

**A MEMORIAL OF CHRISTOPHER
COLUMBUS FROM THE
CITY OF BOSTON IN HONOR OF
HIS DISCOVERY OF AMERICA**

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A Memorial of Christopher Columbus from the City of Boston in Honor of His Discovery of America by Various

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BOSTON
PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL
1893

CITY OF BOSTON.

IN COMMON COUNCIL, November 10, 1892.

ORDERED: That the Clerk of Committees, under the direction of the Committee on Printing Department, be authorized to prepare and publish an edition of three thousand copies of a memorial volume of the COLUMBUS DAY CELEBRATION, to contain an account of the services at the Boston Theatre on said day, together with such other matter as the said committee may deem advisable; and that each member of the City Council of 1892 be furnished with twenty copies of said memorial volume; the expense attending the same to be charged to the special appropriation for the Columbus Day Celebration.

Passed. Sent up for concurrence.

In Board of Aldermen, November 14, concurred.

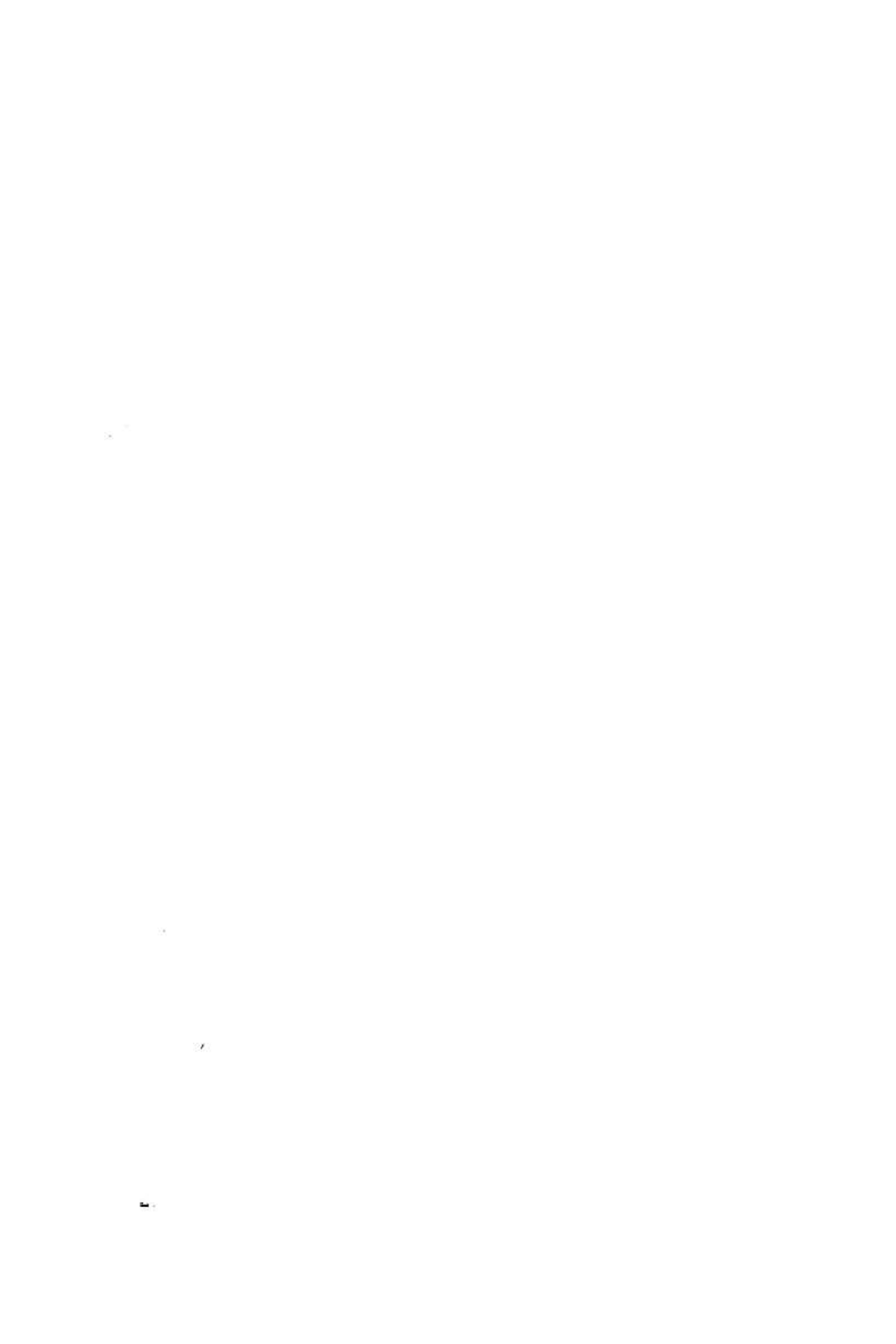
Approved by the Mayor, December 16, 1892.

A true copy.

Attest:

J. M. GALVIN,

City Clerk.



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[THE following explanatory note relative to the Columbus portrait and signature has been kindly furnished by Mr. Theodore F. Dwight, librarian of the Boston Public Library.]

THE portrait of Columbus which appears as the frontispiece of this volume is a version of a painting in the gallery at Versailles; the facts of its origin and the name of the artist are unknown. It has been ascribed to a pupil of the great master of the Low Countries, Jan van Eyck.

The characters accompanying the portrait represent the cipher which Columbus employed as his signature, reproduced from the facsimile of his letter to their Catholic Majesties of Spain, communicating observations on the art of navigation, written at Granada, February 6, 1502. This letter is given in the "Cartas de Indias," a work published by the Spanish government on the accession of the late king Alfonso XII. to the throne. For the composition of this cipher Columbus gave explicit directions in his will, and required his son Diego, or other heir to his estate, to adopt it for his own; but he left no explanation of the significations of the seven letters prefixed to his name, and they have remained a puzzle to all who have attempted to discover their meaning. Although many reasonable conjectures have been offered since the time of Washington Irving, no more satisfactory reading has been suggested than his, given in the appendix to his *Life of Columbus*.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION