

**THE COLUMBUS GALLERY. THE  
"DISCOVERER OF THE NEW WORLD" AS  
REPRESENTED IN PORTRAITS,  
MONUMENTS, STATUES, MEDALS AND  
PAINTINGS, HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION**

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The Columbus Gallery. The "discoverer of the New World" as represented in portraits, monuments, statues, medals and paintings, Historical description by Néstor Ponce de León

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**NÉSTOR PONCE DE LEÓN**

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FRONTISPIECE—THE PAULUS JOVIUS CUT.

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MEDALS AND PAINTINGS.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

BY  
NÉSTOR PONCE DE LEÓN *Laguarda*

(ILLUSTRATED.)



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## INTRODUCTION.

Having, for a period of some years, investigated the subject of the portraits of Columbus, and embodied the results of my inquiries in an address recently delivered before the American Geographical Society, I feel myself better able than many others would be to form an opinion of the value and extent of Mr. Ponce de León's labors in this difficult field of inquiry. I have read in manuscript a large part of his work—I think nearly the whole of it, or, at least, sufficiently to ascertain the facts that he has brought together and the conclusions he has based upon them. As respects the facts, his labor has been most exhaustive. He has, in my opinion, ascertained everything that is now within the reach of the most diligent scholar. He is an accomplished linguist and has had the advantage of being able to read the works consulted in the language in which they were written, and has not been compelled, as many investigators are, to depend upon translations. This is of value, for I have found in my own investigation of this subject passages not only translated imperfectly, but, in some cases, so erroneously, as to be misleading. As to his conclusions, I found to my surprise—and I suppose it has been equally so to him—that although our investigations were conducted and our respective productions prepared entirely independent of each other, that we have arrived generally at the same results; so much so, in fact, as to give the appearance, in different parts, as if the one had been written from the other. During my acquaintance with him of some years, and as fellows of the Geographical Society, we have frequently conversed upon the subject of the portraits of Columbus, and in preparing my address I asked him—as he was especially competent to do so—to give me his opinion of the character of Columbus that I might give it in the address, in connection with that of others, upon this much contested question. In our mode of investigation, however, and in what we have respectively written, we have, as I have said, worked independently, and it was not until our labors were completed and

what we had written was ready for publication, that I found how much we agreed in the results arrived at.

I make this statement, as my own production is prior in point of time, having been delivered as my annual address before a society of which I am the President, and it is now printed in the Journal of that society. I felt that it was due to Mr. Ponce de León that no reader of his book should get an impression that he was in any way indebted to my prior publication, and that he should receive, as he is entitled to, the full benefit of the extensive researches he has made and the conclusions he has founded upon them.

In giving him the high praise which is due to him for his labors, I regret that he did not include in this book what he says in his preface he contemplated in respect to the general subject of Columbus. He is the best informed gentleman with whom I have conversed upon everything relating to the great discoverer, and whatever he may give to the public upon that subject will be reliable and valuable.

CHAS. P. DALY.

*March 29, 1893.*

## PREFACE

It was my original intention, when I undertook the publication of this book, to have it embrace not only a complete Columbian Iconography, but also a series of essays bearing upon the most important events in the life of the Discoverer of our Continent. That portion of the book, however, relating to the portraits, monuments, statues and paintings, has become so extensive that I have been compelled to leave for a subsequent work the treatment of those interesting particulars which embrace studies concerning the place where Columbus was born; the date of his birth; the facts known or supposed to be known about his life before he entered the service of the Catholic Kings; the persons who protected him, and their participation in the enterprise; the source from whence were derived the funds employed in the first expedition; his relations with the brothers Pinzon; the place of his first landfall; his administration of the lands discovered or colonized by him; the causes of his imprisonment; the place and date of his death; the resting-place of his remains; his character; and, finally, many other points of less importance about his life which have been hidden under a thick veil until our time, when some historians and critics, after many efforts, have been able to partially raise it, and throw true light on some of those much controverted questions. My object was to present in this work all their discoveries, but I found this field to be so wide that it is even more extensive than the book I now offer to the reader.

As I have written this book in a language which is not my native tongue, and as I am fully aware that my knowledge of all its intricacies is rather deficient, I have called to my aid the services of a former officer of the British Army, who, besides being a graduate of the Oxford University, is a professional journalist, and has occupied important positions here on some of the best reviews and magazines,—Mr. A. C. Stevens, who has revised all my copy and corrected its numerous errors. With great pleasure I take advantage of this opportunity to tender him my best thanks for his most useful services.