de Guzman, to Colón's heir [D. Diego] was under threat from King Fernando.*

DONA ISABEL DA SILVA (DE NORONHA, also HENRIQUES): Portuguese Marquesa of Montemor, was niece of Filipa Moniz, and signed instead of Briolanja Moniz, her aunt, because Briolanja “*could not sign for having damaged the thumb of her right hand.*”³⁴⁰ Isabel da Silva was widow of Marquis of Montemor, João de Bragança, and daughter of Branca Dias Perestrelo, thus niece of Colón by marriage. She remained close to the Colón family and erected the church of the Santa Paula Monastery in Seville where she is buried with her husband. Her elaborate tomb is adorned with her coat of arms, which incorporates the arms of the King's of Portugal, since she was granddaughter of Portugal's King Fernando I.



OTHER MONIZ: Consuelo Varela states that “four siblings of Filipa Moniz Perestrelo, wife of Cristóbal Colón, moved to Seville and lived under the shelter of their brother-in-law Cristóbal Colón.

ANTONIO DE MARCHENA: Portuguese friar and a cosmographer, as already discussed, who was waiting for Colón at the La Rábida convent in 1484. Marchena was helpful in convincing Queen Isabel to accept Colón's proposition to sail to “India.”

DIEGO MÉNDEZ (DE SEGURA): also moved from Portugal to Spain. He was the adopted son of the Countess of Penamacor, Catarina de Noronha, niece of Colón. He became Admiral Colón's secretary and then secretary to his son, Don Diego Colón. He was deceptively called of “Segura” by Colón, which is in Portugal near Penamacor, and accused of being a Portuguese by the Spanish.³⁴¹ In fact he was a Spaniard from Zamora, son of Garcia Meédez, ally of King Afonso V in the War of Succession. In one of his letters, Diego Méndez asks D. Diego Colón to inform both Friar Gregorio and the Lady Briolanja Moniz, “*I beg Your Grace to give these news to father Friar Gregorio, who I did not write to since he has gone to Portugal, and also give the news to Lady Briolanja Moniz because this time I could not write to her.*”³⁴² October 16, 1523, at the notary public of Seville, Alonso de la Barrera,

Diego Méndez appointed as his substitute attorney the Carmelite friar Cristóvão Moniz, uncle of Diego Colón and the Prior of the Convent of Carmo in Lisbon, where Colón's wife, Filipa Moniz is buried, to carry out what had been ordered by the Viceroy D. Diego Colón. Not only did Diego Méndez help to maintain the lies of Colón's true identity, but even saved Colón's life by rowing a canoe from Jamaica to Haiti to get help for the marooned expedition during the Fourth Voyage. Without Diego Méndez, it is possible the whole crew would have perished in Jamaica.

JUAN DE LA COSA: was the owner of the ship Santa Maria, intentionally marooned at Caracol Beach in Haiti, Christmas day 1492, to serve as housing for the men Colón left behind and renamed Fort La Natividad. Juan de la Cosa had previously sailed as a pilot in protected Portuguese trade routes of Guinea and is probably the pilot who accompanied Colón to meet with João II at Vale do Paraíso, to whom the King of Portugal gave some reward money.³⁴³

PEDRO VÁZQUEZ (SAAVEDRA) DE LA FRONTERA: Was a Portuguese knight and pilot titled "servant" of the King of Portugal. He explored the western Atlantic and integrated the 1463 Portuguese fleet that took the Portuguese Condestável D. Pedro to go and claim the Crown of Aragon. Pedro Vázquez Saavedra, was called "DE LA FRONTERA," (of the Border) because that was the name of the Portuguese "Border" town where he lived: *Frontera*. He visited La Rábida often to talk with Cristóbal Colón and the others conspirators about the planned voyage and it was this Pedro Vázquez who convinced the Pinzón brothers to take part in that First Voyage. He told the Pinzón brothers that he "*had information of the said lands of the Indies*," since he had already travelled there as early as August 1452 with Diogo de Teive, as shown in Chapter 2.

DUKE OF MEDINACELI: While Cristóbal Colón instigated with the Spanish Monarchs to sponsor him, he was hosted for about two years at the palace of Juan de La Cerda, Second Duke of Medinaceli. His wife, the Duchess of Medinaceli, D. Mécia Manoel was daughter of D. Maria de Noronha, Second Countess of Odemira, a direct cousin of D. Isabel de Noronha, the above mentioned Marquesa of Montemor, as well as cousin to D. Catarina de Noronha, the Countess of Penamacor, adoptive mother of the above mentioned Diego Méndez "de Segura" and thus, Medinaceli's wife was cousin of D. Pedro de Noronha (King João II's Lord Chamberlain) all of them nephews of Colón's wife Filipa.

DUKE OF MEDINA SIDONA: the most powerful Spaniard of his day, Enrique de Guzman y Menezes, did not come from Portugal, but he controlled the city of Seville and under his protection lived all of those listed above. The Duke of Medina Sidonia even provided a safe house in Seville that served as headquarters for the conspiracy because "*in 1490 Enrique de Guzman, Duke of Medina Sidonia and Leonor de Mendoza, his wife, bought the Carthusian Monastery of Las Cuevas for 360,000 maravedis.*"³⁴⁴ At that time Gaspar Gorricio moved into Las Cuevas and this building served as shelter for Admiral Colón in life and in death and it was the place where Colón housed all his important papers. Colón even lived at Las Cuevas for a time and was later buried there before being transferred to the cathedral in Santo Domingo.

All of the above supporting actors, many with high positions and privileges in Portugal including authorization to trade in the protected Guinea, appeared mysteriously in Seville, as mysteriously as Cristóbal Colón, yet they came not from Italy but from Lisbon, to the territories of the Duke Medina Sidonia, a friend of the king of Portugal, and all of them were working together to aid Cristóbal Colón.

As Admiral Cristóbal Colón lay taking his last breaths, on May 20, 1506, at his bedside were the Portuguese Fernão Martins along with Pedro de Ledesma, who had served as interpreter on Vasco da Gama's voyage to India.³⁴⁵

There are more links to Portugal, but these are sufficient to prove that between King João II in Lisbon, Cristóbal Colón and all who worked with him in Seville, there were extensive high level ties and any such ties are impossible to find between Cristóbal Colón and Genoa.

What is clear is the fact that they did not go from Italy to Seville, but from Portugal to Seville, thus Portugal remains the only link of union to Colón, not Italy. [And what to think of those clandestine transactions of Briolanza Moniz in the Azores, using Ocaña, who was an agent of Cristóbal Colón? Here is another clue for researchers who wish to investigate the archives of the Azores and see if they manage to discover more data. Who knows if even the Admiral's real name may not be mentioned in these transactions?]

CHECKMATE

All of King João II's agents were busy in their assigned roles, and soon, the plan to safeguard the real India, by excluding Spanish ships once and for all, would bear fruit with the 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas. Portugal's King João II had left nothing to chance:

- Colón's letter of propaganda had been sent from Lisbon to all parts of the world. Such was the thunder it caused that at least eleven editions were published in 1493, including Spain, Italy, France, Switzerland and the Netherlands. The letter announced, "I come from the Indies with the fleet that Your Highnesses gave me, where I sailed in thirty-three days."
- The Portuguese friar Antonio de Marchena and the Florentines who moved from Lisbon to Seville worked tirelessly and covertly in support of Colón's mission in Spain.
- The necessary Spanish nobles, councilmen of the Spanish Monarchs, such as the "Doctor Rodrigo Maldonado," had been bought, enlisted, and were ready and waiting to perform their mission of intervention for Portugal in what became the Treaty of Tordesillas.
- Martim Behaim had built his perverted globe showing to the world the same theory that Colón was pushing on Spain, supposedly advocated by Toscanelli, that there were no other lands beyond the Azores, except India. Thus to the west it was a hop-skip-and-a-jump to reach India from Europe, as Colón convincingly presented it.
- Colón was equipped with a false map showing the above-mentioned Toscanelli theory of Asia just beyond the Portuguese Antilles (*this sea chart I have in my possession*, wrote Las Casas.) This map should be attributed, not to Toscanelli, but to the Portuguese Council of Mathematicians.
- Pêro da Covilhã had already spied in India, he got all the port locations, where to hire pilots and who they would encounter there. He had sent secret maps to João II and was now in Ethiopia sending invaluable information to the court of João II.
- Secret negotiations with King Maximilian I, for mutual protection against Queen Isabel of Spain were in full swing.³⁴⁶
- False information about the size of the degree had been released by the King, by Cristóbal Colón, António de Marchena and others, so that all coincided with Behaim's false globe, thus creating doubt and confusion.
- The true knowledge, held by Cristóbal Colón, João II, Behaim, Duarte Pacheco Pereira, the Council of Mathematicians and João II's ambassadors to Spain, Dias and Pina, as well as many Portuguese pilots was kept secret.

The most important player of them all, the real star of this act was the frontman bearing the stage name of Cristóbal Colón, because he was the voice, eyes, ears and hands of João II inside Spain. Cristóbal Colón, after spending days in conference with King João II at Vale do Paraíso, immediately advised Queen Isabel to write to the Pope requesting a dividing line in the Atlantic. The Spaniard "*Pope Alexander VI, who then reigned in the pontificate, granted them generously.*"³⁴⁷

It was the same Admiral Colón who suggested to Isabel that a line be drawn, who held back the truth from Queen Isabel and presented false information to Spain that was highly valuable for Portugal's ruse. And so, "*being the kings of Spain thus well advised and certified by Cristóbal Colón,*" they signed confidently their names onto the treaty.

With the trap completely ready, João II sent as his representatives "*ambassadors and attorneys... that well advised of the truth they went to the monarchs Fernando and Isabel*" to spring the trap as Rui de Pina fully clarifies:

To the said monarchs of Spain, after having been well informed and certified [by Colón] about the position and substance of said islands and land and the things in them through the ships of the second voyage, the king of [Portugal] again sent his ambassadors and Attorneys for the settling of this said conquest, Rui de Sousa and the accredited Aires de Almada and Estêvão Váz as scribe, persons of great knowledge, great confidence and with great authority in the kingdom. The said, on behalf of the king, agreed with the said monarchs [of Spain] on the demarcation and partition of those seas, by certain rhumbs and lines from pole to pole, by which those discovered islands and lands remained for the said monarchs with another great section of the sea and land, without danger to the coast and islands of the conquest of Guinea, and were made contracts signed and sworn by those monarchs, from which all showed being relieved and content to avoid future arguments and disagreements among them and thus it was resolved.³⁴⁸

Once again, a treaty would be signed with Spain and written exactly the way João II wanted it done. This time, however, the line of exclusion for Spain would be so clear that there would be no doubt whose territories were whose.

To mark this line of Spanish exclusion they shall "*make some sign or tower, and directly from that sign or tower will continue thereafter other signals through islands and lands straight along the said line of demarcation,*" says the treaty's text. Furthermore, Spanish ships could navigate those seas on the side belonging to Portugal, only "*while making their way straight to the Spanish territory and could not deviate from that route unless forced to do so by bad weather.*"

When the Portuguese referred to the conquest of Guinea, it always implied that India was included. The protection that had been vaguely spelled in the 1479 Treaty of Alcáçovas was now firmly spelled out in the 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas. The real India was now safeguarded against Spanish interloping and Portugal was now free to set sail.

After ten years of countless struggles the plan had succeeded. With the route to India now protected, and after holding their breath for years without going around the Cape of Good Hope, immediately João II began preparing the Portuguese fleet for Vasco da Gama's voyage, as told by Garcia de Resende:

Due to the strong desire that the King always had to discover India, in which much had been done and already discovered beyond the Cape of Good Hope, King João II had arranged and prepared the fleet for discovery with regiments ready and as Captain General Vasco da Gama, a knight of his household, but due to the death of the King [October 1495] the said fleet did not set sail.³⁴⁹

Admiral Colón very carefully held safe the Portuguese secrets of navigation that he had been entrusted with. At the same time, Colón hid from Queen Isabel the real information of where the lands at the west were located and tricked his own pilots plus confiscated all their maps before reaching land.

It was a war-game that João II was not prepared to lose because he controlled not only his team but controlled key players of the opponent's team. Furthermore, João II had on his side the referee of the whole affair, his "special friend in Seville" Cristóbal Colón, with whom he shared all his secrets.

Admiral Colón was Spain's only expert on the New World. He was responsible for giving to Queen Isabel a truthful and rigorous account of his discoveries, so that she could take the necessary steps with the new treaty to safeguard her claims over 'India'. Colón was the indispensable keystone for Portugal's deception. It would be Colón who would seal the deal by leaving Queen Isabel in the dark about the new lands:

August 4, 1493, Barcelona: Letter from Queen Isabel to D. Cristóbal Colón, "... *Send the sea chart before leaving.*"

September 5, 1493, Barcelona: Letter from Queen Isabel to D. Cristóbal Colón, "... *In order to understand the logbook we need to know the degrees where the islands and lands are located... send the sea chart that was supposed to be sent.*"

On August 4 and September 5, the queen insists with Colón to give her the maps and details of the New World so she could know where they were located. On 25 September 1493 Colón left on his Second Voyage without providing to Queen Isabel the necessary sea chart or coordinates. By withholding truthful information, along with providing false information to Queen Isabel, in relation to "India," including erroneous latitudes. And by forcing his crew to sign a false sworn oath that Cuba was Asia, (see Appendix), Cristóbal Colón only protected Portugal's interests, while, at the same time ruining Spain's interests. This game placed Colón in a perilous position at the Spanish court right from the start.

It was Cristóbal Colón who had insisted for seven long years to sail to "India" but only with Spanish ships. It was Colón who knew he had not sailed to India, and it was he who told Queen Isabel to hurry and request from the Pope a line of exclusion, a line in the sea that no Portuguese ship could cross...

However, every line creates two sides and this line carved a side for Spain the other for Portugal. The bait was on the hook and the line was ready to be reeled in. Now, all that was necessary was for King João II to reel it in ever so gently.

Checkmate, it was Isabel's turn to move her pawns... but the Perfect Prince had long ago corrupted the referee, bought opposing players and had the game so fixed that he would be the only winner. Spain could never win.

By signing João II's Treaty of Tordesillas, Queen Isabel's Spain would be prohibited from sailing to India for centuries.

CHAPTER 13

THE TRAP OF TORDESILLAS

*Your Highnesses are in the best of the Indies
and Calicut is irrelevant*

DON CRISTÓBAL COLÓN

As a mastermind of deceptions and leader of covert operations, King João II had cleverly established a network of servants both inside and outside of Portugal in order to attain control and success for his kingdom. In Chapter 3 Garcia de Resende gave us a glimpse of the life and death struggles that both João II's agents and his traitors faced when taking secrets to Spain³⁵⁰

Those bearing Portuguese secrets who escape to Spain were pursued and killed to avoid damage to Portugal's monopoly. Yet, Cristóbal Colón left Portugal for Spain with the specific intent to sell his "Portuguese Atlantic navigational knowledge" to Queen Isabel but he was never pursued. Instead, João II and his men aided Colón. Could there be any other reason for Cristóbal Colón to leave his wife fleeing "secretly" from Portugal, change his name, and then deceive the Monarchs who had sponsored him? He was lying to the Spanish that he was in India, while at the same time maintaining secret correspondence and high-level meetings with the King of Portugal. Was he only pretending to be exiled from Portugal?

Cristóbal Colón fled Portugal at the same time as his traitor nephews, who were persecuted by João II, and once he appears in Spain, the Spanish Monarchs begin to pay him. Why?

Why was Colón meeting with Queen Isabel in 1486 and being paid already in 1487, five years before he had done anything for Queen Isabel?

João II's other traitors exiled in Spain were also well rewarded by Isabel; therefore, one must assume that Isabel saw Cristóbal Colón in the same light as his two traitor nephews.

Queen Isabel had to believe that Cristóbal Colón was part of the treasonous plot to kill João II and was now offering to work for Isabel. This was the same situation as his traitor nephews, the Marquis João de Bragança and Count Lopo de Albuquerque.

Records of payments by Queen Isabel made to the future Admiral Cristóbal Colón, listed by Spanish historian Rumeu Armas are:

- May 5, 1487, 3000 maravedies
- July 3, 1487, 3000 maravedies
- August 27, 1487, 4000 maravedies
- October 18, 1487, 30 gold doubloons (or 26,100 maravedies)
- June 16, 1488, 3000 maravedies

The total payments in 1487 amounted to 36,100 maravedies. In 1492 an ounce of gold was equivalent to 3,000 maravedies and on the first voyage, a sailor earned 1000 maravedies per month (12,000 per year), while deckhands earned 666 maravedies per month. The total value of the 30 gold coins that Queen Isabel paid to Colón on October 18, 1487 was more than two years salary for a sailor. The 30 gold coins had a value of \$18,239.07 US Dollars.^{351,352}

This amount is not insignificant. It did not make Colón rich, but compared to today's salaries, the Queen's payment in October 18, 1487 represented \$4000 USD more than the average annual salary in Spain, which is \$14,300 dollars per year, according to World Bank figures from 2001. It was nearly a two-year salary for a worker in Portugal, which averages \$10,900 USD.

Because Queen Isabel began paying him long before he became famous, it means that Colón was already someone with a certain prestige and merit. Why was this mysterious Cristóbal Colón so im-

portant to Queen Isabel's plans that she would feel a need to pay him for being "*here doing certain things beneficial to the service of Their Highnesses?*"³⁵³

Today, everything seems to demonstrate that Colón was infiltrated into the Spanish court as a double agent serving Portugal. Professor Joaquim Veríssimo Serrão's research seems to support this same perspective:

*But there is no longer any doubt that Cristóbal Colón extended the scope of its endeavor in Spain to give room to the king of Portugal in order to coordinate the steps that would come together to form the Treaty of Tordesillas.*³⁵⁴

Keep in mind that, more than once, Cristóbal Colón said the he saved this "great enterprise" only for the crown of Spain. Despite the fact that Spain had never assembled a fleet for the sole purpose of making discoveries, Colón insisted only with these monarchs to sponsor him. But Spain was not focused on exploration, like Portugal, it focused merely on the exploitation of Portuguese discoveries.

After seven long years of rejections, the future Admiral continued stubbornly insisting that only Queen Isabel's kingdom sponsor his great voyage:

*To serve [only] Your Highnesses I refused to make any agreement with France, or England or Portugal, from which Princes Your Highnesses saw their letters by the hand of the doctor Villalano [Alonso de Villalón of the Court's Council].*³⁵⁵

In another excerpt from a letter to King Fernando, written around 1505, the Admiral states: *Our Lord miraculously sent me here so that I serve Your Highness... because there were letters of behest from three Princes, which the Queen, that God has, saw and they were read to her by Dr. Villalón.*³⁵⁶

On yet another occasion, he wrote:

I persisted in this with love, and I told France and to England and to Portugal: that for the King [Fernando] and the Queen [Isabel], my Lords, were those lands and lordships. The promises of reward made [from France, England and Portugal] were neither few nor hollow.

Consider how did Cristóbal Colón manage to get these letters from the Kings of France, England and Portugal, in order to show them to the hesitant Queen Isabel?

Colón had shown Queen Isabel, who constantly refused his proposal, letters from the kings of England, France and Portugal offering to sponsor his great voyage. But Colón rejected these ready, willing and able sponsorships because he was saving the great voyage to "India" only for Spain. This fact requires us to ask "Why were the Spanish Monarchs so important to this voyage?"

Could it be that Colón contacted the other kings, not because he needed their sponsorship, but simply to pressure Spain? Would he not have been happy with sponsorship from any kingdom that offered it? Why did he insist on offering his project only to the kingdom that continuously rejected him? What would be his true ulterior motive?

What if Cristóbal Colón's plan was not simply one of passion for adventure, discovery and ennoblement, as history books have claimed? What if the true plan was to divert the attention of Portugal's only enemy crown as far away from the Portuguese monopoly as possible? Doing so would protect Portugal's Atlantic maritime trade routes, its African discoveries and the future sea route to India.

What if the person who obtained the letters of *behest* from the Kings of England and of France was the same King João II, who also created his own letter of *behest to be read by Dr. Villalón*?

We know that in 1488, João II had sent his ambassadors to Henry VII to kill or arrest the Count of Penamacor in England (with whom Portugal had a 180-year-old friendship treaty). We also know that João II was, at that same time, deep in treaty negotiations with Maximilian I and Charles VIII of France, another historic enemy of Spain. Furthermore we are told that Cristóbal Colón's brother, Bartolomé Colón went to England in 1488 and was living at Charles VIII's court in 1492.

We also know, from Bartolomé Colón's statements, that he took part in presenting the plan to the Spanish court alongside his brother Cristóbal and, therefore, it is not unrealistic for Bartolomé Colón to have been the middleman between King João II of Portugal and his allies, Henry VII and Charles VIII.

Was it not Bartolomé Colón, carrying introduction letters from King João II, who, by secretly acquiring the proposal letters from Henry VII and Charles VIII, sent them to Cristóbal Colón so that Dr. Villalón could read them to Queen Isabel?

What about the Spanish Doctor Villalón, was he in on this conspiracy, as well? It appears that way from a request that King João II made to Queen Isabel requesting restitution of wax/candles that had been confiscated from Doctor Villalón's representative. Queen Isabel replied to King João II's intervention on Doctor Villalón's behalf, saying:

*Dr. Villalón has stated that this wax was his, and Their Highnesses believe him. Because they believe that the Doctor neither in this, nor in anything else, will state anything except the truth.*³⁵⁷

One gets the sense that King João II, while trying to help recover the candles for Doctor Villalón, may actually have run the risk of exposing the Doctor's duplicity. Thus Villalón had to attest that it was his wax in order to protect himself from suspicion of collaborating with João II and, thus, Queen Isabel believed him.

It seems that King João II had his hands in lots of people's lives. Cristóbal Colón kept in contact with the king of Portugal and thus could not be a traitor of João II. For this reason it is impossible to accept that Colón ever feared João II, as his son wrote, or that Colón had secretly fled from Portugal afraid the king would capture him. This has to be false information dispersed in Spain by the man using the false name of Cristóbal Colón with the only intent of making Queen Isabel see him as another of João II's traitors and trust in him, just as she trusted his nephew, the Count of Penamacor who, like Colón, had also changed his name to *Pedro Nunes* to hide from Joao II. Colón's ploy of passing himself off as a hater of João II would safely allow him to carry out his secret mission.

In March 1493, when Admiral Colón arrived safely back in Lisbon, Portugal, João II began to implement the last phase of their plan. At the same time, João II cautiously protected his "special friend in Seville," as to not blow his cover, by not requiring his involvement in the discussions with the Spanish court. João II would take it upon himself and the intervention of *third parties* was not necessary, Admiral Colón's participation was this way dismissed:

The King graciously replied that he was certain that there would be no need for third parties in this matter. He appointed as his host the Prior of Crato who was the principal person there, from whom the Admiral received many honours and favours.

Amazing as it may seem, investigators had missed the fact that the Prior do Crato was not only one of the members of the João II's Council of Mathematicians but was the brother of João de Almeida, Count of Abrantes, Captain of João II's Royal Guard who married to Admiral Colón's niece, Inês de Noronha, Countess of Abrantes, as shown in FIGURE 9-11.

The basic premise is that Colón was working for himself or for Portugal, but not for Spain, whom he lied to continuously. Since his actions were harmful both to himself and to Spain, while benefiting only Portugal, ending up protecting Portugal's route to the Indian spice trade, Colón could be working only for Portugal.

Colón's obvious lies about the New World; saying it was India, that he had conquered a city there, that he had built a fortress and left there a sufficient garrison made up of Isabel's men to maintain control; and especially the letters Colón sent from Portugal to third parties exposing the voyage, were meant to force Spain to react quickly. And that is exactly what Queen Isabel did, ordering the Admiral to begin preparations immediately for a Second Voyage.

Isabel's orders to prepare for the Second Voyage were given even before Colón left from Seville to go give the details of the First Voyage to the Spanish Monarchs in Barcelona. Only on April 3, would he have his first audience with Isabel and Fernando to speak face to face about the success of his voyage.

Before Colón could personally give his account of the discovery to the Spanish Monarchs, he had already given his personal account to João II of Portugal one month prior. Therefore, Queen Isabel had written, on March 30, 1493, that Colón should prepare a new fleet quickly for his return to India, because of the pressure from Portugal:

*Given at Barcelona, with many demands and speed, an order for the expedition and return of the Admiral to Española, both to rescue those who were left behind as well as to increase the Spanish presence and subdue the population of that island and the others that were already discovered or expected to be discovered.*³⁵⁸

The success of Colón's First Voyage of "discovery" was its propaganda, not its navigation. The navigation was a simple 33 day affair. The news of Colón's voyage was a bombastic newflash for the western world except for Portugal, which for decades had made similar voyages and already knew what was across the Atlantic. To further press Queen Isabel to latch onto those lands as hers, João II announced, as a bluff, that he would immediately send a fleet to claim those lands for Portugal. Likewise, the Duke of Medina Sidonia, an ally of Colón and of Portugal, intimidated Queen Isabel by writing her with the details of the fleet that Portugal was preparing:

Duke Cousin: I saw your letter, through the which you have let us know about the fleet the King of Portugal has put together, wrote the queen.³⁵⁹

This was the means that Colón and João II's allies used to increase the pressure on Queen Isabel even more. Even Colón insisted on lying to Isabel by asserting in his letters that João II's fleet had already set sail, to which the Queen replied:

*We saw your letter, and regarding what you wrote that you learned that King of Portugal had already sent his fleet... you also wrote that you received written notice saying that the King of Portugal also sent another caravel from the island of Madeira.*³⁶⁰

Cristóbal Colón was deliberately deceiving the Spanish Monarchs with the news of Portuguese ships, in order to get them to act quickly and give Isabel more reasons to enter into negotiations with King João II. João II never put together any fleet, much less send off ships, but if the King of Portugal truly believed that those lands were the lands of India, he never would have surrendered them to Spain, as he did in the Treaty of Tordesillas.

This was truly the genius of João II's plan. By utilizing Colón to give the discovery to Spain and then challenging Spain's rule over those territories, João II forced Isabel to lock herself in the trap, hastily sending her Admiral of the Indies with a large fleet of 17 ships and 1500 men.

We get the sense of this urgency from Cristóbal Colón's writings: *The King and Queen, my Lords, resent me hurriedly to discover and conquer it all.*³⁶¹ To ensure her entitlements, Isabel immediately begun the process of negotiations with Portugal and Cristóbal Colón further instigated:

*Quickly the Catholic Monarchs following the advice of the Admiral, in order to have a clearer and more legitimate title to the Indies, sought to get from the Supreme Pontiff the approval and award of the conquest of all of those lands.*³⁶²

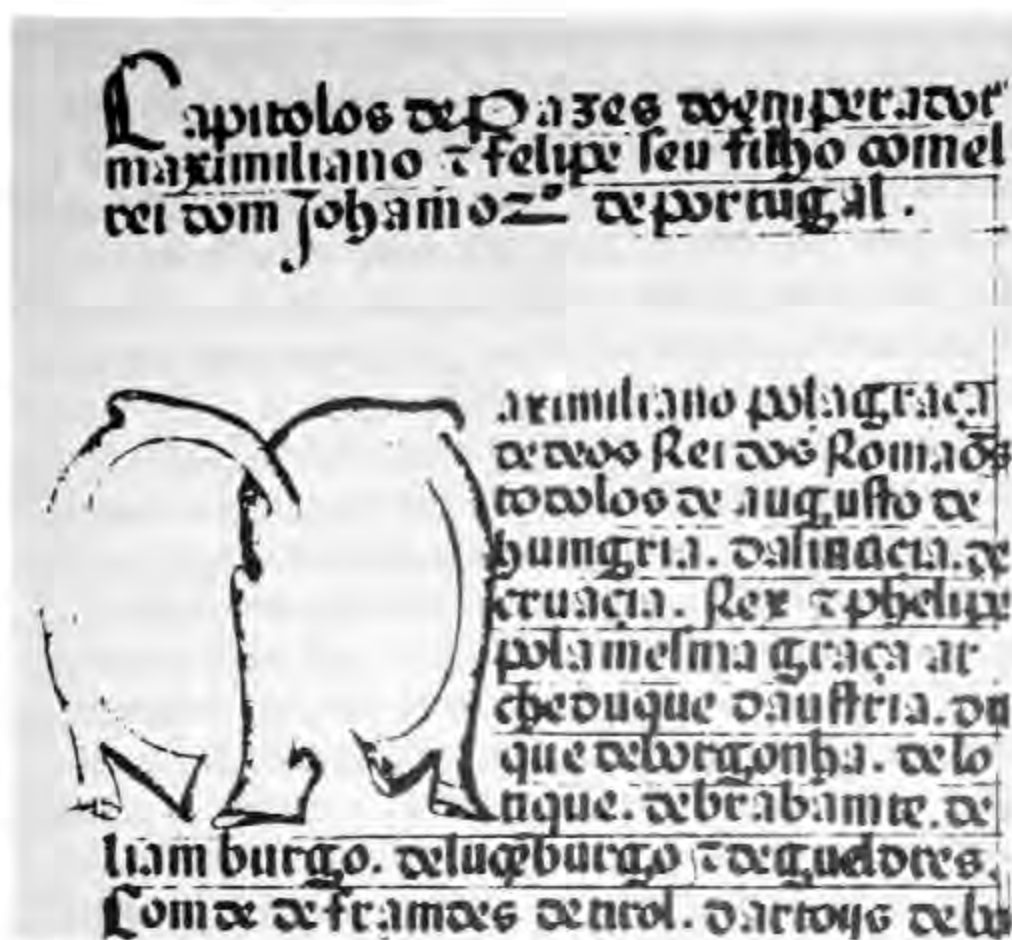
The whole plan was working perfectly. Both João II, with his invisible ready fleet that only Colón and Medina Sidonia could see, as well as Colón's letter of propaganda were putting immense pressured on Spain. The lies of the New World captivated Queen Isabel with promises of abundant gold, coveted spices, an easy conquest, plus a fortress already built, all coupled with the fact that Isabel's subjects already controlled a whole coastal town with a great harbor, left her no choice but to fight for her rights to those lands.

The court of Spain reacted quickly by sending ambassadors to negotiate with Portugal while at the same time hurrying Colón off on his Second Voyage.

AN ACE UP HIS SLEEVE

In Portugal, as soon as Cristóbal Colón arrived from his First Voyage, João II was preparing for all possibilities, including the possibility of another war with Spain. The Portuguese king had begun negotiations for a mutual defense treaty with his cousin, King Maximilian I (SEE FIGURE 13.1). This alliance was intended only to protect Portugal from Spain, thus by "*establishing a peace agreement with King Maximilian was indubitably a way of [João II] threatening the Spanish Monarchs.*"^{363,364}

Figure 13.1: Written in Portuguese, the text of João II and Maximilian I's treaty for mutual support against their enemies begins with, "Capitulations of Peace of Emperor Maximilian and his son Philip with King João, the second of Portugal."



At the same time Martim Behaim, from João II's Council of Mathematicians, was building his Globe in Germany in support of Toscanelli's "vision" of an easy western route to India, which Colón was eagerly selling, and to top it off, in Germany, Münzer writes his letter proposing an expedition by Behaim to those same lands of India. João II's ambassadors, no doubt, requested Munzer's letter, during the negotiations of the Maximilian treaty.

João II was not only a great planner, but had the capability to choose the perfect man for each mission from Martim Behaim to Cristóbal Colón.

The king of Portugal knew exactly what he was doing. Exactly as he did in 1479, by making Spain sign a peace treaty legally prohibiting even Spain's political influence inside Portugal. Then, as he ascended to the throne 1481, insisted that every noble sign an oath of homage to protect himself legally against traitors and overreaching Lords, now in 1494, he would force another contract to be signed by the Spanish Monarchs that legally prohibited their ships from sailing to the true India. The Treaty of Tordesillas was the successful completion to Colón's mission.

Contrary to what has been written and what is generally accepted, the Treaty of Tordesillas was never "made by Pope Alexander VI" and never was "modified by João II." The treaty was entirely a result of João II's actions and negotiations utilizing the help of men like Duarte Pacheco Pereira and others from his Council of Mathematicians, bribed councilmen of the Court of Spain and, yes, Cristóbal Colón.

The Treaty of Tordesillas is João II's treaty. The factual truth is that, if João II had agreed to the Pope's decision, nothing further would have happened and there would end the discord. No Treaty of Tordesillas would have been needed.

But that is not what happened. João II was acting on his own criteria, utilizing his own resources and knowledge and it was he who directed this process so well that, during negotiations, the Spanish Monarchs attempted to divert and counter all of João II's proposals with another and yet another decree from the Pope.

Alexander VI, a Spanish Pope, issued those letters as requested by Isabel and Fernando backdating them with false dates, although written several months apart. All these contortions between the Pope and the Spanish crown were done for no other reason than to counter the King of Portugal's demands:

We now know, by the studies of the Belgian Vander Linden that this letter, as well as the other two with dates of May 3 and 4, were backdated and were a direct result of Spain's reaction to King João II's proposals... the Catholic Monarchs rejected the proposal and requested in June of the same year, a new letter from the Pope modifying and lengthening the terms of the first... in the next month... July, the Pope sends a new letter, backdated to May 3... but now emphasizing the term "in the direction of mid-day" another words South... that the Catholic Monarchs may utilize the same rights that the Holy See had previously awarded to the Kings of Portugal.³⁶⁵

This exact fact is confirmed in a letter from the Queen to Cristóbal Colón:

Because we know that about this you know more than anyone else, we plead that you send us your opinion about it, because if it is necessary, and if it seems to you that it is of such significance as they think here that it will be, we'll amend the Papal Letter.³⁶⁶

We can clearly see that João II was leading the charge. It was he who controlled the helm of this treaty while his opponents, Isabel and Fernando, powerlessly tried to divert the course, which they failed to do. In the end, they signed the treaty that João II wanted, not at a mere 100 leagues west of Portugal's Azores, but at 370 leagues west for Portugal's Cape Verde.

Queen Isabel had to rely on the information provided by Colón, her Admiral of the Indies, in order to negotiate the treaty to her benefit. Isabel was being counseled by Cristóbal Colón, whom João II described in a secret letter as his "Special Friend in Seville."

*[The Spanish Monarchs] wanted to be certified furthermore of the whole truth about the said lands... for which they had already sent [Colón with 17 of] their ships... after learning of the substance and position of those islands and lands and the things in them from their second ships, well informed and certified [by Colón], the-king of [Portugal] again sent his ambassadors and attorneys, Rui de Sousa and the licentiate Aires de Almada and Estêvão Vaz as scrivener, people with great knowledge, high confidence and lots of authority in the kingdom, to agree over the said conquest.*³⁶⁷

Why would Cristóbal Colón "save" this enterprise only for Spain and why would Spain need to make a treaty only with Portugal and not with France, for example? Or better yet, why did João II see the need to create a treaty with Spain dividing the Atlantic and not divide it with France or England?

With France and England, Portugal made treaties of commerce for mutual benefit and friendship; only with Spain were the contracts antagonist and filled with rules, penalties and division lines.

King João II imposed the Treaty of Tordesillas upon Spain with the intent to tie the hands of the Spanish Monarch because only they threatened Portugal's conquests in the Atlantic.

It was not only with Maximilian I that Portugal established alliances. Portugal had a treaty of friendship with England, which is the world's longest standing treaty. In addition, João II granted to "Duarte Bramdam Councilman of the King of England, my very dear brother and friend, the melegueta [pepper] trade" and had "befriended the King of France, our beloved and precious brother and cousin and friend." As the great politician that he was, João II had already established a friendship treaty with France in 1485. At the same time that João II fought to keep the Spanish out of the African Trade, he granted those same privileges to the King of England's men.³⁶⁸

With Spain, however, Portugal had been negotiating antagonistic treaties for over three centuries defended by sword and cannon. João II had tried in 1479, to protect his Atlantic discoveries from the Spaniards with the Treaty of Alcáçovas, but the failure of that treaty lay in the fact that there was no other place where the ships of a soon-to-be united Spain could sail to trade and conquer, besides the unimpressive Canary Islands that João II had granted to Spain.

Thus for the Treaty of Tordesillas, João II gave to his only arch-rival in all of Europe a vast new territory to go and conquer which would ensure Portugal had a safe passage to India. The absolute conquest of the route to the spice trade would be Portugal's alone. João II was able to achieve this feat because he knew, as well as did Cristóbal Colón, the truth about "India" and about "the Indies." The line in the sand had been drawn by Portugal:

*[João II] immediately ordered through his ambassadors and attorneys... that well advised and instructed on the truth, went to the said kings of Spain... contracts were made and sworn by those kings and there remained no threat or loss to the coast and islands of our conquest of Guinea.*³⁶⁹

The initial line of division located at 100 leagues west of the Azores was recommended to Spain by Cristóbal Colón, Spain accepted this without questions and immediately requested the award from the Pope, who was a fellow Spaniard.

The demarcation line at 100 leagues west of the Azores already sliced through the eastern lands of South America, leaving Brazil on the Portuguese side. Thus João II (through Cristóbal Colón) utilized South America to completely block Spanish ships from the South Atlantic and this way block their access to the route around the Cape of Good Hope.

Undoubtedly, King João II thought he could force Queen Isabel to give up an even larger share of the South American continent for Portugal. This strategy allowed him to move the initial line an-

other 120 leagues to the west, totaling 220 leagues west of the Azores. But João II, aware of Brazil's location west of Cape Verde, also insisted that the line had to be measured from the Cape Verde archipelago and not from the Azores.

This new measuring point from the islands of Cape Verde, was closer to the latitude of Brazil, making it much easier to measure, which provided a more accurate result. Cape Verde being almost directly opposite Brazil leaves no doubt that João II knew where the eastern bulge of the continent was located.

But measuring from Cape Verde, located 100 miles further east than the Azores, the initial 100 leagues from the Azores that Colón had recommended Queen Isabel to get from the Pope, made the division line fall on the Atlantic Ocean just west of the Azores, too short a distance to reach Brazil, too short to blockade the South Atlantic routes.

For the division line to reach Brazil it was necessary to add more leagues from Cape Verde and that is exactly what João II did. He demanded 370 leagues and would not budge on this measurement.

It is clear that João II's line was not just a line to safeguard the sea route to India, but clearly a division line that needed to include Brazil. The king of Portugal already knew of the existence of South America before August of 1492, when Colón set sail on his First Voyage. The evidence that João II already knew about Brazil is not only in João II's negotiations but is also clear in Cristóbal Colón's words. It is also perfectly understandable by looking at any map of the Atlantic.

The Island of Flores, the westernmost island of the Azores, is at 31 degrees longitude west, and the city of Natal in Brazil is at 35 degrees west, this is a mere 4 degrees of distance between the two meridians.

Duarte Pacheco Pereira, in his *Esmeraldo de Situ Orbis*, gives 18 leagues to the value of a degree. These 4 degrees between Flores and Natal equal 72 leagues, easily attainable by Colón's proposed line at 100 leagues from the Azores. Colón's division line crossed the then-secret lands of Brazil and included 28 leagues, 112 miles, of land on Portugal's side. Admiral Colón received the knowledge of the lands of Brazil from the mouth of King João II. Reading Colón's letters, during the Third Voyage in 1498, leaves no doubt that the king of Portugal had knowledge of lands of Brazil already before 1492:

Again the Admiral says that he wants to sail southward... and wants to see what was King João of Portugal's intent, who told him that to the South there is a continent. And that, because of this, João II stated that he had the quarrels with the kings of Spain... and he further stated, that the said King João II had it for certain that within his boundaries he would find things and lands of notoriety.³⁷⁰

João II was the possessor of all the secrets of the Atlantic, everything sailed and found ended up reported to him. Do not accept that, in March 1493, when the king of Portugal picked a fight with the Queen of Spain that he was quarreling over 370 leagues of seas. João II was not quarreling over having power of possession over indefinite amounts of salt water. João II pushed Spain to sign a treaty with a boundary of 370 leagues because he knew exactly where the South America continent lay. Cristóbal Colón declared that João II knew that "for certain."

Cristóbal Colón tells us that João II told him there was a continent to the Southwest and it would be within his limits of the division line. João II told this to Colón before there was any agreement on such a line with Spain. It is clear that the King knew better than Colón what was across the Atlantic. Yet, even then, while João II is planning to start a quarrel with Spain over that secret continent, he was not afraid to entrust this Portuguese secret knowledge of Brazil to the same man whom Queen Isabel would consult on these same matters for the upcoming treaty negotiations.

The elements necessary to prove that Portugal had already discovered Brazil before 1493 are in Admiral Colón's declarations. Why would João II tell Colón, Queen Isabel's advisor, such a paramount Portuguese secret?

If João II began his quarrel with Spain in March of 1493, because of the continent located southwest, then João II knew about that continent before Colón set off on his First Voyage, August 1492.

Having this information, we can clearly understand, not only all that transpired during the treaty negotiations, but also the strange clause inserted in the treaty relative to the first 250 leagues.

João II knew from Colón's account at Vale do Paraíso, in March 1493, that Colón had not sailed anywhere near Brazil during the 1492 expedition. However, Colón had left in October 1493 with a fleet of 17 ships and João II had no idea if any of those 17 ships Colón was taking to Haiti would end up getting blown off course and reaching Brazil.

Admiral Colón had taken great care on the Second Voyage to go directly to Haiti and to not give any pilot any information on the route they would sail. Each pilot was handed a sealed envelope with Colón's seal to be opened only in case of emergency if they got separated from him. However, some of those 17 ships could easily have been diverted from their path by contrary winds and could have sailed southward to Portugal's secret continent. If so, then the Spaniards could claim rights to the conquest of Brazil.

Already in the middle of the treaty negotiations and uncertain if any of the 17 Spanish ships had reached his secret Brazil, João II had to ensure that he did not lose that continent to Spanish claims of first discovery. How could João II avoid Spain's claims if this happened?

To guarantee that there would be no misunderstanding as to what kingdom had rights of possession over Brazil, João II included a very specific clause in the treaty to protect Portugal's right in case any of the 17 ships had somehow landed there.

João II's clause stipulated that, if any of the 17 ships had discovered any lands inside the first 250 leagues of the 370 total, all those lands inside the first 250 leagues belonged to Portugal even if Spain had "discovered" them. However, if they had discovered lands beyond the first 250 leagues but still within the 370 leagues of the treaty, then Spain could possess those but not any others discovered in the future.

What makes this clause so vital to understanding João II's tactics is the fact that both the initial 100 leagues west of the Azores, and the 250 leagues measuring from Cape Verde, fall at the same location on South America, that is at 37 degrees west, exactly where Brazil is.



Figure 13.2: Telltale lines of the Treaty of Tordesillas. Colón's proposed line was located at 100 leagues west of the Azores. João II moved the line to 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde islands. The initial 100 leagues gave control over all lands and seas to the east of Brazil to Portugal- including all the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean and part of the Pacific Ocean. Colón's 100 leagues from the Azores and João II's absolute exclusion line, located at 250 leagues from Cape Verde, fall on the same location over Brazil. By moving the line to 370 leagues west of Cape Verde, João II guaranteed Portugal a much bigger portion over South America, which João II, his scientists and explorers already knew to exist.

Many assumed João II's numbers of 250 and 370 leagues were chosen at random. Yet the fact that 100 leagues from the Azores are the same as 250 leagues from Cape Verde shows that the division line was carefully calculated to fall at the same location: 37 degrees west. The location of 37 degrees west was João II's absolute minimum line of exclusion.

As FIGURE 13.2 shows, King João II already, on March 1493, knew exactly where the bulge of the South American continent was located, just as Colón reported.

Cristóbal Colón not only kept the information about Brazil secret until João II's death, but also provided false information to Queen Isabel. These hidden maneuvers by Colón and the court of Portugal confirm that the existence of Brazil was known long before its "official" discovery in 1500.

Duarte Pacheco Pereira also visited the land of Brazil in 1498, the same year that Admiral Colón was trying to sail there, raising the possibility that Colón may have been coordinating his Third Voyage with the Portuguese. This is not as far fetched as it sounds since, in 1498, Colón made his way to the Portuguese Cape Verde Islands before heading Southwest across the Atlantic. In his *Esmeraldo de Situ Orbis*, Pacheco Pereira, of the Council of Mathematicians says:

In the year of our lord 1498 in which Your Majesty sent us to go discover at the west, passing beyond the grandeur of the Ocean Sea where there is a great continent that we navigate.

Duarte Pacheco's 1498 expedition was just one of many secret expeditions to Brazil before its official discovery. Fortunately for us, Duarte Pacheco decided to register it, even if only in passing reference.

João II's new treaty drew a line 370 leagues west that safeguarded the entire African coast, the Atlantic west to the Brazilian coast and the route to the spices of India around Africa for Portugal.

Why would João II, a master of disinformation and secret matters, disclose such a big secret as the existence of Brazil to Cristóbal Colón, knowing that he was working for the enemy and, worse, that Colón was the person responsible for providing information about the New World to João II's rivals?

Was João II not worried about weakening his bargaining position with the new treaty that João II so desperately needed, if Colón told Portugal's enemy about the Cape of Good Hope and about Brazil?

Only one conclusion can be drawn. João II was 100% certain that Admiral Colón would not tell Queen Isabel anything about Brazil, the Cape of Good Hope, or about any other of the Portuguese secrets that Colón possessed. However, to protect Portugal's interests in the best way possible, Admiral Colón needed to know João II's secrets in order to know how to best lead the Spanish as far away as possible from Portugal's interests.

Nevertheless, in the middle of all this, João II's traitors were advising Queen Isabel of the ruse Portugal was perpetrating with Colón's discovery to the west. In a long secret letter to Queen Isabel by a Portuguese traitor, who dared not sign it, (SEE FIGURE 13.3) is very clear in stating:

That our adversary, enemy of all good, who is the devil... [To keep your] successors perpetually diverted from this which you is facing you and at your door, has placed across your path two false and vain things, not only not productive, but harmful costly and dangerous. One of them, to your right hand [New World] and the other to your left hand [Northen Africa], so that you can be diverted from the one which is in the middle and where all the good is to be found... That which this old and wicked devil has put across your path to the right, secured from the good and true, was these to which they call Indias, making you believe in contrary and wrong opinions... "This India to the West was and is a deception and false representation by your enemy to occupy Your Highness in this and spend money and people from your reign and to divert you from the place where all good is [Western Africa and India].³⁷¹

Aside from declaring that king João II was tricking Spain with Colón's India in order to protect the better territories for itself, the author of this secret letter admitted to having sailed many of the seas for Portugal and even gave reasons to why Spain should usurp the throne of Portugal by arms. The most likely author of this secret letter was the traitor Count of Penamacor, who had just been released from his arrest in the Tower of London in 1492 and who appears to have been assassinated shortly after writing this advisory to Queen Isabel.

The results of João II's plan and the reason João II sent Colón to the western lands of Antilhas, only under the Spanish flag, was to push Spain to the right and left of the globe leaving the middle free for Portugal. João II's new treaty thus created an irrefutable line drawn in the sand to exclude the Spanish ships from Africa and India, a line that he had failed to include in his Treaty of Alcáçovas.

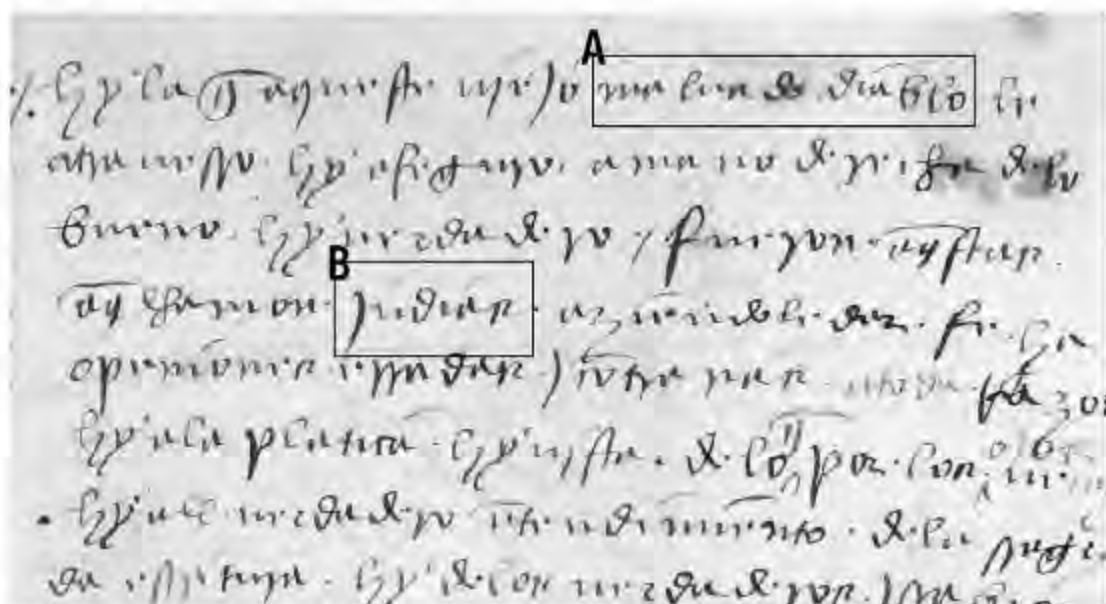


Figure 13.3: The secret "Memorial Português" advised Queen Isabel that Portugal was safeguarding for itself the best territories with the Treaty of Tordesillas. In the first line on page 2 of the document, King João II is called an **evil devil**, "malvado diablo" (A), and the "Indias" (B) that Colón discovered are described as false.

If for a moment the king of Portugal thought that at 100 leagues west of the Azores was the real India, he would never have agreed to give that prize to Queen Isabel, in a treaty that banned the Portuguese ships forever! Portugal had been chasing this prize for nearly 100 years; João II would never have jeopardized losing it by letting Colón sail out of the Port of Lisbon on March 13, 1493 to return to Spain. Nor would João II carefully have prepared the caravel *Niña* with all that was necessary for Colón to arrive safely at Palos in Spain.

Instead, Rui de Pina, who was *well versed in the truth*, writes, “because of the high worth of the Portuguese conquests the king would not grant the Spanish access and would rather die over it.” If João II had believed that Colón was taking Spanish ships to those true *Indians who are said to revere the name of Christ*, reserved only for Portugal, João II would have fought to the death to prevent Spain acquiring it.

João II would have killed Colón, or at the very least forbidden him to leave Portugal. Moreover, not only would he have protested Spain’s brazen 1492 entry into Portugal’s conquests but would have forced Spain to pay the fine of 300,000 gold doubloons, as they had agreed to in the Treaty of Alcáçovas. João II didn’t do any of this. It was imperative to the success of the mission that Admiral Colón return safe to Spain, otherwise Portugal would have nothing with which to force Spain into another treaty.

The truth is that in the eight years that Cristóbal Colón lived in Spain he maintained secret contact with King João II. João II confided to Colón, the only person in a position to advise his archrival Isabel, the secret of Brazil, secrets which João II was willing to kill and die for!

THE PERSISTENT ADMIRAL

In one of Admiral Colón’s letters, written 1505, he says:

Most High King: Our Lord miraculously sent me here so that, I serve your Highness, I say miraculously, because I landed in Portugal, where the King there understood about discoveries more than any other, He blocked his vision, hearing and all other senses, that in fourteen years I could not make him understand what I told him.

Also I say miraculously, because there were letters of insistence from three princes, which the Queen, God have her, had them read to her by Dr. Villalón.

One must be very careful while reading Colón’s letters to the Spanish court because he was continuously deceiving those monarchs. If Colón had truly spent fourteen years trying to persuade the King of Portugal to sponsor him, as he stated in this letter, and seeing that his First Voyage was in 1492, then he began his proposals to João II already in 1478. And for this to be true, Colón would have continued his proposals to João II between 1484 and 1492, during which time he was already in Spain where we were told he “went secretly” to escape João II!

In case he had ceased to make proposals to Portugal once he moved to Spain in 1484 due to his “hatred for that king and kingdom,” then Colón had to begin making his proposals in 1470, which is contrary to all we were told.

The constant contradictions in Colón’s life are part of his double-agent deception, new lies were invented as they became necessary and not always fitting with the previous lies. Since Colón’s game began as a secret mission at the service of Portugal, he could not have made any proposal to France, England or even to Portugal. Nor did Colón have any intention of getting sponsored by any other kingdom except Spain. Because only Spain threatened João II’s life and livelihood, it was only Spain that needed to take the bait of the false India.

Whichever way one looks at those letters from the “three Princes” offering sponsorship, a fraud is evident, because if Colón received one of those letters from the “Prince” of Portugal offering sponsorship, as Villalón read to the Queen, then it is a lie that Colón had failed in 14 years to convince João II.

Nor is it true that Colón “hated the king and his kingdom” and departed secretly to Spain filled with hatred and fearful of being detained by João II, as wrote Fernando Colón. Neither does it make any sense Las Casas’s and Fernando’s claims that João II, advised by Calçadilla, betrayed the future

Admiral by secretly sending boats west following Colón's proposed route, claiming the poor and inexperienced Portuguese sailors quickly returned to port as if they had never before sailed out of the river Tagus.

Nor is it true that João II rejected Colón's proposal because he did not sponsor such initiatives, as some have written, because in 1487 "*Martim Leedo inhabitant of Villa Franca de Xira... received our salary to sail west to the Lost Island.*"³⁷²

If the king of Portugal was "so blind and deaf," with no interest in Colón's proposal, why would he have sent any ships by that route? If he was to send a ship, why not, send Colón himself, the man most qualified to carry out his idea?

If João II did not accept Colón's idea as credible, then why would he send a letter to Colón in Spain offering to sponsor him?

Regardless of what Colón wants King Fernando's interpretation of his words to be, it is clear that he was deceiving King Fernando when trying to sell the mission as a miracle reserved only for Spain, because the king that Colón had truly wished to have sailed for, João II of Portugal, was so blinded by God that Spain, João II's enemy, benefited from it.

How else could Cristóbal Colón explain his covert mission to Fernando and Isabel without compromising himself? By calling it a miracle of God no further explanation was necessary.

What Colón needs to explain is the reason why the king of Portugal, whose eyes and ears were "so closed by God" ended up giving Colón a "*letter of insistence*" for Villalón to read to Queen Isabel. Colón needs to be made to explain how João II continuously included him in his secret world of navigation: in 1485 Colón is with José Vizinho and King João II, in 1488 Colón is with by Bartolomeu Dias and João II and in 1493 Colón is with João II at his court at Vale do Paraíso. Furthermore, would King João II have given Colón the news about Brazil's existence if João II did not have 100% certainty that Colón was on João II's side?

Unless Colón was highly trusted by João II, why would the king have sent him on a secret expedition to the lands of Canada in 1477?

Why would João II authorize Colón to navigate the Portuguese secret routes including Guinea and St. Jorge da Mina? And why would such a cunning and deceitful king as João II be showing to that unworthy proponent of a far-fetched idea of little merit, that all claimed Colón to have been, the secrets that Portugal already possessed about those lands across the Atlantic, located southwest of Cape Verde?

João II even went as far as showing Colón the proof of those lands, in sculpted wood pieces and huge bamboos, found by Colón's brother-in-law, as D. Fernando relates:

[João II's royal guard] *Pedro Correia, married to a sister of the wife of the Admiral, told Colón that he had seen on the island of Porto Santo, another log, brought by the same winds, as well carved as the previous one, and that the same way arrived there bamboo so thick that from one node to another it would fit nine bottles of wine. [Colón] said that the King of Portugal affirmed this same thing, and talking with him [João II] of such things, the king showed them to him, and there not existing any places in these parts where such bamboo grows, it was obvious that the winds had brought them from some neighboring islands.*

The king who had his own Council of Mathematicians filled with top scientists, had a need to talk with Colón about Portugal's secrets of navigation and had such a personal relationship with Colón that when they talked about "such things" João II would show him the evidence.

Who was trying to convince whom that there was land to the west? If the King of Secrets was showing Colón items that proved the existence of lands to the west, we must ask, why?

Why would João II include Colón in so many of his state secrets and show Colón evidence of lands to the west, unless Colón deserved the king's full confidence and trust and unless he were someone very important in João II's court, even a member of his inner circle? Many of these things happened long before 1484 when Colón moved to Spain, and long before he became Admiral, Viceroy and Governor in 1493.

Cristóbal Colón had long been very well positioned within the affairs of the Portuguese discoveries, within the Portuguese court itself, as well as within the hierarchy of the nobility of Portugal, exactly as the genealogy of his Portuguese family proves.

Contrary to what every outsider wrote, Colón was a man that João II described as having “immense industriousness and great wit” that, although living in Spain, King João II specifically expressed that he was highly necessary to Portugal’s navigational matters and that João II needed his presence in Portugal right away.

Although João II had at his disposal a council of great scientists and countless pilots and sailors, that didn’t prevent João II from requesting, in March 1488, that Cristóbal Colón come immediately from Spain to Portugal, as seen in Chapter 11.

As we question the history books’ perceptions of whom Colón was and why he sailed for Spain, and focus on Colón’s own writings relating to King João II, as well as João II’s character, we must accept that Colón was one of the explorers who formed part of the Portuguese Project of Discoveries.

In Colón’s letters we can read how he constantly praised and showed affection towards Portugal, and how he was closely tied with everything happening there. It is evident that Colón was not a disconnected bystander but a participant in Portugal’s affairs:

I was at the Castle of San Jorge of Mina of the King of Portugal [built in 1482].

I saw some mermaids [manatees] on the shore of Manegüeta [Western Africa], though they were not as similar to women as they paint them.

Navigating many times from Lisbon to [protected] Guinea.

Twenty-three years have I sailed the sea without leaving it for any amount of time worth discounting. I saw the entire East and the entire West, which is accepted as navigating to the North, that is, England, and I sailed to Guinea.

It happened to me as I brought two ships and left one in Porto Santo, Madeira, to do something in which it took one day to do, but I arrived in Lisbon eight days before it, because I received Southwesterly wind gales while the other ship received nothing but little North-northeasterly winds, which are contrary.

In order to follow the course and the example of the Portuguese, who had discovered the major part of the islands.

This province is as big as Portugal, and in all of it there are many mines and much gold in the rivers. Marco Paulo says that they are worth more than white ones, and this may well be there in some parts, as it is with the seashells that are caught in the Canaries and are sold at high price in Portugal’s Mina.

Nor to mention the present case of the kings of Portugal, who had the heart to sustain Guinea and the discovery of it, and they spent gold and so many people that whoever counts all those in the whole kingdom, would find that as much as another half have died in exploring Guinea, and still they continued till they got out of it what is evident today. The which, all was begun a long time ago and only for a short time now has it given them profit.

The said [Portuguese] dared to conquer in Africa and support the endeavor in Ceuta, Tangier and Arzila and Alcazar, and continuously take the war to the Moors. And all this at great expense, only to do things of great princes and to serve God and add to their Lordship.

And now that the Portuguese sail there they found it to be true.

Make it so that no one can persist with tacking, because in one day they will lose what was gained in seven days, nor with a caravela, even if it be a Portuguese lateen one.

Even though you have spent some [money] on this discovery, it has been in a thing of nobler and greater state than has been anything of any other prince until now. Nor should you exit dryly but continue and give me aid and help and favor. Because the kings of Portugal spent and had heart to spend on Guinea, up to four or five years of money and people, before they received any benefits, and then God furnished them with gold and gains.

That, certainly, if you count the people in the kingdom of Portugal and the people who have died in the endeavor of Guinea, you would find them to be more than half of the kingdom. And, certainly, it would be an enormous greatness to attach some rent in Spain to be spent on this endeavor [of the New World]. That nothing of greater memory will Your Highnesses leave behind.

The Admiral was very conscious of what Portugal was doing as well as the greatness of his work for Spain and the Western World. The words of his last statement above have come to be true. Isabel and Fernando have left no greater glory to humanity than their financing of the “discovery” of the New World.

On Wednesday, December 26, during his First Voyage, Colón writes:

With these people that I have with me, I could subjugate this entire island, which I think is bigger than Portugal and has twice as many people.

In this small sample of quotes, we can see the praise that Colón dedicated to Portugal, as well as a glimpse into his extensive knowledge of the secrets of Portuguese navigation. However he never mentions Genoa or Italy because he had no personal experience with those places. He continuously makes reference to Portugal as if this was the kingdom about which he had more personal knowledge than about any other place.

How can this be explained except by accepting that Colón lived in Portugal for all his life and was an important citizen belonging to the highest social hierarchy of Portugal? He was someone so familiar with the kingdom’s secrets and, by inference, someone whom the king of Portugal had in his highest confidence. João II had such confidence in Colón that he sent him to the Mina Castle which had been built under “*top secret conditions and all had made grave sworn oaths*” to keep it secret.

FOUR ACES IN HAND

Putting an end to old beliefs is not easy, no matter how wrong they appear to be, and in this case the task becomes even more difficult because of all the misinformation that Admiral Colón and King João II perpetrated together against the public. It was intended that no one would ever doubt the official account, but rather, Colón’s “discovery” was to be accepted as an indisputable fact. To succeed in this deception, it was necessary to make the whole world believe that Cristóbal Colón was the first soul ever to cross the Atlantic Ocean, otherwise the scam would have none of its desired effect.

Once an understanding is reached that the current story about an ignorant peasant wool weaver named Cristoforo Colombo is a fraud, it becomes much easier to find clues that prove that fraud. Therefore, we can highlight another source that proves the fact that Brazil had already been discovered by Portugal before 1492.

During the negotiations for the Treaty of Tordesillas, the Spanish Monarchs, themselves, began to suspect that the line King João II was proposing, at 370 leagues west, had been chosen by João II to protect some land that he knew existed halfway North-South to the West of the African continent. Queen Isabel expressed this exact thought in a letter to Cristóbal Colón, stating that:

And because, after the Portuguese [negotiators] came here, in the talks that we have been having with them, some [of the Spaniards] want to believe that, midway from the cape that the Portuguese call of Good Hope, which is in the route that they now navigate to the Mina de Oro [St. Jorge] and Guinea downwards, to the line that you [Colón] advised should come in the Papal Letter, they think that there may exist some islands or even a continent.

Queen Isabel’s letter, aside from showing that the Spanish were becoming aware of Brazil’s existence, further shows clearly that it was the Admiral who instigated Spain to ask the Pope for that dividing line, which passed over Portugal’s secret continent to the west.

That continent located halfway North-South between Lisbon and the Cape of Good Hope, as Queen Isabel letter declares, is shown on the map in FIGURE 13.4. It is today’s Brazil.

With the Treaty of Tordesillas, Portugal finally succeeded in getting Spain away from all the territories of the Portuguese monopoly. The Treaty of Tordesillas kept Spain out of Africa, out of Brazil,

out of most of the Atlantic from Greenland to Antarctica and, especially out of the Indian Ocean and out of the Spice Trade in the real India.

This Treaty of Tordesillas was the outcome of a century of collecting secret information across the Atlantic, of spreading false propaganda and of great careful planning by Portugal's King João II.

All the state's secrets of technology and exploration, as far the Atlantic navigation is concerned, and all of Portugal's secret spies and double agents, provided to João II the necessary information to protect Portugal's rights over India's spice route.



Figure 13.4: The Midway Point: No doubt can remain of what Queen Isabel described as being located west of Africa at a "midpoint between Lisbon and the Cape of Good Hope", that land was the reason why João II forced his division line to fall where it did.

Once João II's Treaty of Tordesillas had protected India from Spain, in 1494, Portugal was ready for the last step, actually sailing to India. João II had everything ready for Vasco da Gama to set sail but, due to João II's death in 1495, Gama's voyage was delayed.

João II had the India fleet all prepared, the sea charts and the routes the fleet was to take, everything was ready based on information that his spy, Pêro da Covilhã, had gathered in his 1488 secret trip to India and Eastern Africa. Based on Pêro da Covilhã's information, João II

already knew where to acquire pilots for the Indian Ocean and had chosen Vasco da Gama to Captain the fleet. Vasco da Gama was another one of his trusted knights of his household and another member of the Order of Santiago. However, da Gama's fleet only set sail two years after João II's death, returning to Portugal in 1499.

The sea route to India was Portugal's after all, through João II's carefully planned and executed treaty.

The factual clues available on older maps, such as the Antilhas, the Sargasso Sea and João II's secret continent to the west, should be proof enough that Cristóbal Colón was not the first Mideaval discoverer of the Americas. His voyage was a ruse well planned by Portugal. Furthermore, Colón always knew that he was not in India and that the lands he had visited to the west were a *New World* as he declared:

And Your Highnesses won these lands; so many, that they are another world, and where Christianity will have great rejoicing.

And I put under the lordship of the King and of the Queen, our Lords, another world, by which Spain, that was said to be poor, is now the richest.³⁷³

Admiral Cristóbal Colón understood that he was not near India but in a New World. As witnessed by his contemporaries, Colón had a secret map of the lands to the west and even admitted, prior to sailing, that he would find land at 750 leagues west of the Canary Islands. That land he had always known was not India. He had to make everyone believe that it was India in order to help João II of Portugal in his own quest for the Indian spices. The ruse succeeded so well that even today some think that Colón truly thought he had sailed to India.

We think all the evidence presented; his lies and contradictions, his secret ties to King João II, along with the information he maintained secret from the Spanish court clearly outs Cristóbal Colón as a Portuguese double agent who fooled everyone in Spain, except the author of the *Memorial Portugês*.

The question for us now is not, how did Colón succeed in getting away with this ruse against Spain in 1493, but how did we manage to be fooled by him for so many centuries that only now we realize the truth of his machinations?

PART III

BEYOND THE HORIZON



ADMIRAL, GOVERNOR &
VICEROY D. CRISTÓBAL COLÓN

(by Alejo Fernández, author photo 2001)

CHAPTER 14

HOMELAND AND NATIONALITY

*Who can believe that a poor foreigner would raise a revolt
in such a place against Your Highnesses without
cause and without the arm of another Prince?*

DON CRISTÓBAL COLÓN

Having clarified in the previous chapters that India was well known from ancient times; that Colón and Portugal both knew that America was not India; that Colón was never lost; that the relations between Colón and the king of Portugal were continuous and friendly; that the ship Santa Maria never sank; that Colón lied continuously to Spain about the New World; that King João II shared many of his secrets of navigation with Colón, even calling him *industrious, ingenious, very necessary to us, and our special friend*; that Colón was not an illiterate ignoramus but a scholar; that his in-laws were not peasants but nobility; and that the background canvas of his life was the court of Portugal, not Italy; we now turn our focus towards answering the deeper mystery of the true identity of the Admiral of the Indies and the true location of his birth.

When we try to refine what Colón's nationality was, we are left with another puzzle. While Colón was alive, people declared that he was Portuguese, Ligurian, Italian, Milanese, or a Genoese from Genoa, Savona, Nervi, Cogoleto, Bogliasco, Saona, Piacenza, Monferrato, Calvi, and so on. In the early 1800s, a book published in Italy claimed to prove that Admiral Colón was from the Italian Colones family of Cuccaro. There was no family in Cuccaro named Colón. Confusion was fostered and perpetrated by basing their conclusions on Baltasar Colombo's documents, falsely calling the Colombos of Cuccaro by the name "Colones," and renaming Baltasar Colombo "Baldassare Colón".

We will not spend much time on the "history of the Genoese," which the reader can find in many books, more fictional than real, all of which ultimately fail at providing answers to the Colón puzzle.

What we will do instead is change the paradigm and explain how Fernando Colón's *Historie*, even though adulterated to impose an Italian slant, fits the life of a nobleman, a servant of King João II in Spain, and an individual who was married early on by King João II in Portugal.

Anyone who spends time investigating the life of Colón will realize that the secrecy around his identity was well perpetrated. He was enclosed in a cocoon of mystery so impenetrable that, 500 years later, we are still trying to identify him.

Ricardo Beltrán y Rózpide, Spanish historian from the Spanish Royal Academy of History, president of the Comisión de Indias and Secretary General of the Royal Geographic Society, was an avid investigator of Colón's life. Ricardo Beltrán y Rózpide, according to Portuguese historian Armando Cortesão, shortly before he died in 1928, had revealed to Afonso de Ornelas, Secretary General of the Portuguese Academy of History, that "in a private archive in Portugal, in between the documents related to João da Nova, are documents that prove, in a definite way, the Portuguese nationality of Cristóbal Colón."³⁷⁴

João da Nova (Xoáo De Nóvoa) was a Spanish nobleman and an expert navigator born in Galicia, Spain, but who worked for the Portuguese king and lived in Portugal. He was *alcaide* (mayor) of Lisbon and owner of the ship *Frol de la Mar*. He died fighting along with the Portuguese in India in 1509. *Juan de Nova Island*, near Madagascar, took this name because he discovered it in 1501.

Beltrán y Rózpide investigated this subject and wrote a few books presenting reasons why Admiral Cristóbal Colón was not a *Colombo* from Italy. He spent quite a bit of time on these investigations and then, having found “definite proof” of Colón’s true nationality in a *private archive in Portugal*, he refused to publish it. Why?

Beltrán y Rózpide confessed to Afonso de Dornelas that, if he was to publish what he had found about Colón’s true family, serious harm could come to him.³⁷⁵ In a way, one can understand Beltrán y Rózpide’s anxiety: after all, at that time, Spain and Portugal were going through political uncertainties that would culminate in both countries being ruled by the severest of dictators: Franco and Salazar respectively. One wonders what proof Beltrán y Rózpide found, and in whose archive it was located. More importantly, is the evidence still there, or did it get eliminated once Beltrán y Rózpide became aware of it?

Censorship was not uncommon in Portugal during Beltrán y Rózpide’s time. One hundred years ago, an important Portuguese historian was censored; he had presented the theory that Colón was a Portuguese nobleman. António Ferreira de Serpa was an illustrious genealogist and historian who died in 1939. He co-founded the Portuguese Academy of History and, among other things, served as consul-general for the Kingdom of Hawaii (before statehood) and consul to Ecuador. But his most important work, as it relates to our subject of Colón, is in the book *Salvador Gonçalves Zarco (Cristóbal Colón) – Os livros de D. Tivisco, Confirmações Históricas* (Lisboa, 1930). Ferreira de Serpa was invited to speak at Universities and, although initially supported and accepted in academia, he was quickly silenced by the state.

If there is some ongoing conspiracy to hide the truth, then the conspirators must have had the power not only to influence historians and writers, but also to modify documentation and even to publish their own version of the story, filled with false clues that would maintain Cristóbal Colón’s historic cover. The false information thus propagated over centuries would suffice to make historians run around in circles, to block them from ever arriving at the real facts – just, indeed, as it has happened.

After a lot of careful consideration, one must accept that much of the misinformation over the last 500 years was deliberately intended to mislead the public. Pointing to a Genoese straw man helped keep the public in the dark, especially with authentic Portuguese documents having been confiscated and hidden.³⁷⁶

Queen Isabel of Spain knew very well who Cristóbal Colón was. She made his children pages at her court. She authorized Colón and his two brothers to title themselves Don. Yet she made sure his real name, his true nationality, and his noble lineage were never revealed. Not even in the Royal Grant for a new coat of arms was Colón’s lineage mentioned. Queen Isabel signed the decree, yet she left no record of what family Colón’s original, “personal coat of arms” belonged to.

Bit by bit, we are getting closer to the truth. Fortunately for us, in 2006, Queen Isabel’s 1493 Royal Grant of arms was found and published for the first time in 500 years, as already shown in FIGURE 6.1 of the color insert. This amazing find confirmed that Colón’s coat of arms, already presented in our book, *O Mistério Colombo Revelado* (2006), was correct. The 1493 Royal Grant proves, at the same time, that all historical explanations of the Admiral’s original coat of arms had missed the mark.

John Boyd Thacher, who was a very careful writer, accepted that the Admiral had added the five anchors himself in 1502. Thacher, like many others, including La Rábida Monastery in Spain, presented as Colón’s coat of arms the gold field with a blue bend and red chief, thus leaving out the five anchors, which is the wrong coat of arms (SEE FIGURE 14.1 IN THE COLOR INSERT). Under the false assumption that Colón was a wool-weaver, Thacher questioned how a wool-weaver could own a coat of arms:

*There is a division containing the charges and enamels, supposed to be the Admiral’s conception of what his family, the wool-workers, might have had in form of arms if some generous monarch had awarded them the favour of bearing them – a field of gold with a bend azure on a chief of gules.*³⁷⁷

Cristóbal Colón, as we now know, was not “a wool-worker,” but a noble person of significant importance in Portugal. It is absurd to accept that the people who surrounded King João II did not know his true identity before he became so famous in 1493, under his false name. With Colón’s identity known in Portugal, it can only be concluded that the censorship of his life began in Portugal as well.

Admiral Colón could not have covered up his past identity alone, and the propagating of a false coat of arms, without the anchors, had to be part of this cover-up because the anchors represent his true lineage.

Aside from the Admiral himself, should we not include in the list of the guilty King Manuel I, Master of the Templar Order of Christ? Manuel I became king in 1495, due to João II’s untimely death, and had been privy to many of João II’s secrets. Once Manuel I inherited the crown, he refused to give up the mastership of the Order of Christ, as João II had requested he do, and it was he who controlled the writing about Colón’s voyage by the Royal Chroniclers, including Rui de Pina.

Rui de Pina wrote the account of Colón’s arrival in Portugal during the reign of Manuel I. He was even more constrained than other Royal chroniclers by self-censorship and protocol. Someone had accused him, and Pina feared being again arrested for heresy.

What about Emperor Carlos V? Carlos V became King of Spain and named the young Fernando Colón his Cosmographer Major, yet on June 13, 1523, he ordered Fernando Colón to drop his investigation into Admiral Colón’s past, thus ensuring that the public would be kept in the dark.³⁷⁸

On top of all of this, one must remember that the crown of Portugal was taken over by the Spanish crown from 1580 until 1640. Therefore, Spain ruled Portugal during the lawsuit for Cristóbal Colón’s inheritance, which lasted from 1578 to 1609. The House of Habsburg controlled all the players: Portugal, Spain, Genoa, and many other territories. It is at this time that an “official” history begins to take shape. The history was written during an important period, when the King of Portugal was the enemy King of Spain. One can only imagine how many details were modified by the chroniclers, all working indirectly for the House of Habsburg – through Felipe II, Felipe III and Felipe IV, as controlling Kings of Portugal!

King João II and his reign have been a target of censorship for centuries. Graça Almeida Rodrigues, publishing the book of chronicler Damião de Góis, writes that in Damião’s book:

Some things were deleted which had caused grave troubles for the author... [information] prejudicial to these families was eliminated... the other original kept at the National Library has these sections mutilated, some parts cut with scissors and in others heavily crossed out with ink.

Graça Almeida Rodrigues admits there were others interested in dimming King João II’s glory through censorship:

The first volume of Castañeda (1551) was almost totally censored... in it the glory of [Gama’s] voyage to India is attributed to King João II. He also tells us that the secret reports from Pero da Covilhã arrived to Portugal containing lots of information. In the second rewrite the credit for the expedition of Vasco de Gama is given to D. Manuel and they made it look as if Pero da Covilhã’s letters had never arrived.

Duarte Pacheco Pereira, member of the Council of Mathematicians (and one of João II’s bodyguards alongside Colón’s brother-in-law, Pedro Correia), gives us a peek into the atmosphere under Manuel I, and the censorship imposed on writing about João II:

Book about what was discovered by the most serene king D. João, a work that is most difficult to attempt due to the greatness of that Prince... since I struggle to do this I should not be reprimanded by those who know and even less by those gnawers, hecklers, grumblers who by their damned customs always made books criticizing books gnawing and grumbling of the things well done that they have never known how to do. What can I say of this Lord?... in our days we have never seen any who could come close to Him.³⁷⁹

With this introduction, Duarte Pacheco Pereira shows that he was writing in an atmosphere that was unfriendly to King João II and that he expected some repercussions. We have a case where one of King João II’s trusted men, the Royal Chronicler and Overseer of the Torre do Tombo (Royal Archives),

was actually arrested, surprisingly enough, for the strange crime of “heresy.” And who was that Royal Chronicler? It was the same Rui de Pina, a man who had served João II in many critical roles.³⁸⁰

Are we to believe that Rui de Pina was really a heretic and no one knew it except King Manuel I? Or was this charge trumped up, so that Pina could be controlled more easily? If you had the threat of heresy charges hanging over your head, you certainly would write what you were told to write. And only by coercion can we explain why Garcia de Resende’s account of Colón’s stop in Lisbon was carefully copied word for word from Rui de Pina’s pages. Yes. Resende’s account of Colón’s voyage was written word for word from Pina, even though Garcia de Resende was writing it 30 years later. Not only did Resende copy Rui de Pina word for word, but it is also Rui de Pina’s account that the often-quoted João de Barros wrote in his *Décadas da Ásia*, and Damião de Góis copied Pina as well.

This may be the only case in history where the same text is attributed to four authors. Why? It can only be because the four Portuguese chroniclers were forced to stick to an “official account” of Colón’s voyage. In order to not rock the boat of censorship, they merely copied Pina’s text. Although Barros and Góis added minor embellishments, the wording for their story is all from Rui de Pina.

Regarding the manuscript for Fernando Colón’s *Historie*, history books claim that Luis Colón, 3rd Admiral of the Indies (Cristóbal Colón’s grandson), took his uncle Fernando’s manuscript to Italy in 1571 with the intent of selling it or having it printed in Italian. However, at this time Luis Colón was exiled in Oran, North Africa, a Spanish possession, and was actually so deathly ill that Luis had written to the Spanish court, begging to be let back into Spain. He died on January 29, 1572, after receiving authorization to return to Spain.

Therefore, being exiled and so ill, would Luis Colón be worried about translating his uncle’s manuscript? And just how would he have the manuscript with him in exile, when the family documents are known to have been in the Las Cuevas Monastery of Seville? Why would Luis Colón, who had been ordered to remain exiled in Oran, be travelling around peddling a manuscript to be translated into Italian, instead of finding someone to print it in Spanish, the same language it was written in, which was also Luis Colón’s own native language?

The date of publication, 1571, only months before Luis’s death and so close to the great inheritance wars, is highly suspect. Fernando Colón’s *Historie* was one of the main items entered into evidence by the scammer Baltasar Colombo. Since Fernando Colón’s *Historie* helped only Baltasar’s cause, as an Italian from Genoa, should we not question why it was printed in Italian? Instead of Luis Colón, was it not Baltasar Colombo, the Italian pretender – with everything to gain from an adulterated printing – who stole the manuscript from Las Cuevas and took it to Italy for translation? There Baltasar Colombo had his printer backdate it to 1471, one year before the inheritance troubles began, in order for the book to appear legitimate.

Wouldn’t a rich Italian with connections in his country, as was Baltasar Colombo, find it easy to insert into a book translation anything he wished that would assist him in his legal arguments for the Admiral’s inheritance? One finds references to Fernando Colón’s *Historie* in all of Baltasar’s legal shenanigans. He enters the book into evidence to prove that the name Colombo and Colón were the same, as well as to attempt to prove that the Admiral’s unknown father was named Domenico, son of Lança Colombo from Cuccaro, which was contradicted by other evidence.

What about Colón’s real family in Portugal? What about all of those who knew his true name and identity and who taught him the Portuguese language, who taught him navigation, who taught him secret ciphers, who trained him in war tactics, who saw him marry and have a son, who visited his home in Porto Santo, in Madeira and in Lisbon, who knew of all his connections with the nobles and with King João II and with the court before 1484? None left us any record of the truth; all took the true name of Cristóbal Colón to their graves.

* Rui de Pina acted as secretary of the embassy sent by King João II of Portugal to Queen Isabel in the spring of 1482. In September he returned to Spain as sole envoy. He was sent in 1485 to Rome as secretary of an embassy to Pope Innocent VIII, headed by Colón’s nephew, D. Pedro de Noronha. João II put him in charge of writing a history of his reign and gave him a pension. Pina was one of the commissaries dispatched to Barcelona by João II to negotiate the division of the New World with the Catholic Monarchs, a discussion that would culminate in the Treaty of Tordesillas, 1494. In September 1495, he confirmed João II’s Last Will in his capacity as notary public, and on the 25th of October, 1495, he was present at his master’s deathbed in Alvor, where he opened and read João II’s Testament.

As we have discussed already, Cristóbal Colón's marriage was to a noble Portuguese lady, "Comendadora" of the Military Order of the Knights of Santiago. This marriage required authorization by the Master of Santiago. By marriage to Filipa Moniz Perestrelo, Admiral Colón became uncle, brother-in-law, and cousin to the most noble of the Portuguese nobility, immersed in the circle of the most important Portuguese players of his day, as was already presented in the genealogies of Chapter 9.

Despite all the efforts to locate a Cristóforo Colombo in Portugal's documents and archives, no such figure has been found, unless we consider Rui de Pina's 1504 account. Pina calls the navigator *Colombo ytaliano*. Yet at this time, 1504, the Admiral was famous in Spain under the name of *Colón*, not *Colombo*, as Rui de Pina named him! But the most bizarre part of Pina's writing is not that he wrote the wrong name, but what he left out. Not one single word is written about Colón's Portuguese life, or about Colón's connections to the noble Braganças, Monizes, Perestrelas, Alburquerque, Noronhas, Almeidas and Correias; nor does Pina say a single word about the navigator's close ties to King João II, Colón's many meetings with King João II, or about the secrets João II continuously shared with Colón. Pina acted as if he had no idea who this navigator was.

It would be very easy to solve the puzzle of who Cristóbal Colón truly was if we found documentation relative to what name he used when he married Filipa Moniz. Certainly such a noble marriage would carry with it a dowry, and that documentation may still exist, with his true name on it. The marriage record could be in the papers of the Captaincy of Porto Santo, the Court ledgers, or papers belonging to the Order of Santiago, in whose monastery Filipa Moniz lived. Simply by locating such a document, the puzzle would be solved.

The dark pit of censorship that surrounded the Portuguese life of the Admiral was very well planned on both sides of the border. This teamwork must have taken place because the Admiral's high level of birth afforded him such court favors.

Just like his traitor nephews, Colón would have been welcomed into Spain as a fugitive traitor from Portugal. The idea that Colón was another noble Portuguese traitor, whom Queen Isabel protected, is apparent in the accounting ledgers of her court (SEE FIGURE 14.2). The text in that document was presented by António Rumeu de Armas in his book *El "Portugués" Cristóbal Colón en Castilla* (The "Portuguese" Cristóbal Colón in Castille). Page 29 reads:

Dj mas a () Portugués, este dia treynta doblas castellanas, que Su Altesa le mando dar presente el dotor De Talavera; Dioselas por mj Alonso De Qunjntanjlla; Este es el Portugués que estava en El Real; Esto fue a la partida de Linares, et Su Altesa me lo mandó en persona.

Translation: *I also gave to [name left blank or erased] Portuguese, this day thirty Castilian doubloons [double value gold coins], that Your Highness ordered me to give in the presence of doctor de Talavera; Alonso de Quintanilla gave them [to him] for me; this is the Portuguese that was at El Real; this was at the departure from Linares, and Your Highness ordered me personally.*

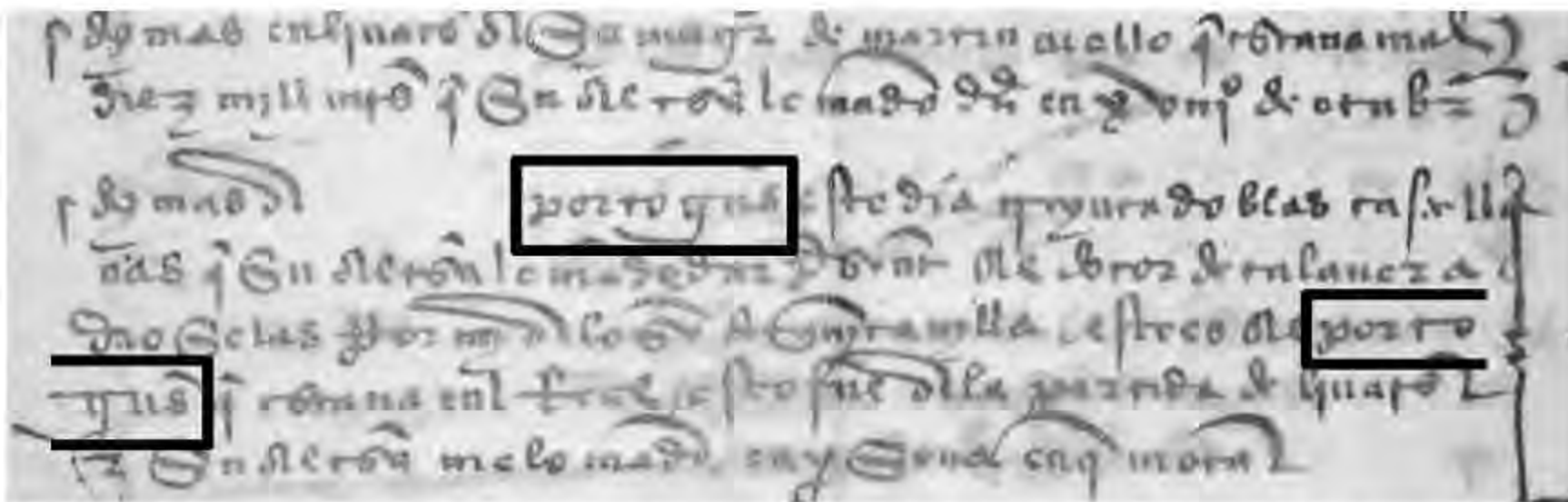


Figure 14.2: The Portuguese Colón. This section of the ledger from Isabel's accountant, Pedro de Toledo, shows clearly that the recipient of the gold coins was accepted by Pedro de Toledo, Queen Isabel and the others of the court as being a *Portuguese* (outlined right after the blank space, and again two lines below). However, there is no name. This was in 1487, many years before Colón became famous, and yet there already existed sufficient reason to keep his identity a secret.

Prof. Antonio Rumeu de Armas investigated this document to see who was the secret *Portuguese* that received such confidentiality, plus a quantity of gold, and by crosschecking Alonso de Quintanilla's ledger entries, he proved that this Portuguese recipient was none other than the future Admiral, Cristóbal Colón. Rumeu de Armas also confirmed that:

The first interview between the future discoverer and the Catholic Monarchs in Spain had as a location the archbishopric city of Alcalá de Henares, where at the time the court resided, and as an exact date January 20, 1486.

The care taken to hide the Admiral's identity in this document, just as in Rui de Pina's, is evident by the name being left blank, or erased later. If Colón's name was erased, then a high tech analysis of the document may yet reveal the secret.

Why was Queen Isabel deliberately hiding the name of this Portuguese, Cristóbal Colón?

Can anyone accept that the Queen paid more than one year's salary to a man who hadn't identified himself at the court? If he had in fact been a lowly Italian weaver, what did he and Queen Isabel have to hide from us? Nothing. But if King João II found out about it, a Portuguese who brought navigational secrets to Spain – and planned to take Spanish ships to lands coveted by the Portuguese – would have been risking his life.

If Isabel wanted to protect someone, whom Isabel believed to be another Portuguese traitor of João II, Isabel would make sure he was not identified.

This was the one and only time when Admiral Colón is identified by his nationality in the official Spanish documents. His nationality in 1487 was Portuguese. Never again would the court identify Admiral Colón, or his brothers, by any nationality in any court documents. After 1487, the Spanish court merely declared that Colón was a "foreigner," but never an *Italian* or *Genoese*. In other words, the court began censoring his nationality along with his true name.

To explain the "Portuguese" nationality given to Colón by the Spanish, many have claimed that "it was Queen Isabel's mistake" to call him Portuguese. They insisted that Isabel's court "assumed" Colón was Portuguese, merely because he had lived and married in Portugal. Again, this is more than just a bad conclusion, or an evasion; it's an invention, and it's contrary to the facts. None of the many Italians who moved from Portugal to Seville ever got described as Portuguese, not even as foreigner, in the Spanish court documents. They were each attributed their nationality. The Spanish court documents clearly say Florentine, Genoese, Venetian, etc., for all of the Italians who came from Portugal.

Only the Colón brothers received the nationality of *Foreigner*. We must ask why.

One must accept that Isabel and her court knew exactly who this "foreigner Colón" was. The Spanish court had to know his true place of birth. Therefore, Isabel also must have understood why it was important to cover up Colón's name, nationality and lineage. Or are we to accept that Queen Isabel suppressed all these facts without knowing why?

Proof that Queen Isabel was clearly a part of this international cover-up is found in the naturalization papers of the Admiral's brother, Diego Colón. Diego's naturalization document excludes one of the most important pieces of information required in such a document, **his nationality**, as the text shows:

Dona Isabel, by the Grace of God, etc. In order to favor and reward you, Don Diego Colón, brother of the Admiral Don Cristóbal Colón, and having in mind your fidelity and loyal services that you have performed for us and that we expect you will do from now on, by this present we make you a natural of these our kingdoms of Castile and Leon... Given at the town of Medina del Campo on the eighth day of the month of February year of our Lord Jesus Christ of fifteen hundred and four years.³⁸¹

This naturalization document is very bizarre because the first thing that one should know in a naturalization document is the nationality of the person being naturalized. Not only is this the one and only document of its kind during the thirty-year reign of Queen Isabel, but it goes against her own legal standards:

It was an established law of the Castilian Public Code that all letters of naturalization must always have the nationality of origin. In the Registro del Sello del Archivo de Simancas (Registry of the Seal of the Archive of Simancas) are preserved at least one hundred documents of this type from the reign of the Catholic Kings. In all those the rule is followed [the nationality is indicated, as the law required].³⁸²

Here is one of those hundreds of naturalizations that followed Queen Isabel's legal code. Note the "Genoese" nationality is clearly indicated:

Don Fernando and Dona Isabel by the Grace of God king and queen of Castile and Leon... you Francisco de Riberol, Genoese merchant living in the city of Seville.³⁸³

Only the Colón brothers were important enough for the monarchs to break their own laws, which proves how important it must have been to keep these identities a secret. By referring to the Colón brothers only as "foreigners," and by neglecting to designate any nationality of origin on the naturalization document, the Spanish court demonstrates its own participation in the cover-up of who was being naturalized.

Diego Méndez, born a Spaniard, was the adopted son of Colón's nephew, the Portuguese Count of Penamacor. Méndez went on to become Admiral Colón's secretary and served under Colón's son as well. He maintained a close connection to Colón's in-laws in Portugal. On October 16, 1523, Diego Méndez went to Alonso de la Barrera, Public Notary of Seville, to give a power of attorney so that Father Cristóvão Moniz, resident of Lisbon, could represent him. Diego Colón, Second Admiral, also selected this Father Cristóvão Moniz, his uncle, to administer his affairs. (Father Cristóvão Moniz was the Superior of the Carmelites at the Monastery of Carmo, where Diego Colón's mother, Filipa Moniz, was buried, along with Diego's aunt Iseu Perestrelo and his uncle, Pedro Correia).

March 8, 1535, Diego Méndez gives testimony in Madrid... that the father of the said Viceroy was called Don Cristóbal Colón, Genoese and was a natural of Saona, which is a town near Genoa. And that the mother of the said Viceroy, wife of the said Don Cristóbal Colón, was called Filipa Moniz Perestrelo and was natural of the city of Lisbon.³⁸⁴

Although the Spanish court and the witnesses try to deceive us by conspicuous mention of Italy, Genoa and Saona, the facts that surface are always Portuguese and never Genoese. As we see Diego Méndez, private secretary to Admiral Colón, give such an affirmative vote for Saona as the birthplace of the Admiral, we should immediately ask the question, "Why were all the other witnesses so unsure of his place of birth?"

Are we to accept that only Diego Méndez knew the secret?

The fact is that Diego Méndez would be the last person one should expect to tell the truth about Colón. Diego Méndez had been lying about his own nationality for the whole 46 years that he lived in Spain. Like Colón, Méndez was known as an *extranjero*, "a foreigner" in Spain, but in actuality Méndez was born a Spaniard and spent his life in Spain hiding that fact.

Admiral Colón was also careful to hide Méndez's identity, calling him Diego Méndez *de Segura*, a town in Portugal next to the town of Penamacor, instead of Diego Méndez *de Zamora*, the Spanish town where Méndez was truly from. Diego Méndez's parents were García Méndez and María Díaz. Méndez's father was a *contino* (officer/advisor) of King Enrique IV, and a partisan of Enrique IV's daughter, Queen Juana, "La Beltraneja." Méndez's father fought alongside Portugal's King Afonso V during the War of Succession (1475-1480) and was exiled in Portugal as a traitor to Queen Isabel.³⁸⁵

From 1484, when Diego Méndez re-enters Spain alongside his adopted parents, the Count and Countess of Penamacor, until 1530, when Méndez finally clarifies his own identity to the Council of the Indies, he had been falsifying his identity and place of birth. Because of all of this, seeing that Méndez was lying about his own identity, should we not expect that he would also lie to help hide an employer whose identity was also hidden and who was passing himself off as "Cristóbal Colón?"

Yet, it is obvious that both crowns knew who Cristóbal Colón was. The King of Portugal married him to a Portuguese noble, and the Queen of Spain attributed to him titles of high nobility and arms.

Therefore, both the lack of specific information, on the one hand, and the steadfast shouting of “*Genoese*” and “*Italian*” on the other, contribute to one and the same cover-up: omission of the truth, and diversion by false information.

No one can deny that in numerous writings the Admiral is described as *Genoese* by third parties, who declared they “heard say” that Genoa was his birthplace. The most used argument by the supporters of the wool-weaver Colombo, after all, has been that *everyone said so*. Everyone, that is, except the court of Spain, the court of Portugal, and the Admiral himself. These three highest authorities never said that he was Genoese. All of those references, however, happen after the Admiral was already famous, using his pseudonym of Colón while keeping his past and his true identity secret. The “*Genoese*” claims begin after 1493. It benefitted Colón to be recognized as anything but Portuguese because it helped to obfuscate the truth.

However, there is nothing in the documents that connects Admiral Colón to Italy, or the *Genoese* Colombo to the Spanish Admiral Colón.

Therefore, both the historians’ invention that the wool-weaver had upgraded himself overnight to a “merchant” in Portugal, and their continuous demotion of the noble Filipa Moniz to a “poor noble,” were contrived to explain the “fantasy marriage” of a peasant to a noblewoman. But these are clearly aberrations of known fact.

How can it be accounted for that Colón never wrote a single sentence in the Italian language? Also, if the Admiral had truly been Italian, how can one explain the Portuguese foundation of the Spanish that he wrote in? How can one explain the multitude of Portuguese names that Colón used to baptize the New World, if he was not a Portuguese? How can one explain that he never wrote a single letter in Italian, not even to his brothers, if they had been Italian? One finds it very difficult to explain these facts outside a Portuguese nationality. All of these facts are supported by the following list of Portuguese place-names. No other nationality answers to these inconsistencies as logically as Portuguese:

Names of places given by Cristóbal Colón to the New World that were, at the same time, place names in Portuguese Madeira and Porto Santo:

<i>Santa Cruz (Holy Cross)</i>	<i>Rio das Canas (River of the Bamboos)</i>
<i>Rio do Sol (River of the Sun)</i>	<i>Cabo da Galé (Cape of the Galley)</i>
<i>Porto Sancto y Porto Sacro (Holy Port)</i>	<i>Cabo do Namorado (Cape of the Lover)</i>
<i>Ponta de Ferro (Point of Iron)</i>	<i>Cabo de Cruz (Cape of the Cross)</i>
<i>Rio Seco (Dry River)</i>	<i>Cabo Campainha (Bell Cape)</i>
<i>Madalena (Magdalena)</i>	<i>Porto dos Jardins (Port of Gardens)</i>
<i>Cabo do Farol (Cape of the Lighthouse)</i>	<i>Boca do Dragão (Mouth of the Dragon)</i>
<i>Beata (Blessed)</i>	<i>Canal de Vacas (Canal of Cows)</i>
<i>Ponta do Areal (Point of Sands)</i>	<i>Cabo de Lapa (Cape of Limpet)</i>
<i>Vale do Paraíso (Valley of Paradise)</i>	

Names derived from the Portuguese Azores Islands:

<i>As Formigas (The Ants)</i>	<i>Ilha Santa Maria (Holy Mary Island)</i>
<i>Ilha Horta (Horta Island)</i>	

Names found in Portugal proper:

<i>Cuba</i>	<i>Ponta de Caxinas (Point of Caxinas)</i>
<i>Monseraz</i>	
<i>Guadalupe</i>	<i>Rio da Lua (River of the Moon)</i>
<i>Cabo de Estrela (Cape of the Star)</i>	<i>Trasmontana</i>
<i>Nossa Senhora das Neves (Our Lady of the Snows)</i>	
<i>Santa Maria de Belém* and Rio de Belém (Holy Mary of Bethlehem, River of Bethlehem)</i>	

*«Santa Maria de Belém», in Lisbon, was the name of the church that Prince Henry “the Navigator” dedicated to the navigators of the Templar Order of Christ in the Port of Restelo (where Colón arrived March 4, 1493). King Manuel I built at this location the current Monastery of Jerónimos in 1501.

On the Island of Cuba there is Cayo Guincho, and on Madeira Island there is *Ilhéu Guincho*. On Tortuga Island, North of Haiti, is Punta de Portugal (Point of Portugal). Furthermore, the name of *Natividade*, given by Colón to the first settlement in Haiti, is Portuguese for Christmas.

Portuguese names that Colón borrowed from the African coast.

<i>Porto dos Fidalgos</i> (Port of Knights)	<i>Cabo Formoso</i> (Cape Beautiful)
<i>Cabo de Palmas</i> (Cape of Palms)	<i>Porto Almadías</i> (Port Canoes)
<i>Cabo de Pena</i> (Cape of Boulder)	<i>Cabo Verde</i> (Cape Green)
<i>Porto de Natal</i> [Natividad] (Port of Christmas)	<i>Rio de Ouro</i> (River of Gold)
<i>Ponta Roxa</i> (Red Point)	<i>Cabo Talhado</i> (Cropped Cape)
<i>Cabo Lindo</i> (Nice Cape)	<i>Rio de Santo Domingo</i> (River of Holy Sunday)
<i>Ponta da Praia</i> (Point of the Beach)	<i>Golfo da Baleia</i> (Gulf of the Whale)
<i>Cabo Boto</i> (Blunt Cape)	<i>Porto Formoso</i> (Port Beautiful)
<i>As Barbas and Ilhéus Barbas</i> (The Beards and Islets Beards)	
<i>Ponta da Agulha and Ilha Agulha</i> (Point of the Needle and Needle Island)	
<i>Cabo Rico</i> (Cape Rich)	<i>Cabo do Monte</i> (Cape of the Hill)
<i>Santa Catarina</i> (Saint Catherine)	<i>Fortaleza de Esperança</i> (Fort of Hope)
<i>Ilha S. Tomé e Porto do Mar de Sancto Tomás</i> (Island of St. Thomas and Port of the Sea of Saint Thomas)	
<i>Porto do Príncipe</i> (Port of the Prince)	<i>Ilha Santiago</i> (Santiago Island)
<i>Golfo de S. Brás</i> (Gulf of Saint Brás)	<i>Ilha de Cabra</i> (Island of Goat)
<i>Porto Grande</i> (Port Big)	<i>Cabo da Lagoa</i> (Cape of Lagoon)
<i>Bahia das Alagoas</i> (Bay of Lagoons)	<i>Cabo de S. Miguel</i> (Cape Saint Michael)
<i>Porto da Conceição</i> (Port of Conception)	<i>Cabo Santo, Cabo Sacro</i> (Cape Holy)
<i>A Assunção</i> (The Ascension)	<i>Ilha Bohio</i> (Bohio Island)
<i>Ponta Rama</i> (Point Bough)	<i>Monte Cristalino</i> (Hill Crystalline)
<i>Ilha Tórtola</i> (Island Tortola)	<i>Ilha de Graça</i> (Island of Grace)
<i>O Galo</i> (The Rooster)	<i>Vega Real</i> (Royal Valley)
<i>Cabo do Bezerro</i> (Cape of Calf)	<i>Ilhéu Navasa</i> (Islet Navasa)
<i>Porto das Cabanas</i> (Port of Huts)	<i>Porto Mata</i> (Port Woods)

Although this is not a complete list, it is sufficient to show the influence on the discoverer of his Portuguese life. We have left out a lot of other commonly used religious names which are more generic and used in every Christian nation – like S. Salvador, S. Vicente, Mar de Nuestra Señora, Monte Cristo – since these are not helpful in narrowing down the linguistic influences from Colón's past. The names listed above are Portuguese, connected to Portugal and its Atlantic discoveries; however, no one can claim these place names are found in Genoa.

Those historians – such as Consuelo Varela in the extract below, who've pointed out the place names – fail to explain why an Italian would apply Portuguese names to those places. All they do is dismiss it as yet another conundrum in Colón's "Genoese" history:

The Indian [American] toponyms are clearly projected from [Portuguese] African names: Cabo do Monte, Cabo Verde, Cabo Roxo, Cabo das Palmas, Río do Ouro, Porto Santo, etc., amongst many others so Portuguese like Vale do Paraíso.

As anyone can understand, it is very easy to invent a nationality when there isn't one clearly indicated in the documents; however, it is impossible to deny the actions of Admiral Colón and his relatives. It is through their actions and writings that we will arrive at Colón's true nationality. It is by interpreting the nuances of his life, and not the words of third party observers, that we have any hope of getting at the truth.

None of the theories presented over the centuries explaining Colón's identity has been able to pass the test of time. Each time a theory came along, claiming to be the end-all answer to the puzzle, no one could imagine a different answer. But in time the "certainties" turned into "maybes," and in the majority of cases, they were eventually discarded as impossibilities.

As we have shown, Cristóbal Colón's nationality has always been an open question. Fernando Colón clearly stated that his father's past was an intentional mystery, and the same is seen in Bartolomé de Las Casas's manuscript:

He was then, this chosen man, from the Genoese nation, from some place in the Province of Genoa. Which it was, where he was born or what name had the place [of his birth] we don't know the truth of it... A Portuguese History that was written by a João de Barros, Portuguese, that he called Asia, in book III, Chap. 2 of the first decade, making mention of this discovery, says nothing except that, according to what all affirm, this Cristóbal was of the Genoese nation.

This extract represents the continuous challenge one faces in getting at the truth. It is a contradiction. Friar Bartolomé de Las Casas knew Cristóbal Colón and his family very well. He was the Admiral's contemporary and actually served under the 2nd Admiral at the Dominican monastery in Santo Domingo. His father and uncles sailed for Cristóbal Colón. Moreover, Las Casas had access to many of the original manuscripts, including the Ship's Log of the first voyage. Yet Las Casas writes with the uncertainty of a third party to the facts.

First Las Casas states, as if it was a proven fact, that Colón was a *Genoese*. In the next phrase he contradicts this by saying the truth is uncertain: *we don't know the truth of it*. Finally he tries to settle the issue by turning not to a Genoese but to a Portuguese writer, Barros, who never even met Cristóbal Colón, because Barros was born two years after Colón sailed into Restelo. All Barros did was copy Rui de Pina's account and, as Las Casas states, Barros *wrote nothing except, that according to what others affirm...*

How strange is it that Las Casas addressed the Admiral's nationality puzzle by quoting what a Portuguese had written relative to a man who used the false name of Cristóbal Colón, and who covered up all tracks of himself in Portugal?

Turning to Barros to explain the mystery indicates that Las Casas felt the mystery was tied to Portugal, and that the answers were in Portugal. By taking this approach, then, Las Casas reveals that he expected the answers to be exposed in Barros's book; however *Barros said nothing* [about what the Portuguese may have known] *except what others affirmed*.

Neither Barros, nor Las Casas, nor Fernando Colón showed reliable proof, but instead limited themselves to maintaining the mystery and propagating rumors. One cannot explain history on the basis of rumors, or secondhand accounts. It would be foolish to put all our trust in those contradictions and affirmations without some documentation to back up the rumors of a Genoese birth.

There is not a single document that connects the Admiral Colón, who lived in Portugal and in Spain, to that wool-weaver, Colombo, who lived in Genoa. The fraudulent *Last Will of 1498* is now relegated to the trash bin, where it belongs; the *Assereto Document* has all the markings of a fraud; and the *Memorial of Payments*, accepted for so long as being from May 19th, 1506, is now established as having been written long after Admiral Colón died.

Another explanation must be sought that makes better sense of all this confusion. Let's take a closer look at a letter sent to the Spanish Monarchs by Admiral Colón, and see if a Portuguese nationality can be the answer to this puzzle:

*Your Highnesses will recall that I left my wife and children and came from my homeland [mi tierra] to serve you.*³⁸⁶

This letter is dated March 4, 1493, and it was written at Lisbon: in that same "*mi tierra*" (my homeland) of Portugal where Colón had been married and which he had left behind to serve in Spain. The affirmation that he makes to the monarchs appears to be the truth about his homeland, as certainly, "[their] Highnesses [would] recall." Given that the only land Colón had left to go to Spain was Portugal, the *homeland* where his only wife was born and lived, then Colón is admitting that his homeland is Portugal. Seven years later, in 1500, he would write:

It is already 17 years that I came to serve these Princes with the enterprise of the Indies. Eight were spent in disputes, and in the end my proposal was taken as deceit. I, with love, persisted in it, and I replied to France and to England and to Portugal, that for the King and Queen, Our

Lords, were those lands and properties... I beg Your Grace that with zealousness of a true Christian and of whom Their Highnesses dearly trust, to look at all my manuscripts and consider how I came to serve these Princes from so far leaving wife and kids that I never saw again.

Cristóbal Colón left Portugal at the end of 1484 and went to Spain, leaving behind wife and children. Are we then not to take him at his word when he says that he left “his homeland,” referring to Portugal? Since he left only Portugal for Spain, only Portugal qualifies as the answer to the mystery of his birthplace. This fact, along with many other aspects of his life, seems to make sense; other pieces of the puzzle also point to Portugal as the solution to his birthplace riddle.

COLUMBUS OF REDLAND OR CLAY PIGEON?

Fernando Colón’s *Historie* contains this passage, about his uncle Bartholomé Colón’s voyage to England, translated back from the Italian:

[Bartholomé Colón] began to have talks with King Henry VII... to whom he presented a world map on which were written these verses that I found among his writings and that will be put here more for its antiquity than for its elegance... cui Bartholomeus Columbus de Terra Rubra, opus edidit istud Londoniis, anno Domini 1480, atque insuper anno Octavo [1488]... And because someone may notice that it reads Columbus of Terra Rubra, I say that I saw the same thing in some of the Admiral’s notes before he acquired his status, where he signed Columbus de Terra Rubra.

In Las Casas’ book we read that it was, “*Bartholomé Colón de Tierra Rubia*” who did the work in London, on February 10, 1488. *Colón de Tierra Rubia* is not the same as *Columbus de Terra Rubra*.

In a case like this, one inaccurate (or swapped) letter can mean the difference between truth and fiction. Fernando and Las Casas wrote the statement in different words: *Bartholomeus Columbus de Terra Rubra* and *Bartolomé Colón de Tierra Rubia*.

However, Fernando’s original manuscript is lost, and it is highly doubtful that Fernando would have written *Columbus* instead of *Colonus*, which he insisted was his father’s Latin name. The use of *Columbus* instead of *Colonus* has to be another mistranslation by the Italian printer. If the translator wrongly changed Fernando Colón’s name into Fernando Colombo, how can we be sure that other names were not also changed? We think that Las Casas’ text is more reliable, and that Fernando’s *Historie* was corrupted yet again in this passage.

It may seem very finicky to analyze things letter by letter, but it is essential to do so in order to reach a correct conclusion. Clearly, if someone was born in Sierra Nevada, for example, it is not the same as being born in Serra Nevada. Inserting or removing the “i” changes the Spanish *Sierra* into Portuguese *Serra*, denoting an entirely different country.

Parts of the text written by Cristóbal Colón’s son, Fernando Colón, were corrupted and modified during the translation in Italy, where they even corrupted Fernando’s purely Spanish last name from *Colón* into *Colombo*. Colombo is a surname that Fernando never used, or was ever known by.

Fernando Colón clearly tells us that his father’s Latin name was *Colonus*, and never *Columbus*. Could it be that a man who struggled to clarify that his father was never a *Columbus* would, just a few chapters later, tell us that he was “*Columbus de Terra Rubra*”? It is more likely that Fernando Colón wrote “*Colonus de Terra Rubra*,” just as Las Casas did.

Many have written that this *Terra Rubra* refers to *Terrarossa*, in Italy. But to read “*Terrarossa*” requires modifying the words “*Terra Rubra*.” In reality, “*Terra Rubra*” is a true Portuguese expression that does not need to be modified. *Terra* is a Portuguese word for land (also Latin and Italian); in Spanish, “land” is *Tierra*. *Rubra* (Latin *rubru*) is a Portuguese word that means “very red.”

If someone wanted to hide his past, as Colón did, and codified the place where he came from, then *Terra Rubra* could easily be interpreted as secret code for the Portuguese Vila Ruiva. *Ruiva* (Latin *rubia*) in Portuguese also means “red,” and is interchangeable with *Rubra*. Thus, Vila Ruiva is a better option for *Terra Rubra* than is *Terrarossa* in Italy or *Tarroja* in Catalonia, both places theorized by historians as Colón’s *Terra Rubra*.

The Portuguese Vila Ruiva is located just a few miles from the ancient town of Cuba, in the Duchy of Beja, in the Alentejo province of Portugal. The Portuguese village of Cuba was named centuries before the island nation, and it's likely where the Admiral borrowed his name for the biggest island in the Caribbean.

Although many historians insist that the name "Cuba" came from the native language, saying the natives called the island *Caobana*, there is no logic to this argument. Colón, who was the very first westerner to write about this island, stated on Sunday, October 21, 1493, that the natives called it *Colba*, which is very different from *Caobana*. However, immediately after stating that the native name was *Colba*, and having baptized it for the Spanish as *Juana*, the Admiral insisted on continuously calling it by the name of *Cuba*.

The Portuguese Cuba, not far from the Spanish border with Huelva, is considered by some as the birthplace of Admiral Colón.

The accumulation of Portuguese elements in the life of the Admiral makes it impossible any longer to accept the claims that Admiral Colón was connected to Italian Terrarossa, Genoa, or even the Italian Pavia.

THE TWO PAVIAS

Both Fernando Colón and Bartolomé de Las Casas mention Pavia as a location where the Admiral had gone to school when he was little. We continue to concentrate on Portugal as his true *mi tierra*, not because we want to make him Portuguese against all odds, but for the opposite reason. Portugal provides all the answers without our having to force-fit, or having to deny, any of the known facts of Colón's life. Portugal not only answers the puzzle of all the "Portugueseness" of Colón, it also explains why Isabel's court would call him "Portuguese," and it explains his own words to the court, declaring Portugal as his "homeland."

Fernando Colón wrote in his *Historie*:

He studied at Pavia enough to understand Cosmography, a subject he was very devoted to, and for which he also delved into Astrology and Geometry, because these sciences are so interconnected that one cannot exist without the other. And although Ptolemy in the beginning of his Cosmography says that nobody can be a good Cosmographer who is not also a good painter [Cartographer], he knew also how to make drawings to position the lands and fix the celestial bodies on either flat or round surfaces [globes].

Las Casas gives a similar account that the Admiral:

Studied at Pavia the first rudimentary basics of letters, mainly Grammar, and became an expert in the Latin language, and regarding this he is praised in the said Portuguese History [Barros]... He acquired the essential substance necessary in the other sciences, that is Geometry, Geography, Cosmography, Astrology or Astronomy, and navigation.

Las Casas writes that the Admiral's Latin was so good that he was eulogized in Portugal. However, no one in Portugal seems to remember anything about the Admiral's Portuguese life. No Portuguese chronicle talks about his marriage, his in-laws, his ongoing meetings with King João II, or about his years of navigation with the Portuguese. How, then, could they know he was so fluent in Latin as to merit such praise, unless they'd had many conversations with Colón while he lived in Portugal?

Fernando Colón also adds that his father:

Was such an observer of Religious things that, in the fasts and in praying the Devine Services, he could have been mistaken as one professed in religion. So opposed was he to swearing oaths and blasphemies that I never heard him make another oath than "by San Fernando."... And I say that being very young he learned letters and studied at Pavia.

Several investigations into the students registered during the 1400s at the University of Pavia, in Italy, reveal that no Colombo, Columbus, Columbo, Colom, Colón or Colonus ever studied there – granted we should not have expected to find him there under the false name he took on when he

was nearly 30 years old.³⁸⁷ Students from several nations were registered at the University of Pavia. Once we find out his true name, we may yet discover that indeed he studied there, assuming that his parents weren't already hiding his true identity at that time.

The question that must be posed is: Would D. Fernando invent a university education for his deceased father if the Admiral had truly never studied at Pavia? Was it only to *enhance the greatness of his father, because he was ashamed to be the son of a lowly wool-weaver*, as many history books proclaim? Was it not sufficient for Fernando to feel honor in the fact that his father had discovered the New World, had been elevated to a Knighthood of the Golden Spur, and was an Admiral, a Governor, and a Viceroy? To these very real distinctions, for a dad who was famous the world over as a Latinist and the most expert of navigators, would Fernando still have felt the need to invent a university education? If Fernando wanted to show his father's high position in society, why didn't he tell us instead about Colón's true lineage, and about his royal Portuguese in-laws, so close to the King of Portugal?

The kneejerk reaction has been that the word "Pavia" referred to the University of Pavia, in Italy. However, there is an ancient town of Pavia in Portugal too, located between Lisbon and Estremoz, whose central church held the remains of quite a few Templar Knights, as the Templar crosses on their tombstones attest.

There were monasteries in the old towns where children could study, and Portugal, being a kingdom of navigators, had to be teaching its children the sciences related to this subject. Therefore, it is not inconceivable that the Portuguese Pavia contained a monastery where subjects like Astronomy were taught. This town has been very connected to the stars from ancient times. There is a huge, pre-historic monolith at the center of Pavia, and there are many others in its outskirts. The connection of such monolithic structures to the skies is legendary.

We have not yet found proof that Portugal's scholars taught their pupils the science of discerning and tracking the stars at Pavia, but it is a reasonable explanation as to why both Fernando Colón and Las Casas declared it was in Pavia that the Admiral had studied.

I SWEAR BY SAINT FERNANDO

When someone wishes to be taken seriously, it is common for them to say, "I swear to God," to such and such, while others swear on their father's soul. Our Cristóbal Colón swore, "by San Fernando," as we have just seen in the passage by Fernando Colón above.

Why "by Saint Fernando" instead of, say, by Saint George, the patron Saint of Genoa? Or by Saint Tiago, the patron Saint of Castile?

In the History of Europe there are only two Saint Fernandos. One is Fernando III, King of Castile and Leon, "the Saint" (1199-1252), canonized in 1671, which is 165 years after Admiral Colón died. The other Saint Fernando is the Portuguese Prince Fernando (1402-1443), Master of the Military Order of Avis. The Portuguese Saint Fernando was a prisoner of the Muslims in Morocco from 1437 until his death in 1443. Because Portugal refused to return Ceuta back to Muslim rule in exchange for Saint Fernando's life, he died as a Moroccan prisoner. His bones were later brought to Portugal, during the reign of King Afonso V, and his religious cult was officially sanctioned in 1470. Thus, this Portuguese prince was the only *Saint Fernando* known during the lifetime of Cristóbal Colón. It was, therefore, only in name of a Portuguese Prince that Admiral Colón chose to swear by.

Did the man later known as Cristóbal Colón start out his life as an illegitimate son of this Prince Saint Fernando? If so, then one could easily understand why the Admiral would swear by him. However, as far as is known, Prince Saint Fernando had no children; in any case, none could have been fathered later than August 22, 1443, the date of his death in Morocco.

As we can see, Saint Fernando and Pavia fit neatly into the borders of Portugal. Do these two facts make Cristóbal Colón a Portuguese? By themselves, we have to say no; however, when no Genoese facts are found in Portugal, and when all the other known Portuguese facts are joined together,

it becomes impossible to deny not only that Colón was a Portuguese noble, but also that he had to be very well known in Portugal during his lifetime.

We accept that Fernando Colón left sufficient clues in his manuscript for a reader of his day to easily identify his father's true lineage. Those clues point to true facts about Portugal, while the clues relating to Italy, added by third parties, haven't lead us to any solid resolution. It's a pity we don't have Fernando Colón's original manuscript, which alone would reveal what the Italian translator added or modified at the end of the 16th Century. The disappearance of the manuscript must be attributed to the Italians who inserted fraudulent parts. Had we the original manuscript, our job would be much easier; however, since we don't, we must decipher every clue, including the false ones, and then try to fit it all into a history that is not only credible but also backed up by facts.

CLUES TO A PORTUGUESE HOMELAND

In Rui de Pina's chronicle from 1504, kept at the Torre do Tombo (National Archives), numbered Codex 632, Rui de Pina wrote *Colonbo ytaliano*. IN FIGURE 7.4, we already presented how the text and space around these words does not match other words on the page, as if the spaces for the words had been left blank, then filled in later, or as if the writer had some problem writing them.

Regardless, we should not allow ourselves to get distracted by Rui de Pina's two short words, *Colonbo ytaliano*. The fact is that Portugal was the only place where we know Colón lived before appearing in Spain, and in Spain they called him "Portuguese" in 1487. They never called him Italian, as did Rui de Pina. Yet, in 1488, King João II called him *Colon* in a private letter and not *Colonbo*, as did Rui de Pina in 1504. Furthermore, the Pope, writing in Latin, always called him *Colon*, and in none of his missives did Alexander VI write *Colonbo*, as did Rui de Pina, or *Colombo*, as did so many third persons alien to the facts.

Do the words of Rui de Pina, a chronicler controlled by the king in 1504, trump the Spanish court's accounting ledger from 1487, King João II's written words from 1488, the Pope's words from 1493, and Admiral Colón's own words, all of these documented more than ten years before Rui de Pina's writing?

Clearly the Admiral's name was Colón, as it still is today. If Rui de Pina called him by some other name, when it should have been easy enough for de Pina to verify what was correct, since the name Colón was famous all over Spain, how can we accept that Pina was correct on the nationality, given that that information, unlike the name, was so well hidden by Admiral Colón?

However, by referring to the Admiral as "Italian," Codex 632 could merely imply that the Admiral had Italian ancestry. The very king of Portugal, D. João II, and all the Portuguese kings that preceded João II, are still called "Burgundian" today, even though their common ancestor had come from Burgundy, France, way back in 1083.

The documents show that the Admiral was already known as *Colón Portuguese* by the court of Spain, and was transformed into *Colonbo Italiano* by Rui de Pina. What else can we present to support a Portuguese nationality?

Let's first take a look at a few more unfounded claims.

Among Samuel Eliot Morison's inventions is this one: "*A poor boy of Genoa would not have known Italian, unless he had learned it at school. Christopher undoubtedly left home almost if not completely illiterate, and when he finally learned to read and write used the Castilian language*" (page 13)... "*Christopher's Latin, which shows that it was learned after Spanish ...*" (page 12).

Inventions like these cast doubt on many biographies of Admiral Colón, and on the information woven into their accounts. Not only did Cristóbal Colón write in Spanish (Castilian), but so did his two brothers, Bartolomé and Diego Colón. Yet none of the three ever wrote in Italian. While the Italian documents prove that wool-weaver Cristoforo's brother, Giacomo Colombo, was a poor and lowly "apprentice wool-weaver" at another weaver's shop in 1484, the Spanish documents show that the Admiral's brother, Don Diego Colón, was a titled nobleman, well enough educated to write in Spanish to King Fernando "the Catholic," and endowed with sufficient resources to pay his own way:

*Although Your Highness does not know me that well, nor have I written to you until now, because there was nothing to write to Your Highness about, I have served here in all that has presented itself. In the year [fourteen] ninety three I came with the Admiral, my brother, when Your Highness sent him to populate this island, and I stayed here for seven years at my own expense.*³⁸⁸

The very fact that both brothers, Cristóbal and Bartolomé, were speaking and writing in Spanish and Latin, and that the younger brother Diego was fluent in Spanish, should tell us that they were not poor, wool-weaving peasants but nobles. In those days, like today, Latin was rarely taught to peasant children.

Would an Italian be studying Spanish and Latin in Portugal - according to Morison - instead of Portuguese? Would he already be studying Spanish in the 1470s because he foresaw that King João II would be turning down his offer to sail across the Atlantic and thus would be forced to move to Spain in 1484? Many particulars in the official history, as with Morison's declarations above, have been written out of context and still fail to make any sense.

Miles Davidson, in his book *Columbus Then and Now: A Life Reexamined*, shows the same disbelief in "the unsupported assumptions made by Morison and others" even stating:

*Neither Morison nor Wilford presented any evidence, not even a reasonable possibility... Morison offered undocumented details... Unfortunately, this was also one of those occasions on which Morison allowed his lively imagination to run away. Morison changing Columbus's own statement.*³⁸⁹

[Kirkpatrick Sale] found Morison's book to be "seriously flawed" and "erroneously certain stating as facts (sometimes with disdainful dismissal of contrary views)."³⁹⁰

Books like Morison's and Tavianis's continue to be promoted the world over as the ones that offer the most correct history of "Cristóforo Colombo." However, they should by now be regarded with much skepticism – owing to their blind support of the thesis that three illiterate, Genoese, "Colombo" wool-weavers were those very same three noblemen, named Colón, who lived in Portugal and Spain. The fact is that doubts always existed. Today that "tall tale" of rags to riches, propagated by the history books, is totally unbelievable.

Consuelo Varela and Juan Gil almost took the leap into the Portuguese Colón, but in the end they were unable to dismiss 500 years of Italian propaganda, even though they admit it makes no sense:

*Here is a point of Colón's life that is insufficiently explained, because it is not credible that a seaman, no matter how noble he pretended to be, would be learning to speak and read Spanish in Portugal.*³⁹¹

It is obvious to anyone who takes a little time to review Colón's life that we are not dealing with a lowly seaman, or with any wool-weaver, but with a true nobleman. His life is not that of a "pretense nobleman who hid his lowly lineage," as we had been forced to accept. The tale of a *peasant*, – be he Genoese, Portuguese, or from wherever – is nonsense, a complete invention.

The fact is that Cristóbal Colón knew Latin. He utilized this language to write notes to himself in the margins of several books he owned and must have learned it as a youngster. The Portuguese language served as basis for Colón's Spanish writings. If we accept, as did Morison, that Colón learned Latin after learning Spanish, then when did the Admiral learn the Portuguese he needed to read King João II's letter of March 1488? The Portuguese King could have easily enough written to Colón in Spanish, or even Latin. But João II sent his secret letter in Portuguese because he knew that Colón could read it; otherwise, the recipient would have had to get the secret letter translated.

Morison's scenario presents the illogical sequence of Colón learning Spanish and Latin while in Portugal, and then learning Portuguese while in Spain.

Miles Davidson is one of very few historians who analyzed the facts objectively, but even he falls back into the old, accepted ingrained tale of the Genoese Colombo. It's understandable. We must confess: for the first ten years or so of this investigation, the Genoese tale was a slippery slope to climb out of. It was so well entrenched in the world's documents and writings that it would have been im-

possible to counter had the Portuguese elements never come to light. Even though the Genoese tale never made a bit of sense, the force of repetition gave to the official biography an appearance of truth. However, once the facts of Colón's Portuguese life became known, there was no way to make the wool-weaver fit, and thus, the Genoese story proved itself to be false.

A PORTUGUESE AT HEART

Cristóbal Colón not only understood Portuguese, but also must have had it as his mother tongue, and Spanish as his second language. For this reason, he was either born in Portugal or arrived there young enough to become a native-speaker of Portuguese.

In case the reader thinks this is the first book to make such a shocking statement, we present the following from Consuelo Varela:

In his Castilian are found clear Portuguese-izms: even a *deter* [instead of] 'detener' in the relating of the third voyage... In his classic study regarding the language of Colón, Menéndez Pidal has pointed out, with reason, that his Spanish letters have a clear Portuguese varnish (tone), especially perceptible in the grammar and the vowels... Most definitely the Admiral made more use of a Portuguese norm than Italian... In every way, we are always left with the feeling that Colón thought not in the Castilian *como*, but in the Portuguese... He uses the word *tablachina*... in neighboring Portugal they used that... *tavolachina*. [Page Footnote: *Diario da viagem de Vasco da Gama*, p. 20:... *tauolachenhas*... Manuscript of Valentim Fernandes, p. 114 "they make from it tauolachimas"].

On December 4 appeared a perfect *pozo* [Pt. rest/landing]: "there is a large bay that would be a good *landing* from East-Northeast and Southeast and South-Southwest [winds]." The phrase makes no sense in Castilian, but it does in Portuguese... in the Diary of the Voyage of Vasco da Gama: "Ordered Pero d'Alanquer in the boat to do a sounding and see if he found *bom poso* [a good landing]."

Turbonadas [squalls]... from a nautical term that has taken a long time to acclimate in Castilian, and only began to be used when the lexicon of the Portuguese pilots was applied to the Spanish ships.³⁹²

To describe the Native Americans' hair, Colón said that they were *corredios* [straight]; Rui de Pina, in his *Crónica del rey D. Duarte* (*Chronicle of King D. Duarte*), wrote that the king had hair that was *corredio*. Duarte Pacheco Pereira wrote, "*Negros de Etiópia superior tem os cabelos corredios*" (The Negroes of Upper Ethiopia have straight hair). Colón's *corredios* is clearly a Portuguese word. The list of Portuguese words utilized by Admiral Colón is extensive. Colón wrote Portuguese words whenever he lacked the Spanish. It's true that a few of these words have cognate forms in other languages, but those few words are also, at the same time, pure Portuguese.

For instance, Colón wrote *Xio* for *Quios*, which was also used in Catalan. However, the Portuguese Duarte Pacheco Pereira also wrote *Xio* for *Quios* in his *Esmeraldo de Situs Orbis*. The global leaning of Colón's language was unmistakably toward Portuguese. There is no other language that matches Colón's non-Spanish vocabulary better. What does this mean? It means that Portuguese had to have been Colón's mother tongue.

The lack of serious research by the Portuguese academics into this facet of Colón's character left a gaping hole where the origins of Colón's linguistic mannerisms should have been addressed. This gap was poorly filled in by others less qualified to do so.

To impose the Genoese nationality, and to obscure this big linguistic gap in that theory, they spent a century maintaining falsely that in Genoa there was no specific written language. Thus: "*Genoese Italian was not a written language in the 15th century.*"³⁹³ Or again: "*Columbus spoke the Genoese dialect from the moment he first uttered a word... the mistakes Columbus made in writing Castilian are the kind that would logically have come from a knowledge of how to write Portuguese, probably the first written language he had learned*"³⁹⁴

Imagine that. According to these writers, the Province of Genoa, one of the major Powers of the Mediterranean, would have been the only European city of the Middle Ages that was so backward it didn't have its own written language!

As this faulty explanation began to fray and crumble, the Genoese faction tried another angle. In 1973, Virgil Milani tried to prove that the mistakes in Admiral Colón's Spanish were not Portuguese at all; they were, in fact, words from the Genoese language. But reviewing Milani's work in *Hispanic Review* (Winter, 1976), the critic Peter Boyd-Bowman explained that, although some of the words used by the Admiral also had a Genoese form, they were at the same time pure Portuguese. Boyd-Bowman also stated that Milani had based his work on a dictionary that did not include documented words that were "in use." Likewise, Prof. Ralph J. Penny, of the School of Modern Languages (Queen Mary, University of London), in his article, "The Language of Christopher Columbus," demonstrated that Virgil Milani had clearly diminished Colón's Portuguese vocabulary in order to promote a Genoese influence that was not truly present in the Admiral's writings. Ralph J. Penny admits that, in the end, "it is easier to identify interference from Portuguese."³⁹⁵

To further establish that the Genoese did have their own written language, as one would expect, here's what Maurizio Tagliattini wrote, "Misinformed writers have suggested that the Admiral did not write in Italian since Italian could not be understood on paper. In point of historical fact, there were and still are available more letters written in vulgar Italian or Genoese than one would wish to read."³⁹⁶

Menéndez Pidal, in his 1944 study of Colón's language, demonstrated the same thing, essentially that the non-Spanish words in Admiral Colón's writings are based on the Portuguese language. However, Menéndez Pidal refused to accept that Portuguese was Colón's mother tongue. Pidal, like many, started from the preconceived notion that Colón was the "Italian Colombo." Rather than use the majority of the words – in Portuguese – to guide his analysis, he used instead a few exceptions to support his bias. Pidal concentrated on a few incorrectly used words as proof that Colón didn't know Portuguese that well. Instead of looking at those few words as writing mistakes, something we are all guilty of – more so no doubt Colón, since he was not trying to write in Portuguese, but in a language less familiar to him – Pidal wrongly concluded that Colón could not have spoken Portuguese as his mother tongue. Again, common sense was set aside to keep propagating the accepted, Genoese-weaver theory.

The fact is that one should not expect Colón to be writing in perfect Portuguese in his Spanish letters. The incorrect forms of the Portuguese words are the clear result of attempting to make a Portuguese word sound Spanish, when his Spanish was lacking. Portuguese underpinnings in someone's Spanish would definitely not show up in the writings of someone who was not Portuguese, and who'd only lived in Portugal for a short eight years, as the official history claims.

In one of his principal arguments used, Pidal explains that the Portuguese writers of the time, when trying to write Spanish, always made a certain mistake, but Colón didn't make that mistake. In other words, Colón could not have been Portuguese because he applied the correct Spanish form! To drive home his conclusion, Pidal chose this phrase from one of the Admiral's letters:

Mirenlo bien Vuestras Altezas que a mi juicio, más le relleva que hacian las cosas de Francia ni de Italia... el uso de le por 'les'... mal uso del pronombre le.

(Examine it carefully Your Highnesses because in my judgment, it/him [is] more worthy than are the matters of France or of Italy... the use of it/him for 'they/them'... bad use of the pronoun it/him.)³⁹⁷

This appears to be nothing more than a Spanish adaptation by Colón – of the Portuguese *lhe* (it/him) into the Spanish *le* (it/him).

By the same logic of Pidal's argument, we could be convinced that Colón's mother tongue was indeed Portuguese if the king of Portugal also used the exact same sentence structure that Colón used in the example above.

It so happens that the king of Portugal, João II, whose nationality and mother tongue have never been contested, uses the same structure as Colón in the following quote, which was seen in a previous chapter: “*qualquer matéria tiverem eles aí de tartar, não deixeis de lhe prestar a costumada assistência*” (any matter they may have to take care of there, don’t hesitate to provide it/him the customary assistance). This use of the singular *lhe* (it/him) instead of *lhes* (them/they), by today’s Portuguese standards, is incorrect. Nevertheless, if it was good enough Portuguese for a Portuguese king, then it should be good enough for a Portuguese Cristóbal Colón.

Unless we study the Portuguese language structure of the 1400s, we may be fooled into thinking something was incorrect, through comparison with the Portuguese of today. If the Admiral made use of a Portuguese word instead of an Italian word when he didn’t know the corresponding Spanish word, then Colón must have known Portuguese better than Italian or Spanish, and therefore Portuguese must have been his mother tongue – and not Italian, Genoese, Catalan, French, etc.

Would any impartial adjudicator, looking at all these facts, conclude that Admiral Colón spoke any language other than Portuguese as his native tongue?

Can anyone accept that a man who arrives in a foreign country at age 25, as the official story claims, and who lives there only a short eight years (1476-1484), would have assimilated the host country’s language so well that it would serve as the base for his writings over the next twenty-two years? Would his Genoese mother tongue, used for the first 25 years of his life, have disappeared without a trace?

As impossible as this scenario is to accept, it has been put forth time and time again as the only way to explain the Portuguese words in Colón’s writings.

Who among us can’t recall our many teenage years of foreign-language classes, and still how difficult it was to carry on a simple conversation, never mind learning that new language well enough to have it replace our mother tongue? And who among us hasn’t met immigrants who came here in their 20s and yet, even after ten years, remain incapable of carrying on a simple conversation? Do any of us know any immigrant who, after only 8 years, replaced his mother tongue with the adopted country’s language?

Then why would three, “Colombo,” wool-weaving brothers be exceptions to this global rule?

The more correct answer is to say that Cristóbal Colón learned his Portuguese when he was still very young, studying with other noble children at the court of Portugal, where they studied Latin too. During the mid-1400s, they also studied the *avant-garde* Castilian language, used by the elite, trendy Portuguese nobles of their day.

Only when we learn a language very early in life does it become ingrained as our mother tongue, to the point of creeping up in all our speech and writings. In Las Casas’s book, he makes the following observations about Admiral Colón’s language:

- *And in this and in other things found in his itineraries, it is apparent he is a natural of another language, because he doesn’t penetrate completely the meaning of the Castilian words, nor the way of speaking them.*
- *These are his words, although defective as far as our Castilian language, the which he did not know well, but quite imperceptibly said, and it is a thing to wonder.*
- *All of these are his formal words, although some of them not in perfect Castilian romance, as if it was not his mother tongue.*

The only logical explanation is that Cristóbal Colón had to have learned his Portuguese when he was very young, and not at age 25, as was proclaimed. He could not have been studying Portuguese in Genoa. Portuguese then, as today, was not at the top of the list of foreign languages that anybody would want to study. Because of this, one must accept that Colón learned Portuguese as the involuntary consequence of his Portuguese birth, and not by voluntary necessity as a foreign adult.

But if we are still not convinced of this, how then can we explain that Colón would write to his brothers not in Italian but in Portuguese-distorted Spanish? And guess what language he wrote to Italians in? It was not in an Italian or Genoese dialect but in the same, Portuguese-tinted Spanish as his other letters.

How strange it is that three wool-weavers from Genoa would have gone to school not to study Italian, Genoese, or whatever language they used in Genoa at the time, but to study Portuguese-based Spanish instead.

Researchers know that Cristóbal Colón never wrote in Italian or Genoese; not even to his closest friend, Gaspar Gorricio, a Genoese friar; and, if we accept the letters to Oderico as authentic, not even to persons living in Genoa. When the Admiral attempted to write a small note in Italian, as shown below, he did it so poorly that it becomes clear Colón did not even know how to say the basic word “I” in Italian, because he wrote “Yo” instead, which is a Spanish word:

Del ambra es cierto nascere in India soto tierra, he yo ne ho fato cavare in molti monti in la isola de Feyti vel de Ofir vel de Cipango, a la quale habio posto nome Spagnola, y ne o trovato pieça grande como el capo, ma no tota chiara, saluo de chiaro y parda, y otra negra.

(Amber, it is true, grows in India in the thicket landscape, and I have had them dig in many mounds in the island of Haiti or Ophir or Japan to the which I had given the name Española and there found a piece large as a head, but not all clear, instead clear and greyish, and another dark.)

These are the non-Italian words: *es cierto, tierra, yo, pieça, como, el, y, pardo, otra, negra*.³⁹⁸ From this note, one can see that the Admiral could not even write a word of such importance as “I” in Italian, writing it instead as the Spanish *Yo*.

The Admiral did not write in any Italian language or dialect because he had never learned one. As Consuelo Varela observed: “in turn when he tries writing in Italian, he is unable to do so perpetrating gross errors, which reveals that this was not a language that he was used to writing.”

Antonio Rumeu de Armas affirms that Portuguese was the first language that Cristóbal Colón “read and wrote,” and that the Admiral’s written “mistakes are always done by introducing Portuguese forms and voices” into the Spanish.³⁹⁹ These Portuguese reflexes have long been known and written about by a multitude of scholars. However, in most cases, they’ve been brushed off as another of those mysteries in the life of a boy wonder who started life as a wool-weaver in Genoa and yet – they insisted – fooled two courts by pretending to be a cultivated nobleman with a coat of arms, a Latinist, geographer, cosmographer, cartographer, mathematician, geometrist, theologian and navigator (as all of Admiral Colón’s writings and actions bore out). Nonetheless, at the same time, he managed to forget his mother tongue and was unable to tell East from West in the Atlantic, or to distinguish a simple, primitive culture from civilized India.

Could we show a more bizarre amalgamation of illogical ideas than this?

Everyone agrees that the Admiral who married in Portugal and later sailed for Spain knew no Italian or Genoese. To bypass this huge obstacle to the wool-weaver theory, someone determined that the wool-weaver never fully learned his Genoese language because (they say) he spent a lot of time in foreign ports-of-call. Consequently, he spoke no known language other than a kind of Mediterranean Pidgin.

Yet even though he started out as a wool-weaver who never went to school, the Admiral still wrote Castilian better than most schooled foreigners. How could he have learned it in only 8 years, starting at age 25, and yet not have picked up Genoese during the first 25 years of his life?

Although it is true that many in Spain declared the Admiral was a *Ginobes* (Genoese), this does not mean they believed the Admiral was born in Genoa. It was merely Spanish slang, just as today in the USA we call illegal immigrants “Mexicans,” when in fact these people largely come from many other Latin American countries, some very far from Mexico.

The fact that “Genoese” was a Spanish slang word, meaning foreigner, is clearly explained in the course of the Lawsuit Against the Crown, which the Second Admiral, Diego Colón, instituted to enforce his father’s contract with Queen Isabel and King Fernando:

*To the foreigners in these kingdoms [of Spain we] are accustomed to calling them Genoese, even if they are from other Nations... we call foreigners Genoese... and this witness is sure that the said Admiral Don Cristóbal would be called a Genoese even if he was from another nation.*⁴⁰⁰

Another witness named Romano, while explaining why Admiral Colón was called Genoese, confirms this fact saying, “*el común hablar en España es dezir ginoveses a cualesquier extranjeros*” (it’s common usage in Spain to call any foreigners **Genoese**).

The fact is that not all those who attributed a nationality to the Admiral knew in fact, for certain, where he was born. Those who knew the truth lied at Colón’s request, just as the Admiral himself lied. Those working for the Spanish Monarchs also lied, and there must have been some very important reason for the Court to lie about this.

In the 1487, Spanish-court receipt for the gold coins, Colón’s nationality is given twice as *Portuguese*. Although Pedro de Toledo’s memorandum is very clear in affirming that, “*this was that Portuguese whom Your Highness personally ordered me to pay*,” it was brushed off by historians as a mistake made by Pedro de Toledo. In other words, in this case as in all other cases, the best explanation for whatever does not fit the accepted tale of the Genoese peasant has been discarded and explained away as an error, as a misinterpretation, as a blatant lie (which they claimed was the case with Colón’s coat of arms).

On the contrary, we ascertain that Pedro de Toledo’s ledger must be accepted as the one and only place where Colón’s true nationality was ever documented in Spain. He was a Portuguese, just like all the other Portuguese traitors who exiled themselves to Spain in 1483 and 1484.

Cristóbal Colón never visited Italy during the time he used this false name, 1484-1506. He did, however, visit Portuguese territory at least eight times during those years. In the years 1485 and 1488, he was at the Portuguese court with King João II. In February 1493, he was at Santa Maria Island, in the Azores, for one week. In March 1493, he was at Restelo, by the Chapel of Santa Maria of Belém, belonging to the Order of Christ. He then made a voyage of 60 miles to Vale do Paraíso, to again meet with King João II. He remained in Portugal for nine days, and even met with Queen Leonor. In 1498, during his third voyage to the New World, Colón stopped at the Portuguese Island of Porto Santo, then at Madeira. From there he sailed to the Portuguese Islands of Cabo Verde, intending to reach those already discovered lands known today as Brazil. And during his fourth and final voyage, Colón stopped in Portuguese Arzila, to rescue a Portuguese regiment from the Moors.

RESCUING FELLOW PORTUGUESE

Admiral Cristóbal Colón’s 4th and last voyage took place in 1502, two years after he was arrested in the New World, along with his two brothers, and sent back to Spain in chains. The last voyage was made under strict conditions imposed by the Spanish Monarchs, including the prohibition that Colón not stop in Santo Domingo. He was forbidden to set foot anywhere on that island, which he had discovered, where he was Governor and Viceroy up until his arrest.

Lifting anchor under such perilous circumstances with the court, the Admiral left Spain and secretly made a beeline to Morocco. Why? It turns out he was preoccupied with the fate of a few Portuguese soldiers under siege in Arzila, so he went to rescue them.

Many writers give no weight to this rescue, as if it was some sort of holiday stop, or a mere curiosity, as if taking Spanish ships to Morocco to help the enemy and run the risk of dying with his crew was a trivial pursuit.

But in this action we continue to see Colón’s loyalty to Portugal and the risks he was willing to take to help and protect that kingdom’s interests and its citizens. He not only took the Spanish ships and sailors to rescue Portuguese, he then hushed it up so that the Spanish court wouldn’t know about it. Here’s his letter to the Monarchs, written 14 months later. We see that the Arzila episode is conveniently left out:

Jamaica July 7, 1503: On the ninth of May of 1502 I left Cadiz and went to the [Grand] Canary in 4 days, and from there to the Indies in 16 [days], where I wrote to Your Highness that my intention was to hurry in my voyage, while I had the ships still in good shape.

The letter continues without ever talking about the Portuguese rescue he made. If we didn't have his other letter – to the co-conspirator Friar Gaspar Gorricio – we'd find it hard to accept the following details from Fernando Colón:

We left on Wednesday the 11th, [1502] and on the second day, we went to Arzila to rescue the Portuguese... the Admiral sent the Lieutenant D. Bartolomé Colón, his brother, and me, with the Captains of the [other two] ships, to go ashore, to visit the Captain of Arzila, that the Moors had wounded in the assault. The said [Captain] gave many thanks to the Admiral for this visit and for the offerings that he sent him; in return he sent to him some Knights that were with him, some of which were relatives of Dona Filipa Moniz, who was the wife, as we have said, of the Admiral in Portugal.

Colón's letter to Gaspar Gorricio confirms this. It was not written 14 months later from the New World, as was the case with the letter to the Monarchs above, but as soon as he reached land. Just 9 days later, he begins to write to the Friar at Las Cuevas:

Grand Canary, 20-25 of May 1502: Reverend and highly devout father; the Southeast winds held me in Cadiz until the Moors circled Arzila, and with it I left in rescue, and I was the first. Afterwards Our Lady gave me such good weather that I came here in four days... To the father Prior and all those devout religious I entrust myself. All of us here are well thanks be to God.

Why would a non-Portuguese, as they insist the Admiral was, go out of his way and risk his life to rescue a few Portuguese soldiers unless they were his relatives, or at least his countrymen? And shouldn't we question how it was possible for Colón to know that the Portuguese were in trouble across the sea? Who was he secretly communicating with?

During his heroic swansong voyage, Admiral Colón took with him his brother Bartolomé Colón, the loyal Diego Méndez de Segura, his secretary, and his youngest son, Fernando Colón, barely 14 years old, so that he could teach Fernando all about the Sea, the Land, and the Sky, just as the great Admiral had learned from his own ancestors.

Cristóbal Colón came from a family of Captains and Admirals, as he declares in a letter to a trusted friend, the Governess of the Heir Prince Don Juan of Spain, "I am not the first Admiral in my family. Let them call me, then, by whatever name they wish."

In another letter he states how he took to the sea close to the same age as his son because his family was always very tied to the sea:

Most High Kings, at a very young age I took to the Sea sailing, and I have continued this until today. The same profession inclines to the one who pursues it in the desire to know the secrets of this world. It has been more than 40 years that I follow in this way. Everywhere that until today has been navigated all of it I have sailed.

The profound knowledge acquired in these sciences was often handed down from father to son. Exactly the way that Admiral Colón would have been taught, so too he taught his son Fernando Colón, who ended up becoming Cosmographer Major to the powerful King Carlos V. Thus, Fernando Colón's father was the top expert in navigation at the court of Queen Isabel, and his son Fernando became the top expert Cosmographer at the court of Isabel's grandson.

OBVIOUS PREMISE

The Colón family shows a multitude of Portuguese traits that are difficult to ignore, thus making Portuguese the first option for Cristóbal Colón's nationality. The Portuguese influence upon the Admiral's character was such that it lasted until his dying days. He had links to Portuguese culture, history, theology, navigation, and political secrets; furthermore, he was married into the highest levels of Portuguese society, and his extended family included many of the great Portuguese navigators and Sea Captains of his time. Yet one finds it literally impossible to locate in Colón's life, actions and writings a single Genoese influence.

Portuguese was the language he utilized as a base for his Spanish; he intentionally landed and planned routes to land in Portuguese territory; the people he maintained in close contact with in Seville were all tied to the Court of Portugal; he maintained secret communication with the King of Portugal; he used Portuguese names to baptize the New World; and he put his life at risk to save Portuguese from the Moors. Why?

It can only have been because Colón was born in that same Portugal, which he called *mi tierra*, his homeland, whose mother tongue of Portuguese he relied on when writing Spanish, thus making him a 100% Portuguese nobleman.

Only this solution explains all of the facts that we know today, including why the Spanish court would call him *Portuguese*.

What if that Admiral Colón, who we have been told for 500 years was a low class parasite, in fact had royal blood, and was close enough to the throne to be a threat to Emperor Carlos V in some of his vast, Holy Roman Empire domains? Would this not explain why King Carlos V would prohibit Fernando Colón from declaring publicly the true identity of Fernando Colón's royal grandfather? It is true, even King Carlos V, grandson of Queen Isabel, had a keen interest in censoring the genealogy of the Colón family:

The Kings of Portugal and of Spain feigned not knowing this mystery. One proof of it would be found in the act that Carlos V prohibited Don Fernando Colón... to continue the researching about the origins of his father.⁴⁰¹

If Colón descended from a royal line that threatened some European throne, it would explain the following exchange between the Second Admiral, Diego Colón, and King Fernando "the Catholic." Diego Colón tried to force the Spanish court to live up to the contract it had signed with Cristóbal Colón, asking King Fernando to let Diego assume his deceased father's posts and responsibilities. As Las Casas witnessed, a frustrated Diego complained:

Why does not Your Highness grant me the favor of giving me what is rightfully mine and to trust in me that I would serve you loyally, after all you have raised me in your court and house." The king replied "Look, Admiral, in you I well would trust, but I don't do it simply because of your children and your successors." Immediately D. Diego told the king: "My Lord, is it reasonable that I pay and suffer for the sins of my children and successors, that for all we know, I may never have?"

What was it about this mysterious family that so worried King Fernando and his grandson King Carlos V? Why was King Fernando so afraid of Cristóbal Colón's power that he orchestrated the trap with Bobadilla to have Colón arrested in the New World, so afraid that he continued to fear Diego Colón's invisible children years later? Was all this apprehension truly merited by a family of wool-weavers from Italy? Does anyone still want to believe in that Fairy Tale?

As we move deeper and deeper into this black hole of history, more and more Portuguese traits come into view; within the borders of Portugal, we can find all the answers to the puzzle named Cristóbal Colón. For all of these reasons, it is imperative that the investigation now center in Portugal, and that a serious search take place in the Portuguese archives so that the world can finally know the true name of this "Mr. X," who married Filipa Moniz Perestrelo.

Only the Portuguese investigators are now in a position to be able to give us the answers, by searching through the vast store of documents in their archives until some final proof is located. We hope they are up to the challenge. Just because we haven't yet found any document with the birth name of the mysterious Admiral, we shouldn't be persuaded to give up the search. Therefore, in trying to solve this 500-year-old crime against the public, the next chapters will present more clues leading us to a prime suspect, who fits Mr. X's profile, and who could have gone on to become "D. Cristóbal Colón," Admiral of the Indies, belonging to the Cult of the Holy Spirit, like any initiated member of the Portuguese Order of Christ.

CHAPTER 15

THE LAST TEMPLAR

*The reason that I have for the restitution of the Holy House
[Solomon's Temple] to the Holy Church militant is the following.*

DON CRISTÓBAL COLÓN

In a previous chapter we discussed how Portugal was continuously at odds with the Vatican. In fact, we now know that Portugal was not only a Templar nation, but was created hand in hand with the Templar Knights guided by Saint Bernard and his Cistercian Order. Saint Bernard, the First King of Portugal, and several of the original Templar Knights, were all family members related to the House of Burgundy in France.⁴⁰²

The Templars already existed in Portugal, many years before they became publicly known. The first king of Portugal was a Templar Knight, and it was the Templars who helped him to create an independent Portugal and become its king.⁴⁰³ The Templar kingdom of Portugal, one of the oldest nation-states in the world, did all it could to avoid the Vatican's influence for nearly 400 years. Portugal's anti-Vatican stance finally began to decline on December 17, 1531, with the installation of the Catholic Inquisition on its territory.

The Inquisition was the Roman Catholic Church's, as well as some European Monarchs', way of eliminating all opposition, by perpetrating censorship, burning books, destroying non-conforming holy sites and burning people at the stake whom the Vatican saw as a threat to maintaining its power over the masses. The Vatican went after its enemies with a vengeance. The Vatican's first Christian-on-Christian crusade was in the early 13th century, against the Albigensian Cathars of Southern France, where a whole sect was attacked and nearly wiped out. In Portugal, the Catholic Inquisition lasted some 350 years. Aside from the countless murdered souls, one can only imagine how much all those centuries of censorship erased from our collective human story.

Interestingly enough, it was King Manuel I, Templar Master of the Order of Christ, who requested this barbaric Inquisition to be installed in his kingdom. The Portuguese suffered immensely under this Catholic Inquisition, and Portugal's true history also suffered, due to the Vatican's heavy hand of censorship.

In 1500 Colón was deposed, arrested, and deprived of all influence over the New World. It is under this umbrella of Portuguese Templar ideals, and the anti-Templar forces, that we must try to understand Cristóbal Colón's life.

Having looked through the Admiral's ever-present Portuguese inclinations in the previous chapters, we now focus on Colón's tendency to support Joachim of Fiore's anti-Vatican doctrine, which was embraced by Portugal and the Portuguese military orders, including the Templar Order of Christ. Fiore's proposed *Age of the Holy Spirit* envisioned a monastic governance, which would obviate the powerful religious hierarchies established to control the populace. Each individual's direct contact with God would be legitimized, and all faiths would unite in total freedom, as preached through Christ's original message. Part of this Holy Spirit doctrine survived the Vatican's subjugation, and it continues to be celebrated in Portuguese communities throughout the world today, (SEE FIGURE 15.1).

Portugal's King Dinis created the Portuguese Order of the Knights of Our Lord Jesus Christ (the Order of Christ) after the Vatican's suppression of the Templars. It was officially founded in 1319 and was, for all intents and purposes, the same *Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon* (the Templar Knights).

It is not accurate to say that the Templars were extinguished in 1307, as it is commonly written. They were outlawed by the Pope, but they were not extinguished because they went underground in many territories. In Portugal, all the Templar Knights, including then Master of the Templars in Portugal, D. Vasco Fernandes, were transferred to the Order of Christ. These former Templar brothers, when they signed their names, added to their signatures, "*Quondam miles Templi*" (former Knight of the Temple).⁴⁰⁴

Admiral Colón's actions and adherence to the Holy Spirit seem to imply his membership status in this or a similar Portuguese religious order because, just like a Templar Knight, Cristóbal Colón dreamed of rebuilding the Temple of Solomon and considered the reconquest of "*el Templo de Jerusalén*" to be the grand mission of his life.

Just as Prince Henry the Navigator, de facto Master of the Templars from 1420 to 1460, planned to lead a vast army to retake the Holy Land (a Templar mission), so too Admiral Colón planned to use all his income from the New World for that purpose.

Colón continuously brought this subject up and already, during his First Voyage, he declared in his Ship's Log that Jerusalem, not India, was his real aim, and he persistently wrote to the Spanish court about his Jerusalem plot:

December 26, 1492: *Within three years to ready and prepare to conquer the Holy House "that this way, I protested with Your Highnesses that all my earnings from this enterprise be spent in the reconquest of Jerusalem."*

March 4, 1493: *Seven years from today I will be able to pay to Your Highnesses five thousand horsemen and fifty thousand foot soldiers for the war and conquest of Jerusalem, for which purpose we embarked on this enterprise [of the Indies].*

Letter to the Monarchs [Santo Domingo], February 3, 1500: *I think you will remember that the good friar, Juan Perez... that he and I came to your court solely with this [project] of the Indies and appropriating it for the conquest of the Holy House. He is dead, and I beg of Your Highnesses to confer me and grant me the favour of this undertaking and being its Captain and because now, Our Lord sees me so unfairly forsaken by the world, seems that He wants so vibrantly to aid me, as He always has... this way Your Highnesses will do me such a great favour in conferring upon me [what you] promised and adding the conquest [of Jerusalem] in your royal names... the said, all which I ask, with the rest that I have is set aside for the abovementioned journey... and it will please Your [Highnesses] that just as the Temple of Jerusalem was erected with wood and gold from Ophir, that now the very same be restored to the Holy Church and re-erected more sumptuous than it first was. The Holy Trinity, the life, and very high state of Your Highnesses increase and prosper in His holy service.*



Figure 15.1: The Portuguese Cult of the Holy Spirit is an ancient religious cult peculiar to Portugal, connected to Abbot Joachim de Fiore from Calabria and to the Templar Knights. It continues to be practiced here at this city of Tomar, headquarters of the Portuguese Templar Knights. In this photo of the Feast, one can see the devotees in front of the Church of St. John the Baptist. Note the eight-sided, Templar bell tower. The church faces the Tomar Castle, Templar headquarters. At the center stands the statue of the Templar Master, Gualdim Pais (inset).

Letter to the Queen, August/September 1501: *Most Christian Queen: I am the servant of Your Highness. The keys of my will I gave them to you in Barcelona... Fray Juan Perez would say so, as well as the governess [of prince don Juan], and because of it I am more assured... This saddens me from two sides: one is because of Jerusalem, that I beg Your Highness that you not look down on it, or think that I talked of it only as a trick... See now if you be pleased to let me try this other of the Holy House, as was with this of the Indies.*

Letter to Pope Alexander VI, February 1502: *Holiest Father: This enterprise was begun in order to spend what was gained from it to garrison the Holy House for the Holy Church... That in seven years I would pay fifty thousand foot soldiers and five thousand horsemen for its conquest and in another five years another fifty thousand foot soldiers and another five thousand horsemen, which would be ten thousand horsemen and a hundred thousand foot soldiers for this.*

Jamaica, July 7, 1503: *Jerusalem and Mount Zion are to be reconstructed by the hand of a Christian.*⁴⁰⁵

Admiral Colón, just like the Templar Knights, was truly obsessed with the reconquest of the Temple of Solomon. He did not sail to “India” to get rich, but to fill his war coffers with gold in order to sponsor and lead a great army. He wrote that all the profits from his enterprise were to be “spent in defense of the Holy House.” Nowhere does he document his goal as being to “prove India was west.”

In the final analysis, Colón’s mission was as religious as that of the Portuguese Prince Henry and his Order of Christ, which in 1456 received from Pope Callistus III full **Spiritual jurisdiction** over all Portuguese conquests.

Admiral Colón proclaimed, “*I hope, with God’s help, to spread His holy name and Gospel in the Universe.*” To achieve this religious goal, the Admiral invested not only his talent, time and effort, but also his money, as he declared in confidence to his son:

Letter to Diego Colon, Seville, November 21, 1504: *I swear, and this is for you alone, that even with all the awards that Their Highnesses have given me, I have had a negative return of ten thousand each year, and this can never be undone.*

Is not Colón’s desire to rebuild Solomon’s Temple entailed by the fact that he was a member of the only self-declared Templar military order of his time? If Admiral Colón was a member of the Portuguese Order of Christ, it explains why he chose as his pseudonym a word derived from a Greek word with the meaning of *member*.

To date, no one has found any documents in Portugal with the name Colón. This should not come as a surprise, however, because “*Cristóbal Colón*” was his false identity in Spain, a name that he never used while living in Portugal. Although he used this alias in public, he may have privately continued to use his real name in Portugal. Thus, he might have been able to conduct his normal dealings inside Portugal – inheritance of buildings, property transfers, gifts, and even letters of grants from the Portuguese king – under his true identity. The false and real identities would not be linked in any way.

Evidence of his given name could still be found by analyzing the Portuguese documents of those he interacted with, as related to the Captaincy of Porto Santo prior to 1488. By 1488, though, João II was already calling him by the codename “Xpoval Colon,” as the king’s secret letter attests. The name Colombo does not exist in any Portuguese documents, which should not surprise us, because the name Colombo has no connection to the name Colón.

CRISTO-VAM KOLON = CHRIST-GOING MEMBER

According to Fernando Colón, the Admiral chose the name *Christopher* because it described what was to be the result of his labours: “bringing Christ to the New World.”

But could the Admiral’s alias be a secret code, declaring his occult membership in the Portuguese Templar Order of Christ? It appears that way.

The Spanish name Cristóbal (Xpoval) Colón in Portuguese is Cristóvão Colon and in Old Portuguese it was *Cristovam Colon*. Note the words that make up this name:

Cristo = Christ

Vam = going, as in *eles vam*, “they are going”

Colon = member, from the Greek *kólon*, where the Latin language gets its *colon*

Thus we have a *Christ going member*, who Fernando Colón says, “*was so observant of the things of religion, that in fasting and in praying the Divine Office, he could be taken for someone who professed in a religious order.*”

Might not the name the Admiral chose, Cristovam Colon, implicate him as a member of the Order of Christ?

One of the many important things Fernando Colón told us was that his father’s name did not come from Colombo, as so many have asserted, but that it was chosen because it had the meaning of *member* in Greek. Fernando did not specify what his father’s membership was in, but one would assume, at the time of Fernando’s writing, that the clues he left were sufficient for most to identify his father. After all, as a high noble with close connections to several courts, Cristóbal Colón needed no introductions.

The tangential elements could point to a religious order with an initiation rite, such as the Order of Christ or the Order of Santiago. The Admiral may have even belonged to several Portuguese military orders, as was the case with Vasco da Gama, who started out as a member of Santiago and then became a member of the Order of Christ, or as Prince Fernando, Duke of Beja, who was a member of both orders at the same time, or as King João II, who was member of the Order of Santiago and the Order of Avis.

Not only did the Admiral assume a new identity in Spain, but he was also extra careful – to the point of signing his letters with a signature so cryptic that its secret code has yet to be fully deciphered.

He used this coded signature when signing letters to the kings, to his children, and to the friars he worked with. If the few letters held in Italy are authentically his, which we doubt, he even signed with his secret signature when writing to a Genoese ambassador.

Yet without reading his true name, the recipients recognized his true identity. Those who corresponded with the Admiral under his false pseudonym must have known his real identity because they belonged to a group which understood the mystery of his past and the important reasons for keeping his identity a secret.

Cristóbal Colón was not unaided in hiding his identity or in implementing the project of India. He had powerful protectors inside Spain, including the Duke of Medinacelli, the Duke of Medina Sidonia, as well as the powerful Dominican friar Diego de Deza, Bishop of Palencia and Archbishop of Seville. It was friar Diego de Deza whom Cristóbal Colón wished to review his letter to the Pope, as he requested his son to have him do:

Seville, December 21, 1504: *Very dear son: The Lord Adelantado [Bartolomé Colón] and your brother and Carvajal left 16 days ago to go there to you... I have written to the Holy Father of my voyage, because he is complaining about me not writing to him. I am sending you the copy of the letter. I wanted that the King, Our Lord, or the Lord Bishop of Palencia see the letter before I send it to avoid false testimonies.*

A week later, the Admiral is still preoccupied that his letter to the Pope may have false testimonies about the Indies, and he requests his son to have Deza review it:

Letter to Diego Colon, Seville, December 29, 1504: *Very dear son: With Don Fernando [Colón] I wrote to you extensively, who left to go there 23 days ago.*

Eight days ago, [I sent a post] with another pledge from Francisco Doria. These letters go addressed to Pantaleón and Agostino Italián so that they give them to you, and with these goes a copy of a letter that I write to the Holy Father about the things of the Indies, so that he does not complain about me any longer. This copy I send so that His Highness or the Lord Bishop of Palencia read it... to avoid false testimonies.

Yet three weeks later, the Admiral persisted in having his letter to the Pope reviewed:

Letters to Diego Colon, Seville, January 18, 1505: *Very dear son: With a post that should arrive there today, I wrote you extensively ... the Lord Bishop of Palencia has arrived or will be*

arriving. Tell him how much his prosperity has pleased me, and that if I go there I shall lodge with His Grace, even if he does not wish it, and that we shall return to the first fraternal love, and that he may not deny me, because my duty will make it be so.

The letter to the Holy Father I said that it was for His Grace to see if he was there, the Lord Archbishop of Seville because the King will not have time for it.

Note that the Admiral, in these highly confidential letters to his son and heir, Diego Colón, utilized others to hide his correspondence. Some letters were sent with his trusted son Fernando, whereas other letters were sent not to Diego Colón, but to trusted third parties who in turn would deliver the letters to Diego. The Admiral was constantly on guard, trying to be a step ahead and not leave any clues to his identity behind him. To throw others off track, he addressed his letters to Pantaleon and Agostino, who then handed them over to the intended recipient.

Continuously wary of his letters falling into the wrong hands when writing to his co-conspirator, friar Gaspar at the Las Cuevas Monastery, he alerts him to this concern:

Of my doings, if I do not write to you in detail of what is going on, you should not be surprised because there are things that cannot be entrusted to the pen.⁴⁰⁶

Note also that the Bishop of Palencia and the Archbishop of Seville were, at this time, the same person, Diego de Deza. We also see that Diego de Deza, in Colón's words, was "*the cause of Their Highnesses getting the Indies and that I remained in Spain because I was already leaving.*" Deza played an important role in convincing the Monarchs to accept Colón's mission.

What "first fraternal love" was the Admiral referring to, which he shared with Diego de Deza? Could they have been two initiates of the same Order? Could Master Jaime Ferrer have been a member of the same order, and an initiated servant of the Admiral? In a letter to the Admiral written on August 5, 1495, Ferrer signs off as, "Very affectionate servant of Your Lordship." These are questions for future research.

ALL FOR ONE, ONE FOR ALL

As King João II confronted the treason of Colón's nephews, who were backed by Queen Isabel of Spain in 1483-1484, he knew something had to be done about Isabel's ambitions.

However, João II's plan may not have been simply to grant Spain the whole New World, but to have one of his own loyal servants take over that New World under the auspices of the Spanish crown. The mission of conquering the Americas could have been a way for João II to provide Cristóbal Colón the opportunity to create a kingdom for himself in this New World, while helping Portugal eliminate Spain from competing in Africa and India.

The new kingdom would have close ties to the Order of Christ, as did all other territories that Portugal oversaw. Cristóbal Colón was unable to capitalize on the work he began because João II died in October 1495, soon after the first voyage, and Colón was not sufficiently entrenched in the new territory to stand on his own. Thus, the New World fell unconditionally to Spain.

Fernando Colón says that the Admiral's coat of arms had the motto, "*A CASTILLA, Y A LEON NUEVO MUNDO DIO COLON,*" meaning: "*To Castille and to Leon a New World Gave Colón,*" as seen in FIGURE 15.2 on the ceiling in Portugal's Mafra Castle.

Colón's motto does not say "discovered"; it says "*gave it,*" as if the New World already belonged to Colón. In other words, since João II already knew those lands existed and were his for the taking, and since only Portuguese ships could have completed those earlier discoveries, only the Portuguese king could have granted those lands to Colón, who in turn would have been able to give them to Spain.

It appears that João II and Colón were working in tandem, just as members of any organization normally do, and since the Templar Order of Christ was one entity that exerted considerable effort in the Portuguese discoveries, one must consider that the Portuguese Order of Christ had a hand in helping Colón. In turn, Colón could have been one of its *members*, just as his chosen name of *Christ-going Member* insinuates, and as Colón's ongoing, secret communications with King João II imply.

Was it because Colón belonged to the Order of Christ that the books of the Prior Don Tivisco, to be discussed in the next chapter, carry on their covers the Templar cross?

The facts of Colón's life easily fit those of a member of the Order of Christ:

- The Order of Christ was focused on evangelizing the new Portuguese conquests. Cristóbal Colón wished to evangelize the New World.
- The Order of Christ's ultimate Templar mission was to restore the Holy Land to Christian control and rebuild the Temple of Jerusalem. Cristóbal Colón continuously made this same proposal to the Spanish Monarchs to rally their support, and he dreamed of leading that reconquest.
- Order of Christ members were educated in alternative religions, just as the Templars were. Cristóbal Colón wrote his own *Book of Prophecies*, heavily influenced by the Templar creed.
- Order of Christ members were Portuguese speakers. They had vast knowledge in various sciences and would surely have been instructed not only in Latin but also in Greek and Hebrew, just like Cristóbal Colón.
- Order of Christ members had "brothers" in the order, sworn to be faithful until death, and Cristóbal Colón always had such support in Spain.
- The Order of Christ had many secrets that were the domain of the Master, and Cristóbal Colón was a master of great secrets belonging to many arts and sciences, from geography to the secret ciphers with which he wrote letters to his brother.⁴⁰⁷
- The alias chosen by the Admiral was *Kólon*, which is to say *member*, and the Order of Christ was composed of Initiated Members.
- As a member of the Order of Christ, he may have been given regular access to the Monastery of All-Saints, where his wife Filipa Moniz lived and was being cared for.
- As a member of the Order of Christ, Cristóbal Colón would have possessed the secrets of an esoteric organization, such as today's "Freemasonry." Colón's behavior is very consistent with his having such esoteric knowledge.
- Cristóbal Colón's cryptic signature could possibly identify his "member position" in that order, as do the three pomegranates painted on his clothes in *The Virgin of the Navigators*, similar to those that can be seen at the entrance of the Order of Christ's castle, (SEE FIGURE 15.3).
- The fact that the Monastery of Las Cuevas, which is still full of Freemason-like symbols today, was Colón's headquarters in Spain, his temporary residency, as well as his burial place, could be interpreted as proof of his ties to an esoteric organization like the Order of Christ.
- As a member of the Order of Christ, Cristóbal Colón was truly *the Last Templar*, a title that many have attributed to him. After King João II's death, the Order of Christ was changed greatly by King Manuel I, its new Master. Manuel I was not a Templar but a Catholic, like his in-laws Isabel and Fernando, *the Catholic Monarchs*.
- The Order of Christ was the one entity responsible for spreading the Portuguese cult of *Festa do Imperio do Espírito Santo* – Feast of the Empire of the Holy Spirit, or *Holy Spirit Feast*, as it is better known among the Portuguese around the world (SEE FIGURE 15.4). Cristóbal Colón had a great affinity for the Holy Spirit, as we will see in more detail.



Figure 15.2: The sign on the Admiral's lap at Mafra Palace in Portugal reads, "A Castilla y a Leon Nuveo Mundo Dio Colon." As if painted "under cover," inside the King of Portugal's palace, nothing else identifies this chained man as Colón. If this sign were not here, no one would recognize this unpretentious prisoner as the First Admiral and Viceroy of the Indies (author's photo, 2010).

- In Las Cuevas, headquarters of Colón in Spain, Colón was buried in a room with a huge sculptured dove of the Holy Spirit, and the ceiling has the eight-sided theme on it (SEE FIGURE 15.5) often used by the Templars.
- In Madeira, the First Chapel built by Captain Zarco has the eight-sided theme and a cross of the Templar Knights above its door (SEE FIGURE 15.6).



Figure 15.3A: In the *Virgen de los Navegantes* (painted between 1505 and 1536), Admiral Colón (left arrow) was painted, by Alejo Fernández, wearing a robe with a pattern of three pomegranates cut and put in a triangle pattern (right and inset). Today's Freemasonry uses this same, three-pomegranate symbol to top its ceremonial columns for the First and Second Degree. These elements were not painted on Colón's clothes by accident. They have a purpose (author's photos, 2001).

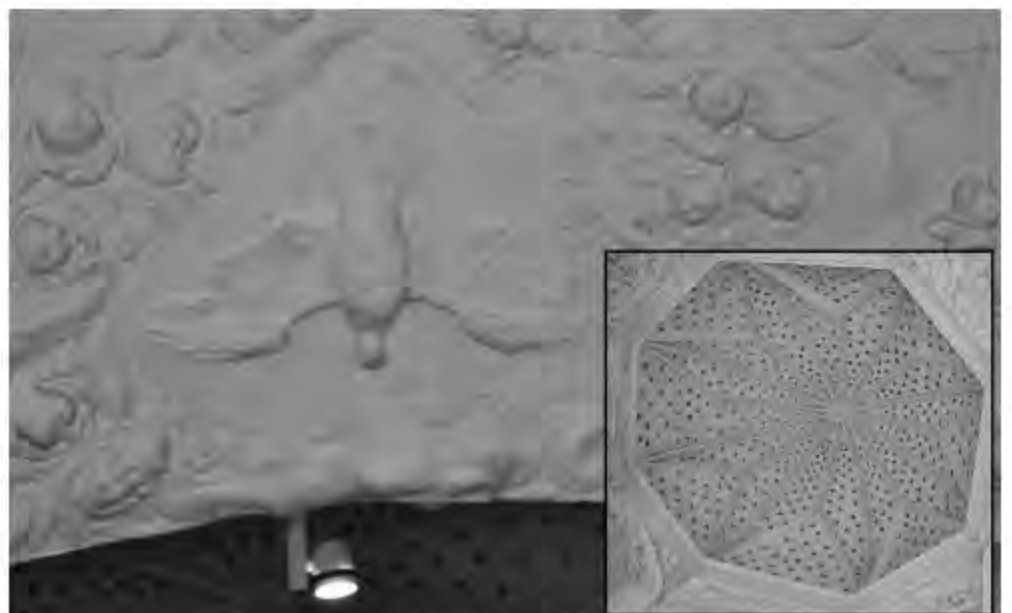


Figure 15.3B: These three pomegranates on the left, atop the armillary sphere, are over the entranceway of the Templar Headquarters in Tomar (author's photo, 2008). Three pomegranates cut open and arranged in a triangle appear symbolically atop the ceremonial pillars of the First and Second Degree of Freemasonry, as seen on the image at right.



Figure 15.4: Organized by the devotees of the Cult of the Holy Spirit, the Portuguese celebration of *Divino Espírito Santo* (D.E.S.) involves parading the banners and crown of the Holy Spirit through the community while singing praise to the Divine Spirit. The traditional ceremony crowns a child as a representation of the Divine Emperor, and it ends with the whole community gathering for a meal at the local D.E.S. Hall. Seen at the top left is Pico Island, circa 1973; at the top right is Somerville, MA, USA, circa 2011. The bottom left image, taken at the Portuguese Museum in San Jose, California, shows a banner of the Holy Spirit from 1889. Seen at bottom right is the blessing of the bread offerings, as celebrated at one of the many Portuguese communities in California.

Figure 15.5: This large Holy Spirit dove in Cristóbal Colón's Las Cuevas Monastery is inside a chapel with an eight-sided, Templar-influenced ceiling (inset) filled with eight-pointed stars of gold (author's photos, 2007).



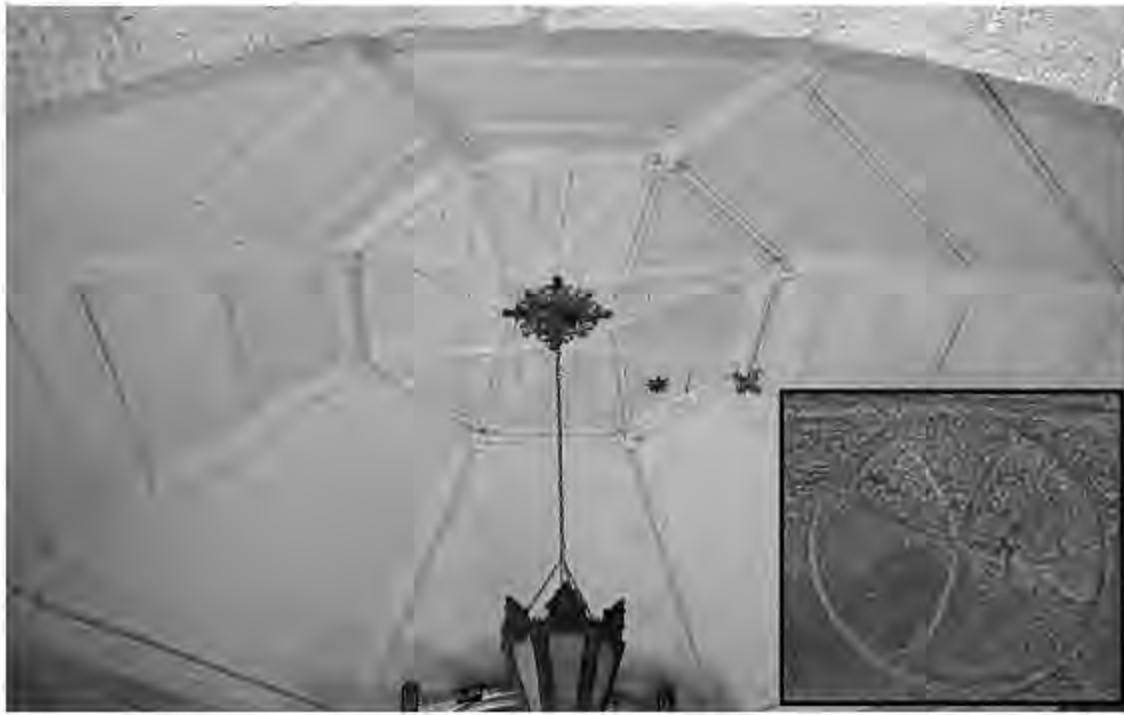


Figure 15.6: Captain Zarco's Chapel inside the Santa Clara Monastery in Funchal, Madeira – where Colón also lived – has the eight-sided Templar ceiling, finished off with a large, eight-pointed star surrounded by eight smaller, eight-pointed stars. This chapel was built circa 1430, yet it has a Templar Cross (inset) engraved over the entrance doorway, (author's photo, 2003).

sacrificed his Portuguese life to enter the “lion’s den” under a new identity... Cristóbal Colón could never have returned to Portugal as his old self. For all intents and purposes, his true identity was dead. As he faked a secret escape to Spain, under the assumed name of Cristóbal Colón, he was probably thanking God for this chance to do something important in the service of God, and of Portugal’s Templar Order of Christ.

As soon as Colón reached Spain, he had friends everywhere, even though his assumed identity was new, just like the one assumed by his nephew Pedro Nunes.

In this scenario, it is understandable why his friends would help hide his name, his family, and his kingdom of birth, as well as why the Portuguese king, who had invented the deception, would continue to provide him with secret, Portuguese, scientific information.

Queen Isabel of Spain had to be convinced that Cristóbal Colón was a “traitor refugee,” like his nephews, and in fact Queen Isabel hid, supported, protected and promoted Colón, just as she did with the other Portuguese traitors to King João II:

- D. Álvaro de Braganza, called *de Portugal* in Spain, was appointed Governor of Justice of her Spanish Court. His son married Colón’s granddaughter.
- D. Lopo de Albuquerque, who called himself *Pedro Nunes*, was appointed Mayor of Baeza and Úbeda. His adopted son, Diego Mendez, became Colón’s secretary.
- The high noble “traitor,” now called *Cristóbal Colón*, was elevated to Knight of the Golden Spur, Admiral of the Ocean Sea, Governor of the New World and Viceroy.

Cristóbal Colón, whose deeds in Spain were described by the Monarchs as, “*things beneficial to Our Spanish court*” – even had his children named Pages of the Spanish court.

The high contrast between João II’s true traitors and the Portuguese noble, now called *Cristóbal Colón*, was that the others were persecuted and killed by João II, while Colón was helped in every way possible, and compensated by João II for his selfless sacrifice.

The character of Admiral Colón – in all his writings, and in the descriptions of him by others – comes through as that of a master, not an apprentice; of an *iluminato*, not a mere secular; of an unfaltering doer, not an itinerant dreamer; of a wise scholar of his time, not an ignorant peasant; and of a deceiver who used all his knowledge, not of someone deceived by his own ignorance.

The Admiral had been carefully instructed from birth, was conversant in all the major subjects and spoke of issues beyond the scope of a commoner’s knowledge. He made reference to his past, but always with the utmost caution, so as not to reveal any more about himself than was necessary.

One of the Articles from the Templar Knights’ Rules states:

*God sees no difference between people, Christians, Saracens, Jews, Greeks, Romans, French, Bulgarians, because every man who prays to God is saved.*⁴⁰⁸

Admiral Colón, as if echoing some Templar spiritual teacher, wrote almost exactly the same words in his letters:

- *I say that the **Holy Spirit** operates in Christians, Jews, Muslims, and all others of all sects, and not just in the wise, but also in the uneducated. In my time I have seen villagers who give an account of the sky and stars and of their course better than others who spent money on studying it.*
- *I say that the **Holy Spirit** not only reveals to rational creatures the things to come, but shows them to us by signs from the heavens, the air, and the beasts when It pleases.*
- *Dealings and conversations I have had with wise people, theologians and laymen, Latins and Greeks, Jews and Moors, and with many others from other sects.*
- *Who doubts that this fire was not from the **Holy Spirit**, as well as from me? A highly evident miracle had Our Lord intended with this voyage to the Indies, to comfort me **and the others** in this other matter of the Holy House.⁴⁰⁹*

Colón's *Empresa de las Indias* (Enterprise of the Indies), as he often referred to his work, was not a private affair, a wild-eyed dream of one person, but in his own words, a carefully planned mission intended as a "comfort to me **and the others** in this other matter of the **Holy House**." The Holy House refers to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, or Temple of Solomon, from which the Templar Knights took their name.

Thus, in his actions and his writings, the Admiral behaved like a true member of the Templar Order of Christ, for which an initiation oath of "all for one and one for all" had to be sworn.

The Knights of the Military Order of Santiago swore a similar oath. From the list of trusted members of the Order of Santiago, King João II chose as his Captain, for the first voyage to India, a trusted seagoing warrior named Vasco da Gama.

Vasco da Gama sailed to India as a Knight of Santiago, where João II was Master and where João II's son, D. Jorge de Lancastre, brother-in-law to Isabel Colón, took over as Master on April 12, 1492.

Afterwards, Vasco da Gama was transferred to the Order of Christ by its Master, King Manuel I.

The Portuguese Order of Santiago had loyal members residing in many foreign places. Here are some examples.⁴¹⁰

- Licenciado Martim Alonso Locano. Native of Segura, Portugal, living in Spain.
- Francisco Bernardes. In Seville, Spain.
- Francisco Santera. Resident of Naples, Italy.
- Diogo de Montoia. Porter of the Chamber of Queen Catherine of Austria. Son of Rui de Sá, Knight Nobleman, died in Arzila.
- D. Afonso Palomilho. Resided on the island of Madeira. Native of Seville. The Charter of habit puts him as a resident in Rome.
- Francisco Brembyll. Retainer of the illustrious Lady Constança. Rome.

These initiated members, living in other kingdoms, had to remain loyal to their Master of Santiago in Portugal, just as the Templar Knights and Order of Christ Knights had to be loyal to their Master.

The First Viceroy and First Governor of "Portuguese" India, D. Francisco de Almeida, married to a cousin of Filipa Moniz, was a member of Santiago, as was the Second Governor of India, Afonso de Albuquerque. Albuquerque, called "the Great, Caesar of the East, Lion of the Seas, the Terrible, and the Portuguese Mars," was a second cousin of Lopo de Albuquerque, Count of Penamacor, nephew of Cristóbal Colón.

Alfonso de Albuquerque not only became the Second Governor of India, but was also one of the Royal Bodyguards of King João II, alongside Pedro Correia da Cunha, brother-in-law of Colón. Colón's wife, Filipa Moniz, was also a member of Santiago, according to Fernando Colón, and already attested by a document from the Torre do Tombo archives, as seen in Chapter 9. Cristóbal Colón regularly visited his future wife, who was a *Commander* of the Order of Santiago, inside its All-Saints Monastery, where Colón *regularly attended Mass*.

If Admiral Colón was himself a member Knight of Santiago, as the images of seashells shown in FIGURE 9.11 suggest, for the seashell is the emblem of Santiago, then Colón had every right to enter the All-Saints Monastery, a secure property of Santiago.

Was not Colón “regularly attending Mass” in the All-Saints Monastery of the Order of Santiago because he himself was a member of the Order of Santiago? Only these restricted members could enter and be married there, and Colón was married to a member of this Order, so he must himself have been a member of the Order of Santiago.

Interesting links to Cristóbal Colón and to the Order of Santiago, as well as the Order of Christ in Portugal, emerged two years after Cristóbal Colón died. Bartolomeu Perestrelo II, Third Captain of Porto Santo, along with his brother-in-law Juan Barahona, were in Seville in August 1508, at the same location where the Colón family had its residence. These two – both brothers-in-law of the Admiral – were contracting with Jerónimo Bonosene to negotiate in Rome for an *hábito y la cruz de Cristo al uso de Portugal; o la cruz del hábito de Santiago* (a habit with the cross [of the Order] of Christ as used in Portugal, or the cross of the Order of Santiago), and for this they gave Bonosene a Power of Attorney.⁴¹¹

We must ask ourselves why the Portuguese Captain of the Island of Porto Santo was in Spain, with the children of Cristóbal Colón, trying to order a habit with the cross of the Order of Christ or that of Santiago “as used in Portugal?” What dealings did Captain Bartolomeu Perestrelo II have in Seville with his nephew, Diego Colón?

Two years after Colón died, it is likely that Perestrelo went to Spain to orchestrate the initiation of his nephew into the Order of Santiago, to thus ensure his loyalty to the new Master of Santiago. Were Diego Colón’s uncles trying to initiate him into the Portuguese orders to buy his loyalty, and prevent the Second Admiral from divulging to the world the secret Portuguese conspiracy that the First Admiral of the Indies had been a part of?

Captain Perestrelo’s visit to Seville becomes even more suspicious when we note that only two months later, in October 1508, the Master of Santiago, João II’s illegitimate son, held a general meeting of the chapter of the Santiago Order. Could it be that Cristóbal Colón’s children were voted into the order at this time? With the upcoming general chapter meeting planned, would D. Jorge de Lancastre have sent Diego Colón’s uncles on their own secret mission to Seville, to prepare the Second Admiral for initiation by acquiring the outfit, just “as they used in Portugal”? These questions will have to remain unanswered until more documentation is found in Portugal.

If Cristóbal Colón had been a member knight of the Order of Santiago, along with Filipa Moniz, then their son could easily have entered the Order in 1508. Isn’t it because Diego Colón belonged to the Order of Santiago that he secretly inscribed eight-pointed stars in his palace in Santo Domingo (SEE FIGURE 15.7). Diego Colón could have been initiated into the Order of Santiago, even while living

in Seville as were many other members. An initiation would have bound Diego’s allegiance to the Master, D. Jorge Lancastre, illegitimate son of King João II who was direct cousin of Izeu Perestrelo, Diego Colón’s aunt. Master D. Jorge Lancastre was also brother-in-law to Isabel Colón, Admiral Colón’s granddaughter, because Master D. Jorge married a sister of Isabel Colón’s husband.

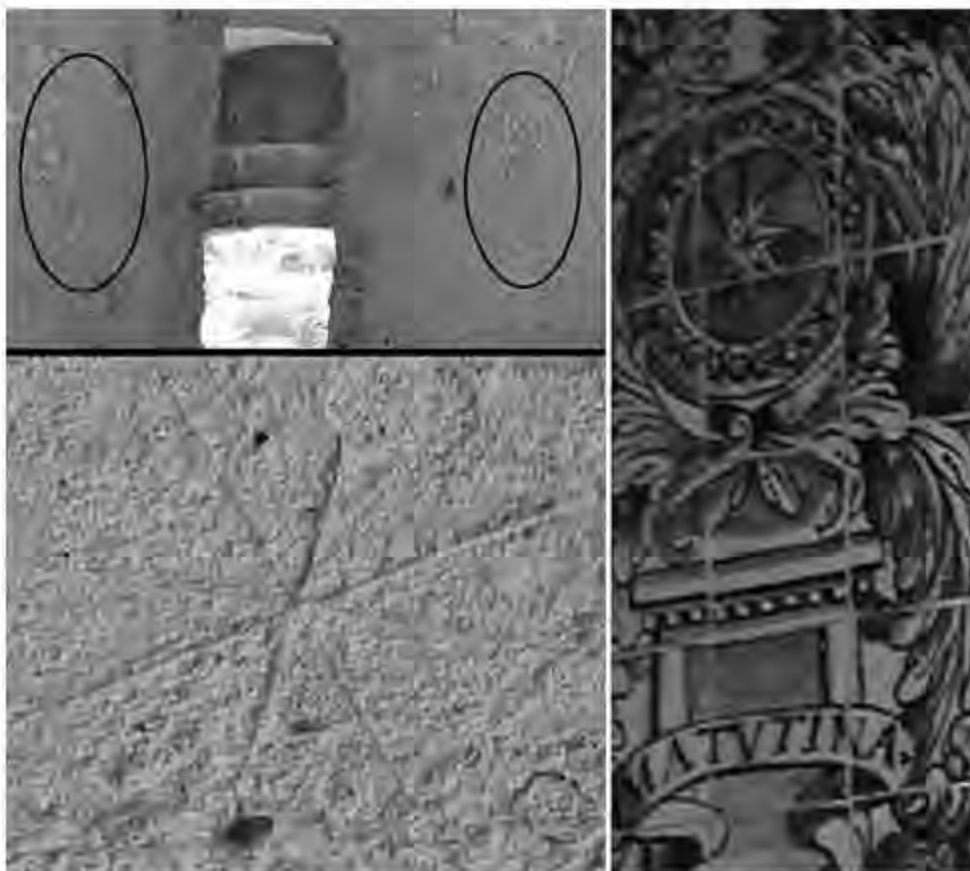


Figure 15.7: The Second Admiral, Diego Colón, had eight-pointed stars hidden in the Arrow Loops of the palace he built in Santo Domingo (left) (author’s photos, 2002). The same motif of the eight-pointed star is seen inside the All-Saints Monastery in Lisbon (right), as well as on Cristóbal Colón’s desk (SEE FIGURE 9.11).

The Order of Santiago had been King João II's refuge. Inside this order were the men of his confidence, and in the order's territory of Panóias lived the descendants of the followers of Lady Vataça Lescáris, the Byzantine Princess of Nicaea who came to Portugal in 1288, bringing a piece of the Holy Cross which belonged to Santa Elena.

Through an agreement with the Order of Santiago, the area of Panóias was granted to Princess Vataça until her death, which occurred in 1336. Vataça sponsored the building of churches, one of which has the famous entrance called *Portico del Sol* (Portal of the Sun). The triangle and the two columns, current Masonic symbols, are used in this entrance. Even the name refers to the Sun, another Masonic symbol. In Cristóbal Colón's time, the Santiago Commander for the territory of Panóias was Vasco Martins Moniz, uncle of Colón's wife.

Princess Vataça's arrival in Portugal was concurrent with that of Vataça's special friend, the Queen of Portugal, called Santa Isabel of Aragon, who was the fiercest promoter of Portugal's *Feast of the Holy Spirit*, commonly known as *Festa do Divino Espírito Santo*.

The Feast of the Holy Spirit, symbolizes peace on earth and good will among men as well an ancient prophecy of the reconciliation of all the religions of the world: through the means of the symbolism of the dove, the tongues of fire and the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit of the Divine Entity which communicates love.*

Promoted by the Templars in Portugal and by Portuguese worldwide, the Cult of the Holy Spirit is evident in many of Cristóbal Colón letters and notes. This cult of worship, with its initiations and processions, is still practiced in the Azores, as it has been for 600 years, as well as in Portuguese Azorean communities scattered around the world. A Google image search for *Festa do Espírito Santo* will bring up countless images of this populist celebration.

Dr. Paulo Alexandre Loução affirms that the Portuguese Templar Order of Christ was the "*fundamental cornerstone of the spread of the Portuguese Cult of the Holy Spirit*."⁴¹²

Established and promoted by the Templar Order of Christ, it is still celebrated today at the Order's headquarters in Tomar, known locally as the Feast of Tabuleiros.

You cannot separate Princess Vataça, Queen Isabel of Aragon, the Order of Christ, and the Cult of the Holy Spirit from Portugal's soul, but you can separate the Cult of the Holy Spirit from the Catholic Church. For centuries, the Vatican has tried to squelch or swallow cults, traditions and observances that threaten its existence. It has done the same with the Portuguese Cult of the Holy Spirit, successfully removing it from nearly all Portuguese territory except the city of Tomar, where it's now celebrated once every four years. The Templar Cult of the Holy Spirit has been largely removed from the collective memory of the Portuguese.

But the Azores were tiny specs of land so far from the deluge of the Inquisition that the cult's flame remains lit to this day. No longer steadfastly opposed to the Vatican and drawn ever closer to the Catholic miter, the priests of the Azores merely usurped its ceremonies instead of fighting them. The chapels of the Holy Spirit are built near churches, but not within them – and not because the churches aren't big enough to house their small religious relics, but because the Cult of the Holy Spirit did not want to be under the same roof as the Pope's asserted Catholicism (SEE FIGURE 15.8). The cult's largest known celebration takes place in Fall River, Massachusetts, where some 300,000 Portuguese from all over the world flock once a year.

* Arrival of the Holy Spirit - On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place... Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. Acts 2:1-4



Figure 15.8: State of Separation – The Chapels of the Holy Spirit, with the dove atop (arrows), are also known as *Impérios do Divino Espírito Santo* (Empires of the Divine Holy Spirit). These chapels (arrow) are never built inside the Catholic churches. All of the churches on Pico Island, including the author's Parish of Madalena, Pico, shown in this photo, are of sufficient size to house such small chapels. However, the devotees have always built their chapels outside the walls of the Catholic churches (author's photo, 2006).

Like the Order of Christ, Cristóbal Colón displayed a special devotion to the Cult of the Holy Spirit, which is an essential part of a devotion to the Blessed Trinity. Colón spoke constantly of the Trinity, yet he made no mention of a Catholic religion, only of a Christian religion, as these extracts from his letters and Ship's Log show:

- *"Nothing else, except that the Holy Trinity keep and cause to prosper the royal state of Your Highness in His holy service."*
- *"I set sail in the name of the Holy Trinity, and promptly returned with the proof of all that I said."*
- *"I set sail in the name of the Holy Trinity, Monday May 30, from Vila Sant Lucar, very well tired from my [first] voyage."*
- *"Again the Admiral said he wants to go southward, because he reasons, with the help of the Holy Trinity, he will find islands and lands, with which God will be served."*
- *"He named this land, 'the island of Trinidad [Trinity],' because he had it already determined."*
- *"The Holy Trinity the life and very high state of Your Highness grow and prosper to His holy service."*
- *"I shall make, on behalf of the Holy Trinity, a new voyage, which will be in Its glory and honor of the Holy Christian Religion."*
- *"I now continue my voyage on behalf of the Holy Trinity and I hope from Him the victory."*

PREPARING FOR THE APOCALYPSE

Based on all his known writings, the only time Cristóbal Colón made any reference to his place of birth was in a letter to the Spanish Monarchs, written on his return to Portugal from the First Voyage. While in Lisbon, on March 4, 1493, he declared, *"Remember Your Highnesses that I left wife and children and I came from my Homeland to serve you."* On another occasion he said, *"I left behind wife and children whom I never saw again."*

The Admiral went from Portugal, which he described as his *Homeland*, to serve in Spain. Thus, if the Admiral had more children, and if those children were legitimate, they were left behind in his *Homeland* of Portugal with his wife, Filipa Moniz. These children could never again be claimed as his own; otherwise, his true identity would be exposed.

According to his own words, Cristóbal Colón left all he loved behind in his *Homeland* of Portugal, and from the beginning, the mission of rebuilding the Temple was an integral part of his Enterprise of the Indies. He was in Spain not only on a mission to divert Portugal's enemy's forces from Portuguese interests, but also to serve the ultimate religious mission of the Portuguese Templar Order of Christ.

