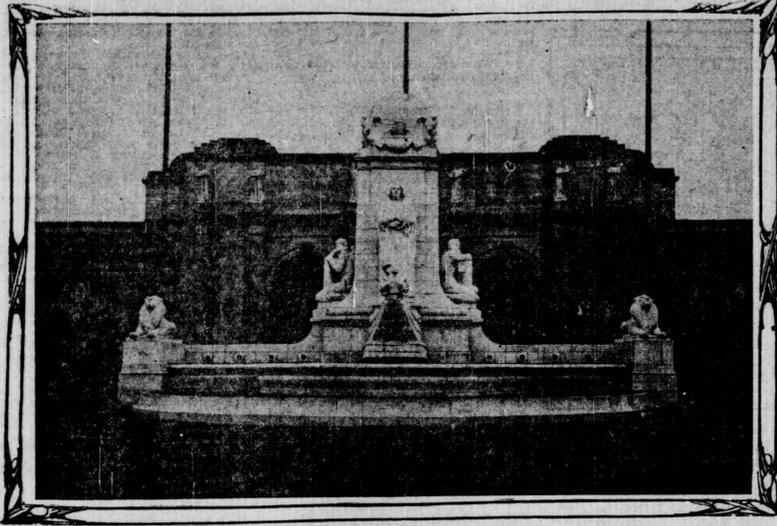


To Carry Body of Columbus Through Panama Canal and Over Route He Sailed 400 Years Ago

Today Is Columbus Day—Movement on Foot to Exhume His Remains and Carry Them on the First Ship That Passes Through the Panama Canal—Is the Popular Conception of Columbus Correct?—His Personal Appearance a Mooted Question—When Was He Born?—Why Was He So Secretive as to His Parentage?—Disputed Points Give Rise to Interesting Speculation.



COLUMBUS MEMORIAL IN FRONT OF THE UNION STATION.

creasing interest in the personality of Columbus. What adventures were his before the great discovery? Who were his friends? Above all, how did he come by germ of the idea that led him to the new world? These main heads lead to hundreds of other questions that have puzzled patient investigators for years. Is the popular conception of the man Columbus correct? When the American citizen studies the story of his many discoveries, his glorious triumph and his ignominious death, does that citizen get a true picture of the discoverer of America?

A mass of conflicting testimony befores the history of his life. There are a dozen cities that claim the honor of his birthplace. He has been given three distinct nationalities, while only recently there has been presented the argument of a distinguished investigator, Senor Garcia de la Riega, that Columbus was a Jew. In view of all this conflict of evidence regarding his birthplace, citizenship and creed, it is small wonder that we have a hazy and possibly entirely false idea of the personality of Columbus.

What did he look like? Today, 421 years after he made his world discovering voyage, we are much at sea concerning the great admiral's personal appearance. Not only are the popular representations of the daring sailor's costume inaccurate, but the sketch of his physical appearance is also all wrong. The whole difficulty with getting a faithful copy of the features of Columbus lies in the fact of the absence of any life-drawn picture.

The portraits which are so numerous today can nearly all be traced back to an engraving called the Paulus Jovius cut, made from a painting that has been lost. And another factor of inaccuracy, the lost painting was not an original work, but was executed upon what the lawyers term "hearsay evidence." It was painted early in the sixteenth century by the direction of a Spanish nobleman, who at that time was collecting a gallery portraying famous Spaniards.

There were men living then who had known the great sailor, and it is presumed that the lost portrait was built upon information they gave. In the Paulus Jovius engraving Columbus is drawn without a beard, and, therefore, present day artists nearly always represent him as clean shaven. The cut shows him as a man over fifty years of age, wearing the peculiar Spanish tabard, the dress still used by the sailors of Vigo.

In reality the accepted likeness of the admiral is after the manner of being an

sea captain. But lately those who have made a thorough examination of all documents, court records, and so forth, pertaining to the subject have demolished his ex parte evidence. Curiously enough all that has been dug out only adds to the honor of Columbus. The existence of the Genoese is a greatest event in the world's history. The fact that he lifted the curtain and revealed the existence of the hitherto unknown half of the globe, and the glory due therefor, cannot be dimmed no matter what record of his man's petty vanities may come to light. Self-made personalities were looked down upon in Spanish court when Columbus returned from America. Not to belong to the aristocracy was to be without honor, regardless of what one may have accomplished. And so this great man of humble origin felt it necessary to reconstruct his lineage.

