

**THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE FIRST
LETTER OF CHRISTOPHER
COLUMBUS DESCRIBING HIS
DISCOVERY OF THE NEW WORLD**

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The bibliography of the first letter of Christopher Columbus describing his discovery of the New World by R. H. Major

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R. H. MAJOR

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BIBLIOGRAPHY
OF
COLUMBUS' FIRST LETTER.

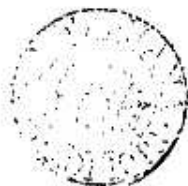
THE BIBLIOGRAPHY
OF THE
FIRST LETTER
OF
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS,
DESCRIBING
HIS DISCOVERY OF THE NEW WORLD.

BY

R. H. MAJOR, F.S.A., &c.

*Keeper of the Department of Maps and Charts in the British
Museum, and
Hon. Sec. of the Royal Geographical Society.*

LONDON:
ELLIS & WHITE, 29 NEW BOND STREET.
1872.



243. f. 34.

BIBLIOGRAPHY,

Sc.

IN this bibliographical notice I do not propose to deal with any editions of the first letter of Columbus beyond the 'Incunabula,' which I arrange in the order of their publication, as ascertained from an examination of the documents themselves.

1. ¶ Epistola Christofori Colom : cui etas nostra multū debet : de | Insulis Indie supra Gangem nuper inuētis. Ad quas perqren- | das octauo antea mense auspiciis & ere inuic- | tissemor^o Fernādi & | Helisabet Hispaniar^o Regū missus fuerat : ad magnificum dñm | Gabrielem Sanchis eorundē serenissimor^o Regum Tēsaurariū | missa : quā nobilis ac literatus vir Leander de Cosco ab Hispa | no idiomate in latinum cōuertit tertio kal's Maii M.cccc.xciii | Pontificatus Alexandri Sexti Anno primo.

B

Small 4to. This edition, which, as I shall presently show, is the *editio princeps*, was printed by Stephen Planck at Rome in 1493. It consists of four leaves, printed in gothic type, and has 33 lines in a full page. Copies are in the Grenville and King's Libraries in the British Museum.

2. ¶ Epistola Christofori Colom : cui etas nostra multum debet : de | Insulis Indic super Gangem nuper inuētis. Ad quas perquiren | das octauo antea mense auspiciis & ere inuictissimorum Fernandi | ac Helisabet Hispaniar' Regū missus fuerat : ad Magnificū dñm | Gabrielem Sanches : eorundem serenissimorum Regum Tesau | rariū missa : Quā generosus ac litteratus vir Leander de Cosco ab | Hispano idiomate in latinū cōuertit : tertio Kalen' Maij M.cccc. | xc.iiij. Pontificatus Alexandri Sexti Anno Primo.

End :—

¶ Impressit Rome Eucharius Argenteus [Silber] Anno dñi. M.ccccxciiij.

Small 4to. three leaves, printed in

gothic letter ; 40 lines in a page.
A copy is in the Grenville Library.

3. ¶ Epistola Christofori Colom : cui etas
nostra multū debet : de | Insulis Indię supra
Gangem nuper inuentis. Ad quas perqui
| rendas octauo antea mense auspicijs & ere
invictissimi Fernan | di Hispaniarum Regis
missus fuerat : ad Magnificum dñm Ra |
phaelem Sanxis : eiusdem serenissimi Regis
Tesarariū missa : | quam nobilis ac litte-
ratus vir Aliander de Cosco ab Hispano |
ideomate in latinum conuertit : tertio kal's
Maij. M.cccc.xciii. | Pontificatus Alexandri
Sexti Anno Primo.

Small 4to. Gothic letter ; four leaves,
34 lines in a full page. This edition
is supposed to have been printed by
Stephen Plannck at Rome, about 1493.
3 or 4 copies are known ; two are in the
General Library and Grenville Library,
British Museum.

4. De Insulīs inuentis | Epistola Cristoferi
Colom (cui etas nostra | multū debet) : de
Insulis in mari Indico nup' | inuētis. Ad

quas perquirendas octauo antea | mense : aus-
 picijs et ere Invictissimi Fernandi | Hispani-
 arum Regis missus fuerat) ad Mag | nificum
 dñm Raphaelē Sanxis : eiusdē sere | nissimi
 Regis Thesaurariū missa. quam nobi | lis ac
 litterat' vir Aliander d'Cosco : ab His | pano
 ydeomate in latinū conuertit : tercio k'ls |
 Maij. M.cccc.xcij. Pontificatus Alexandri |
 Sexti Anno Primo.

Small 8vo. Gothic character; ten leaves, 26 and 27 lines in a page. The title above given is preceded by a leaf bearing on the recto the arms of Spain, 'Regnū hispanie'—on the verso the cut of the 'Oceanica Classis.' There are 6 woodcuts—the 'Oceanica Classis' being repeated. A copy is in the Grenville Library.

5. Epistola de insulis de | nouo repertis.
 Impressa | parisijs in cāpo gaillardj.

Small 4to. Gothic letter; four leaves, 39 lines in a full page. This edition was printed by Guy Marchand about 1494.

Brunet states that the only copy known is that formerly belonging to M. Ternaux-Compans, now the property of Mr. John Carter Brown; but there is another copy in the Bibliothèque Impériale, as will be seen by the title of the reprint, as follows:—'Lettre de Christophe Colomb sur la découverte du Nouveau-Monde, publiée d'après la rarissime version latine conservée à la Bibliothèque Impériale. Traduite en Français, commentée et enrichie de notes puisées aux sources originales par Lucien de Rosny.' 8vo., Paris, 1865.

6. Epistola de insulis noui | ter repertis
Impressa parisius In campo gaillardi.

Small 4to. Gothic letter; four leaves, 39 lines in a page. The above title is in two lines, the first printed in a larger character. Underneath is the device of