Cristóbal Colón did not risk his life sailing on this mission for riches, neither to become Admiral, Viceroy or Governor. He did not do it simply for fame and gold, since he was already very powerful before all of this, as his marriage, royal connections, and family ties in Portugal prove. He set out on this enterprise and became Admiral, Viceroy and Governor for a more noble purpose: to secure full control of the new territory, in accordance with his theological and political beliefs.

As a member of a Portuguese military order, the Admiral would have been obligated to remain a poor initiate, not “to gather treasure, because I have no standing except to serve God,” as he once wrote, adding:

I came to serve these Princes, bearing so dear love, and I have served them with such a service as had never been seen or heard of, the new heaven and earth that Our Lord mentioned through Saint John in the Apocalypse, after being said by the tongue of Isaiah, He made me His messenger and revealed that [new] part.

All this work was taking place because Colón and his accomplices were following the Plan of the Ages, a Templar perception of God’s life map for humanity according to the Apocalypse, and because by doing so they’d also be preparing the way for the arrival of the New Age. The Admiral affirmed that “God, by the tongue of the Prophet in the fourteenth psalm said it ... The Abbot Joachim [de Fiore/Calabrés] said that this [person] had to come from Spain ... San Geronimo showed the way for it to the holy woman.”

This Plan of the Ages was another creed the Templars subscribed to (SEE FIGURE 15.9). Colón’s signature and seal further contained elements used by the Rosicrucian (or Rosy Cross) Order (SEE FIGURE 15.10.)

Figure 15.9: This image represents the Portuguese Templar’s “Plano dos Tempos” (Plan of the Ages), their perception of God’s life map for humanity according to the Apocalypse.

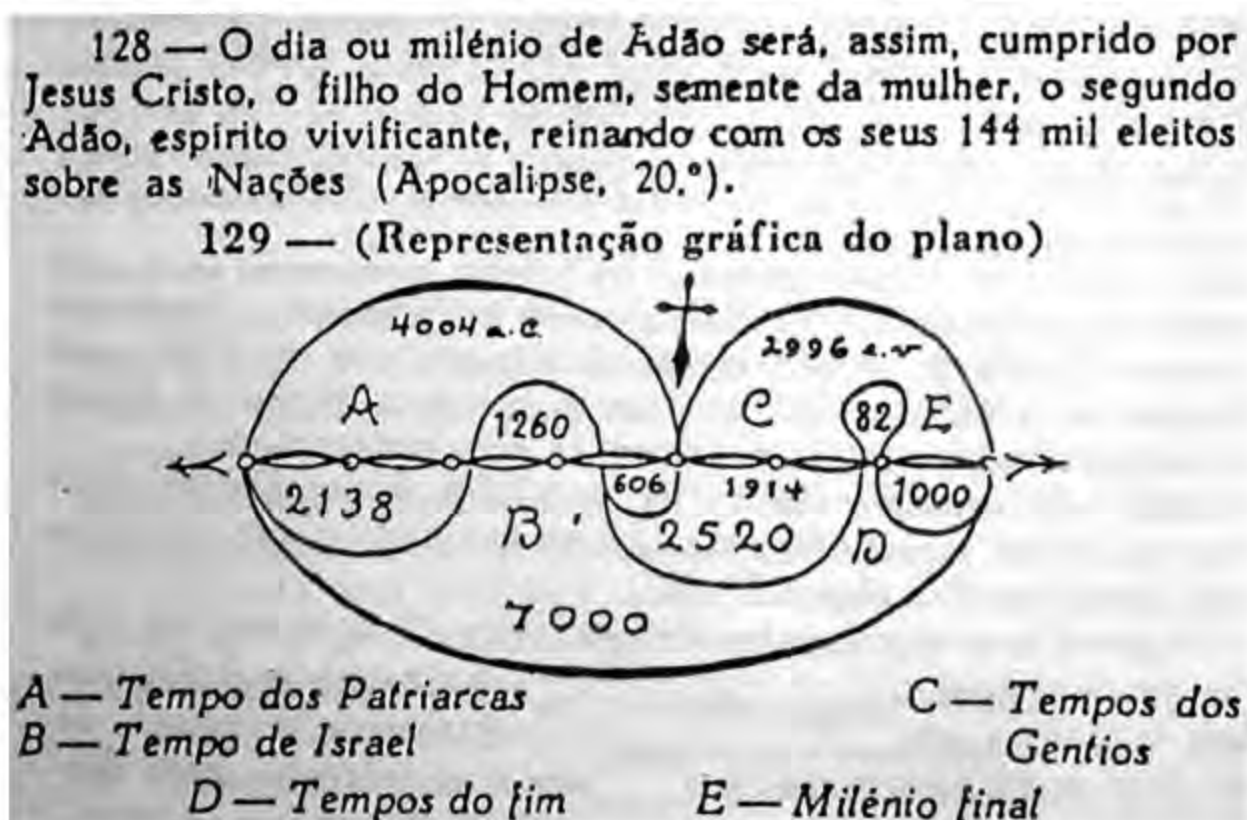
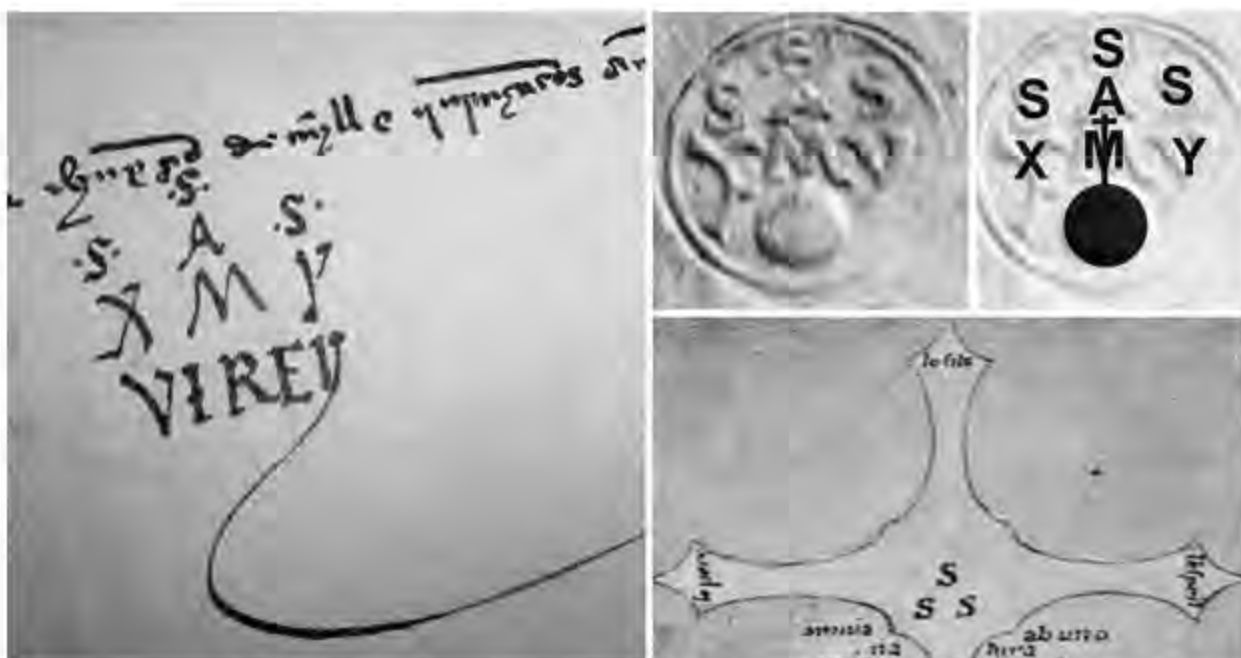


Figure 15.10: Signature of the First Viceroy of the Indies, Cristóbal Colón, (left) and his Viceroy seal (top right). It is clear that his seal was the same secret code — .S., .S.A.S., XMY— which Colón always used in his signature. The bottom right image shows an ancient Rosicrucian drawing with the SSS. Note that these three S’s appear in the same pattern as in Colón’s signature and seal.



Apparently a new ideal was to be implemented in Colón’s New World, in that “hidden land that by the Order of Christ was discovered in 1492 and where, providentially, the nation shall be prepared [which is] aimed at breaking the vicious circle of violence.”⁴¹³ This same notion was shared by Freemasonry, registering that “the Catholic Priests corrupted the whole doctrine of Christ, violated the precept of tolerance... they were the only ones who kept the primitive [form of] Christianity from being a universal religion today.”⁴¹⁴

Aside from mentioning his religious views in letters, the Admiral began writing his *Book of Prophecies*. In a letter to Friar Gorricio on September 13, 1501, Colón says:

When I got here I started to gather those authorities that I thought had made the case for Jerusalem.

As early as 1481, in his Portuguese-infused Spanish, Colón is writing personal notes related to the time of the *Apocalypse*:

This is the calculation of the creation of the World, according to the Jews. Adam lived 120 years and then he begat Aset. Aset lived 105 years and then he begat Enos ... And from the time that Abraam was born until the Second House (Temple of Solomon) was destroyed [passed] 1,088 years. And from the destruction of the Second House until now, (being) the year of the birth of our Lord 1481, are 1,413 years, according to the Jews.⁴¹⁵

King João II supported Colón's grand mission of Jerusalem by having Munzer go offer the same proposal to the Catholic Monarchs in 1494:

I do not think Your Majesties [Isabel and Fernando] are lacking anything except to add to your triumphs the recovery of the Lord's tomb in Jerusalem... For you is reserved this victory. This triumph of yours [discovering the New World] will be crowned with those trophies [Jerusalem]. You very well can do it, and for no one but for You is reserved this event and opportunity.⁴¹⁶

As can be seen, both King João II and Colón desired to fulfill the ancient, critical mission of the Order of Christ/Order of the Temple: to reconquer the Holy House – the Temple – from Islam. They endeavored to utilize Spain's resources to accomplish this.

Everything changed after João II and Colón's deaths, mainly because Portugal's King Manuel I was not only anti-Templar and pro-Catholic, but also because he was anti-Jewish and was the first, pro-Spanish, Portuguese king. Manuel I began to modify the Order of Christ, and at Queen Isabel of Spain's behest, he even expelled the Portuguese Jews, by a decree dated December 5, 1496, only one year after João II died.

With King Manuel I at the helm of the Kingdom of Portugal, and Master of the Order of Christ, both Colón's true identity and any writings that mentioned Cristóbal Colón would have attracted censorship in both Portugal and Spain. This would have applied particularly to information on Colón's Templarism.

In Colón's *Book of Prophecies*, as well as in his Ship's Log, there was visible censorship. In the *Book of Prophecies* many pages were torn out and others cut in half. What's left of this book, though good, is not the best of what Admiral Colón had written, because a note written by an unknown person inside the book says:

Grave deed was done by whoever took from here these pages, because it was the best of the prophecies of this book (SEE FIGURE 15.11). Also the Log Book, although it was only a copy of the "lost" original, had some of its pages suppressed and others torn out.⁴¹⁷

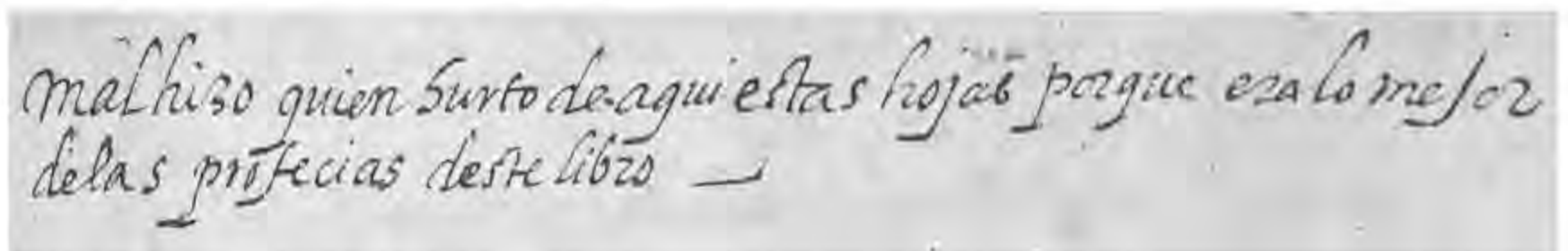


Figure 15.11: Section of a page from Colón's *Book of Prophecies* declaring, "Grave deed was done by who removed from here these pages because it was the best of the prophecies of this book."

No doubt the Portuguese manuscripts were also sanitized by King Manuel I's decree, in which he ordered the Portuguese archives be overhauled, making them current by copying the old books to new books. Thus, censorship could be implemented on the new books, and the old ones destroyed.

The Portuguese Order of Christ, before Manuel I, wanted to evangelize the world and prepare humanity for the coming of the Third Age: the Age of the Spirit. This undertaking required possession of the Holy Land and rebuilding the Temple of Solomon. The following words from Colón would, therefore, make more sense if understood as coming from a Portuguese member of the Order of Christ:

Letter to the Monarchs, [Cadiz or Seville], 1501: *Highly Christian and most high Princes: the reason that I have for the return of the Holy House to the Holy Church militant is the following... I wrote that I would state my reasons for the restitution of the Holy House to the Holy Church. I say that I set aside all my navigations from an early age and the talks I had with many people in so many lands and from many sects, and I set aside the many sciences and writings that I mentioned above, I simply hold fast onto the Holy and Sacred Scripture and some prophetic authorities ... founded, especially on Saint John's: In principio era! Verbum, et Verbum erat apud Deum, etc. (In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, etc.) So eminent words... I already said that for the execution of the Enterprise of the Indies, I did not use reason, or mathematics, or World maps. It was the full accomplishment of what Isaiah said. And that is what I desire to write here to summarize for Your Highnesses memory, and so that you get enthusiastic about the other that I will say of Jerusalem... Cardinal Pedro de Ailiaco writes much about the end of the sect of Muhammad, and the coming of the Antichrist ... The Abbot Joachim Calabrés [Joachim de Fiore] wrote that there would come from Spain he who would rebuild the house on Mount Zion.⁴¹⁸*

Cristóbal Colón desired to fulfill the Calabrian Joachim de Fiore's prophecy of initiating humanity's Third Age, the Age of the Holy Spirit, and Colón planned to use all the gold from his New World for the purpose of fulfilling that prophecy.

Would not these be the words of a noble member of the renamed Knights of the Temple in Portugal, a military order that had spent centuries training its members aboard Portuguese caravels, that had taken part in continuous wars against the Moors, that had begun the Age of Discovery, that had been constantly engaged in a mission to defeat the oppressive sect of Muhammad, and had been spreading its brotherly Cult of the Holy Spirit wherever it sailed, visited, or conquered?

Would this not be the attitude of a Templar who renamed himself *ChristGoing Member*? Can we locate any proof showing Colón as a member of the Portuguese Order of Christ? The following images show some of the similarities between the symbolic language used by Cristóbal Colón and the symbols of the Order of Christ:

COLÓN'S SYMBOL



The Admiral used "Xpo" with a bar above to represent part of his first name, which means Christ (extracted from his Book of Privileges)

ORDER CHRIST'S SYMBOL



Above the center of the initiation altar in the Templar headquarters in Tomar, at the center of the charola (a circular rotunda of eight legs) the letters "XPS," in gold, are visible. They signify "Christus," the plural of "Christ."

COLÓN'S SYMBOL



Admiral Colón used the symbol of the colon – : – preceding the “Xpo” in his name.



Carefully drawn on the castle of Colón's coat of arms on his Book of Privileges, one notes a special type of door that was not used in castles. Also, the two windows, one on each side, represent the globe with a cross.



Colón used the symbol of a period with a slash – ./ – to indicate the name Colón, meaning “Member.”

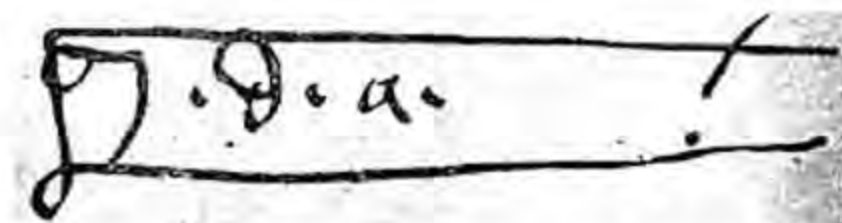
ORDER CHRIST'S SYMBOL



On the tomb of the Governor of Prince Henry's household, inside the Tomar Castle, there is a colon – : – before and after his name – : almeyda : – as shown here.



The castle of Tomar, which served as the headquarters of the Templar Order and the Order of Christ, still has as its theme the globe with the cross.



The Master of the Order of Christ, Prince Henry the Navigator, signed his name using the initials IDA, which means “departure” in Portuguese, and also used the symbol of dot with a comma, looking like an exclamation point, as seen in the image.

When the Spanish Monarchs sent Bobadilla to arrest the Colón brothers in Santo Domingo, Admiral Colón was accused by Bobadilla of using a *secret cipher alphabet* to write coded letters to his Lieutenant, Bartolomé Colón. Therefore, both Cristóbal and Bartolomé must have been instructed in these highly sophisticated and secretive ways of communication, which can only be learned after much schooling, and only after advanced writing skills are mastered. There are no surviving secret letters from Colón written in these ciphers.

The only ciphered letters we know of were seized by Bobadilla, and they sank with him off the coast of Santo Domingo in 1502. However, FIGURE 15.12 shows some random, encoded characters taken from Colón's letters, as well as an example of a Templar alphabet with the key next to each letter.⁴¹⁹

There is another conundrum found in Colón's coat of arms, one that seems deliberately planted there. The arms on the Paris Codex, on the Franciscan monastery of La Rabida, and on the manuscript of Las Casas show carefully drawn on the castle a strange, esoteric symbol that looks like a keyhole (SEE FIGURE 15.13.)

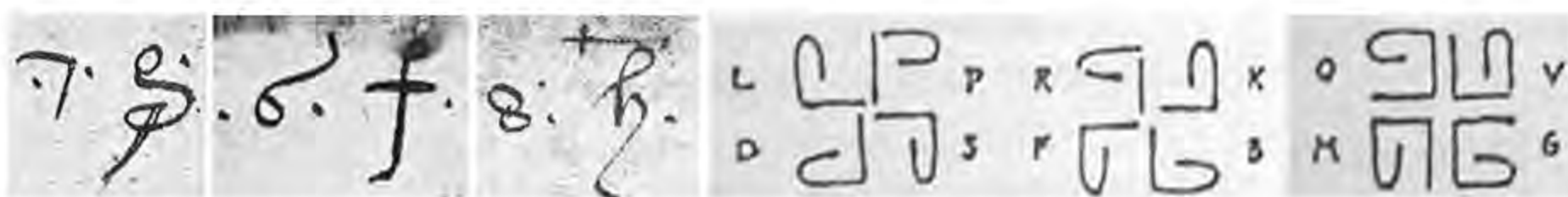


Figure 15.12: At the left are some strange characters from the Admiral's letters, likely bearing some secret significance to the letters' recipients. On the right is one version of a Templar alphabet, with the code letters next to each.



Figure 15.13: Clues common to several of Colón's coat of arms (from left to right): from his own *Book of Privileges*, Paris Codex; from the painting in La Rábida; from the Las Casas manuscript; and from the *Genoese Codex*.

I contend that this symbol was another attempt to pass a secret message, but for now, there is no certain explanation of its meaning. It's another enigma of Colón's life, waiting to be solved.

The life of Cristóbal Colón becomes far less of an enigma when he is understood to be a Portuguese noble and a member of the Order of Christ, or of Santiago, especially when the following is considered:

- His granddaughter, Isabel Colón, married Jorge Alberto de Portugal, a brother-in-law of the Master of Santiago, D. Jorge de Lancastre. D. Jorge de Lancastre was also a direct cousin to Filipa Moniz's sister, Izeu Perestrelo, Captainess of Graciosa.
- Elements and symbols associated with Freemasonry or Templarism can still be seen today in Colón's robe in Seville, and all over the Monastery of Las Cuevas.
- He followed the theology of the Trinity, especially the Cult of the Holy Spirit as preached by Abbot Joachim de Fiore, as practiced in Portugal and propagated by the Portuguese Order of Christ.
- He used an encrypted signature that only those initiated recognized, to avoid having to write his real name, and he chose to call himself KÓLON because it means MEMBER.
- Portuguese was his mother tongue.
- He called Portugal "my Homeland," and he had his children made Pages at the court of Spain.

Furthermore, if Colón was secretly a member of the Templar Order of Christ, then the following letter of Jaime Ferrer, cosmographer of the Spanish crown, dated August 5, 1494, makes perfect sense. Jaime Ferrer wrote to Colón:

*Lordship, you have been put in position of Apostle and Ambassador of God... to Rome came the prince of the Apostolic Militia... and if from your glorious enterprise your soul sometimes rises in contemplation, sit at the feet of the great Prophet, and with loud voice sing to the sound of his harp, saying: Non nobis Domine, non nobis, sed tuo da gloriam nomini.*⁴²⁰

The Latin passage, which means, "Not unto us, Lord, not to us, but to Your name give the glory," was the motto of the Templar Knights. Jaime Ferrer, who also mentions the same Prophet as Colón, by invoking this Templar creed, appears to implicate Cristóbal Colón as a follower of the Templars. This order's last stronghold was in Portugal, and their headquarters continued to be the fortress in Tomar, built around 1160 by Gualdim Pais, Master of the Order of the Temple (SEE FIGURE 15.14).



Figure 15.14: The Templar fortress at Tomar was built in the mid 1100s. Its round motif, reflects the church on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Its principal feature inside is an eight-legged inner sanctum, called a charola (insets), used for the initiation of the knights into the order.

Another clue connecting Admiral Colón to Portugal involves the Ducal Palace that existed in the town of Cuba, in Portugal. Although the palace was ordered destroyed by the Spanish King Felipe II when he also ruled the Portuguese kingdom, its doorway was saved and is now located in the old Chapel of S. Brás in Cuba. The door is decorated with three pomegranates on each side – a theme similar to that utilized at the Templar castle in Tomar, headquarters of the Templar Order of Christ, where the pomegranates are sculpted above the armillary sphere. The portrait of Admiral Colón in Seville shows him wearing a robe decorated with pomegranates, cut

open and arranged in a triangle, which is today a Freemasonic symbol, as seen in FIGURE 15.3A.

One further connection to be made to today's Freemasonry is the symbol of the Pelican, shown in FIGURE 15.15, which is the 18th degree of Freemasonry, the Rosicrucian degree.

It so happens that this emblem belonged to none other than King João II of Portugal. It was his own personal emblem, and no such symbol would have been chosen without great consideration. Do all these elements prove that the man painted by Alejo Fernández – in a robe decorated with a pattern of three pomegranates – was connected to Portugal's Templar Order of Christ, where Freemasonry went to get its symbology?

The Order of Christ's headquarters has engraved, high upon one of its towers, the Compass and Square, used in today's Freemasonry (SEE FIGURE 15.16).

Some historians have suggested that King João II belonged to a secret Templar inner circle in Portugal. One must consider the possibility that both King João II and Admiral Colón belonged to a secret Templar society that was either Rosicrucian, as King João II's emblem indicates, or that later went on to become Rosicrucian.



Figure 15.15: At left is King João II's emblem from the Madre Deus Church in Lisbon. At right is King João II's pelican over the main entrance of the All-Saints Monastery of the Military Order of Santiago in Lisbon, where Admiral Colón used to hear Mass and where Filipa Moniz lived as a *comendadora* (author's photos, 2002). The same symbol is used by Freemasonry as the 18th degree Rosicrucian insignia (center).



Figure 15.16: The compass and square (circled), as used in Freemasonry, adorns this wall of the Templar fortress in Tomar.

By the terms of the accord made at the *Cortes de Tomar*, courts held in 1581, when Spain's King Felipe II was allowed to usurp the crown of Portugal, the King of Spain had to entrust the regency of the Kingdom of Portugal to a Portuguese or, alternatively, to a member of the Royal Family. Surprisingly,

one of Portugal's regents was Cristóbal Colón's great-great-grandson D. Nuno Alvares Pereira Colón y Portugal, Duke of Veragua and Admiral of the Indies from 1621 until his death.

Yes, a descendant of Cristóbal Colón became a ruler of the kingdom of Portugal. It appears that Admiral Colón was more connected to the kingdom of Portugal than important people of his time wanted the world to know.

Being born in Portugal explains why Cristóbal Colón and his Portuguese-born son, Diego Colón, continued to help Portugal while in Spain, hiding important geographic and political information from Queen Isabel, from King Fernando, and even from King Carlos V.

The Second Admiral, Diego Colón y Moniz, a noble Portuguese, may have hidden information from his own half-brother, Fernando Colón y Enríquez de Arana, a nobleman born in Spain.

The truth is that only a privileged noble could become a Knight of the Golden Spur, and have his children made Pages at the court, as Cristóbal Colón's children were – *before* Colón had accomplished any worthy deeds. The same goes for someone who so readily acquired the positions of Admiral, Governor, and especially Viceroy – Vice-King – a title that ranks one step below the king himself. Colón held all of these positions.

Only a highly privileged nobleman would receive the title of *DON*, simply for showing up, as happened with his brother Bartolomé Colón, who received this title in 1493, upon arriving from the court of France.

As a high Portuguese nobleman, he would have been helped, by other Portuguese high nobles, in asserting his rights against King Fernando of Spain. One such was D. Álvaro de Bragança (*de Portugal*), who indeed extended such help to Colón. Colón's granddaughter married the son of this same D. Álvaro de Bragança.

As a Portuguese high nobleman, he would not have left Portugal without paying his regards to his Queen, D. Leonor, as Colón was required to do on March 11, 1493, at the Monastery of San Antonio, in Castanheira, near Villa Franca de Xira.

This Castanheira is another important Portuguese detail. D. Álvaro de Bragança's wife, D. Filipa de Melo, descended from the Lord of Castanheira. When Admiral Colón visited the Queen, the Lord of Castanheira was D. Álvaro de Ataíde, a cousin to the Count of Penamacor, Colón's nephew, whose tomb is at this very Monastery.

Furthermore, when the Admiral arrived at Santa Maria Island on February 19, 1493, the man who sent fresh food to the Niña, – “*together with a message saying that he knew the Admiral very well and had not come to see him because it was night, but that he would come at daybreak and bring more provisions*” – was none other than João da Castanheira, a relative of D. Álvaro de Bragança's wife.

Note that João da Castanheira – before he even saw his face – knew Colón “very well,” even though the Admiral was playing his role under a false identity and had been living in Spain for nine years.

The son of a man thus connected to Portugal's high nobility, as Colón clearly was, would be entitled to marry the highest and most noble of Spanish ladies. That is why his Portuguese-born son, Diego Colón, married King Fernando's cousin, María de Toledo y Rojas, at King Fernando's insistence.

The more one learns of the facts in the life of Cristóbal Colón, the more the data point to a Portuguese identity, and the more data that emerge, the easier it becomes to identify the man hiding behind this most famous of all pseudonyms. So who was Cristóbal Colón, to have so many high-society friends in Portugal? What might have been his real name and lineage?

Some say he was a certain, illegitimate Portuguese Prince named Salvador Fernandes Zarco, a theory we examined but did not find plausible.

In the final analysis, Admiral Cristóbal Colón had to be a member of a Portuguese Military Order, and a believer in the Portuguese Cult of the Holy Spirit. All of his significant, philosophical, esoteric and theological connections, as presented in this chapter – especially his own chosen name of *Christ Going Member* – point to the conclusion that he was a member of the Order of Christ.