Even the date of the birth of Columbus has not been fixed with absolute accuracy. Although in his diary he writes that he was born on the eighth day of the sea, the seven years he impounded the throne of Spain and the early period of his homecoming, yet so does this data conflict with known dates that one must conclude he either made willful errors or was very careless. No one any longer believes that he was born in 1452. But whether the year of his birth was 1449, 1447 or 1451 is still disputed.

The authority for this last date, now accepted by many as correct, is based upon a note for forty-eight lires and thirteen centesimos that Columbus and his father gave in payment for a cask of wine. On this note it is set forth that Columbus was of age when he made it. The note was executed in favor of a Genoese merchant named Bellesto, and was but recently found in the archives of the Italian city.

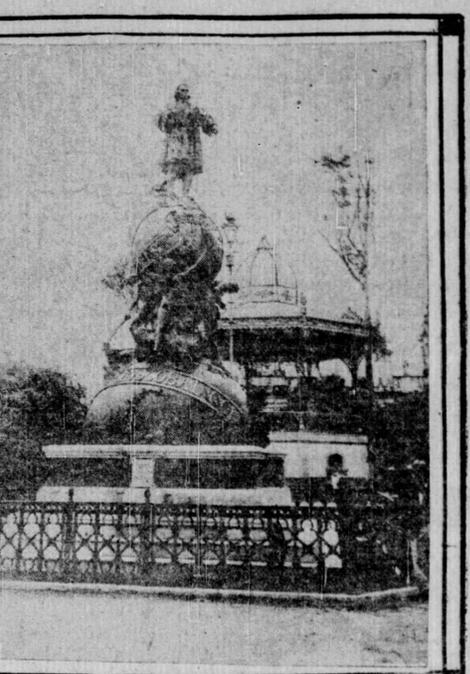
But while the birthday is undetermined, the birthplace is now a matter of record. In defiance of the pretensions of other innumerable Italian villages, it is generally conceded that Columbus was born in Genoa. He has himself stated in several places in his diary that he was a Genoese, and thus he was called by his intimates. But, curiously enough, his own son, Ferdinand, casts a doubt on this statement. This historian, who certainly should have been in possession of the facts, complacently cites the different opinions held on the subject, but makes no mentioning statement himself. His silence is unexplainable.

Perhaps the confusion in locating the discoverer's native place is due in a measure to the existence of numerous families named Columbus. Of course it was natural that all who bore the name should covet kinship with the explorer of the unknown seas. Out of this confusion of names has arisen the very recent contention that Christopher was not a Genoese nor a Catholic, but a Spanish Jew. Senor Don Garcia de la Riega, a Spanish scholar of Pontevedra, in Galicia, discovered in the archives of his town that in the fifteenth century a family was established there of the name of Colon, whose members bore the same forenames as the Columbus of Genoa.

He found a Domingo Colon, a Cristobal Colon, and a Bartholomeo Colon. What is more curious, he found that at Pontevedra there lived a Fonterosa family supposed to be Jews, and intimates of the Colon family. From these data, especially the fact that Columbus' mother's name was Fonterosa, the Spanish scholar proceeds to prove his hypothesis that the discoverer of America was born on Spanish soil of Jewish parentage.

As contributory evidence, he states that Columbus wrote in a biblical style that he preferred books of other biblical or Jewish origin; that he wrote a book of prophecies; that a Jew received a legacy from him; that he was ashamed of his humble origin. Documents that have been discovered in Genoa, conclusively prove that he followed his father's trade of weaver, long after the time which he himself gives as the date of his first going to sea. Again, he is anxious to give the impression that he had what nowadays would be called a college education. He pretends to have been a student at the University of Pavia, although how he reconciles this with the fact that most of his life from the age of fourteen years had been passed at sea is difficult to understand.

His historians also credit him with a large knowledge of cosmography, astronomy and navigation, but several contemporary writers belittled his pretensions to these attainments. There exists a single copy of a curious letter which



STATUE OF COLUMBUS IN CENTRAL PARK, GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA.

Columbus wrote in Jamaica in 1494, to the sovereigns of Spain. In this he sets forth his theory of the shape of the world which, as a matter of fact, he may have known. He says that he had statements, however, he claims to have definitely located the terrestrial paradise and the situation of King Solomon's mines.

From the point of view of impartial posterity this fear was absurd. When a man has accomplished the most stupendous thing in history, it is hard to believe that he is sensitive to criticism. But on this side Columbus was very human. And perhaps there is a good reason for this. He seems to have been oppressed by the fear that his record as a sailor would some time be brought into question.

Unquestionably Christopher Columbus was a deep student of human nature, and while it may be that he was not as learned in books as he professed, there can be no doubt that he was a thorough, practical navigator. What remains of his library consists of only three books. The margins of these are scribbled with annotations, clear evidence that they were much read. Their well thumbed pages show that time after time Columbus must have pored over their contents.

The most significant of these volumes is "The Travels of Marco Polo." This book spurred the great sailor to his destiny. It was this story of marvelous adventures by land and sea, rather than the apocryphal conversation with the mythical pilot, that incited the world-famous voyage. It is a well known trait of human nature that the little should envy the great.

This envy almost invariably takes the form of an insidious endeavor to belittle the achievements of extraordinary personalities. Thus it was with many who were jealous of the fame and honor that came to Columbus. These envious minds sought to take from him much of his glory, and they fabricated the story of the pilot.

Whether this pilot really existed or not in no way affects the honor due the discoverer. Columbus alone showed the daring, the hardihood and sufficient spirit of adventure to brave the perils of the vast unknown. The voyage which the intrepid navigator undertook to the arctic regions would alone stamp him as a man of unusual character. But the skeptical even doubt the truth of this journey.

The more one endeavors to solve the mysteries of this giant personality the more one is convinced that his contemporaries looked upon him as something of a crank. All men of the sea, he may have said, are a little mad. Columbus seems to have been oppressed by the fear that his record as a sailor would some time be brought into question.

All the more honor is due Columbus because he rose from the lowest ranks to become the Admiral of the Oceans. All the more honor is his award if despite lack of early education and opportunity he made himself the most daring navigator the world has known. All the more beloved should be his memory to the people of this continent because of the ignominy he suffered in his last days.

That the peoples of both North and South America hold the discoverer in high respect is attested by the many monuments erected to his memory. One of the most important cities from Boston to Buenos Aires but can show a fitting image of the valorous Genoese. But it is only in recent years that he has been so honored.

The first monument to Columbus erected in the United States stands in Baltimore. A French officer, Charles Francis Adrian de Paulmier, Chevalier d'Amont, who came to America with Lafayette, built a shaft on his own estate in 1762, the year of the tricentennial of the discoverer. It is a graceful shaft of English brick over forty-four feet high.

Within the last few years there has been an effort to recognize the 12th of October as a legal holiday. "Columbus day," those behind the movement maintain, certainly has a committee recommendation, four years ago, "that the word 'slavery' be stricken out of the title of the act, because it does not exist in the Philippines."

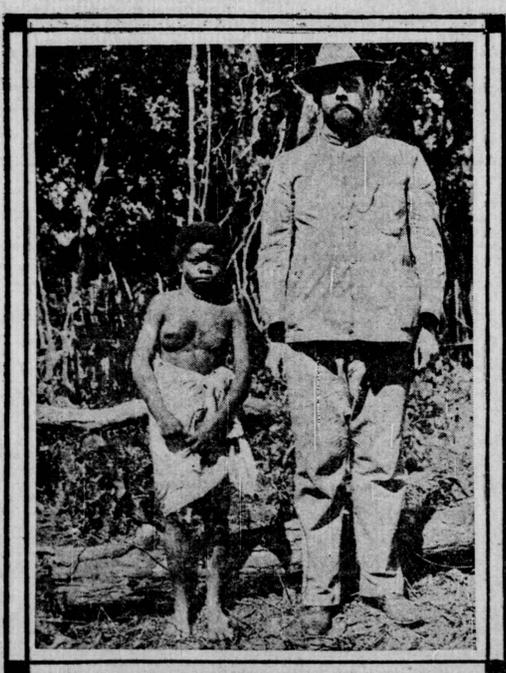
"COLUMBUS IN CHAINS," BY VALMITIANA, A NOTED SPANISH SCULPTOR.



THE JOVIUS PORTRAIT OF COLUMBUS.

Documents Received by Washington Officials Report Peonage in the Philippine Islands

BY JOHN ELFRETH WATKINS.



PROF. WORCESTER WITH NEGRO GIRL.

A father and mother both die, their orphan being left with no one to care for them. So the head man of their tribe, according to the native custom, become responsible for the position of the orphans, who are considered a burden upon society.

To appease the gods and relieve the tribe of this burden it used to be the custom for the headmen to hold a solemn session and condemn all these orphans to death. But as times have been hard in the hills, in lieu of this slaughter of innocents it has become the custom of the headmen to enter into negotiations for the sale of orphans. This procedure has now become quite popular, as well as lucrative, so that agents in the Negrito country are furnishing slaves for people even in Manila. Thus during the present year a Negrito boy about ten years old was bought through residents of San Fernando, Pampanga, by Joaquin Aldecoa, who took him to Manila by train. Scores of similar cases are reported to the War Department by name.

It is customary for the purchaser to call in a priest and have his slave baptized as soon as it is purchased, this ceremony, according to the ancient tradition, establishing ownership on the baptism, and after him from the registration of a cow or horse. It also serves as an excuse for the statement that the slave has been adopted into the family of the purchaser, as is always a creed.

A supply sergeant disguised as a slave trader from Pangasinan went into the cockpit of the Negrito villages and gathered some interesting evidence. One Macario Ayson of Angeles told him that he had seen a Negrito boy who had been sold to a party, who will in turn deliver him to the purchaser, and take the money. Many Negrito children fall into the hands of the slave traders in this way:

hunger it is comparatively easy to buy his children.

"Under such circumstances," says Prof. Worcester, "I have personally known a Negrito girl of marriageable age to be purchased for rice worth \$1.50 in gold. "A comparatively short time ago," he adds, "a Negrito girl was brought in, as a pony or a carabao might be, and offered for sale to the wife of an English gentleman living in the outskirts of Manila. "He gives details of the cases of a certain Negrito slave known to be residing right in the city of Manila.

Another tribe, which is especially victimized by the slave dealers is the Iuganos. They apply the name "jimbu" to their captives, and the word jimbu, in articles of commerce and when often change owners several times before reaching the country of the Balicuan (Christians). Some time ago a Negrito tribe seventeen years old was sold for two water buffalo, some chickens and a small amount of money, while there is record of sales of men and boys for amounts ranging from \$75 to \$25, Lieut. Walter Hall, the sub-province of Kalinza, reports that on several occasions when he has been trying cases in his capacity of justice of the peace slaves have been offered to him in condition that their masters be acquitted for crimes.

It is still common for Filipinos living near to the Tagbanuas and Ilongots to obtain children and adults of these tribes by capture. Slave hunting and keeping still prevail in the forest fastnesses of the province of Agusan, in Mindanao, the scene of many historic slave-hunting raids. Natives living back from the coast in Zamboanga are reported by the district and to practice the capture and sale of slaves. The heads of families "still regard it as their right and do sell their daughters as wives or concubines to the highest bidder."



THE MOROS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN 'SLAVE DEALERS.'

composed of eighty-one natives, has frustrated the attempt to recognize the 12th of October as a legal holiday. "Columbus day," those behind the movement maintain, certainly has a committee recommendation, four years ago, "that the word 'slavery' be stricken out of the title of the act, because it does not exist in the Philippines."

Some time ago the resident commissioner in the Philippines, Mr. Worcester, Senor Manuel Quezon, rose in his wrath and stated:

"If there is anything in the Philippines akin to slavery or compulsory service, it cannot be found in the provinces to which the legislative jurisdiction of this assembly extends, should there be such a thing in the territories inhabited by the non-Christian Filipinos, which are under the executive control of the Philippine commission, I am sure the slaveholders can only be the government officials, who are appointed by the secretary of the interior, the Hon. Dean C. Worcester, the head of the executive department in charge of said territories."

But the reports lately received by the Secretary of War state slavery does exist in the territory under the authority of the Philippine assembly.

Included by this territory are Pampanga, where the little Negrito orphans are sold after the manner already described; Capayan, where children are reported by a district official to be enslaved, "hipped and subject to work at all times"; Isabela, where Prof. Worcester says slavery is still common; Romblon, whose native lieutenant governor during the summer just passed was reported on his recent efforts to have returned to their parents a large group of children enticed from school, sold for \$5 apiece; also Tarlac, Bataan, Zambales, and numerous other provinces" where Prof. Worcester says slavery prevails. All of these have representatives in the assembly.

A bill to abolish Philippine slavery and peonage in every form is to be introduced in our Congress by Senator Borah of Idaho, whose resolution calling upon the Secretary of War brought to light the facts in the Worcester report and who is assisted by the further revelations of the Philippine report.

After returning to the United States Prof. Worcester will devote some time to lecturing in favor of abolition of slavery in the archipelago. (Copyright, 1913, by John Elfreth Watkins.)