



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21235

Room 793

REFER TO:

Dr. Hector P. Garcia, Founder
American GI Forum of the U. S.
1315 Bright Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

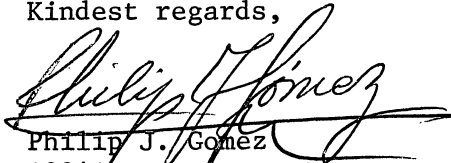
Dear Dr. Garcia:

In your letter of September 5, 1979, you indicated an interest in knowing more about the statue of Queen Isabel whose picture I had sent you earlier. Well, I am glad that you did because I wrote to my congresswoman and she sent me the attached information. I feel that emphasizing the good things we have in our history will be beneficial to all of us both Hispanic and non-Hispanic.

If you have some more good ideas that I might help you implement, please let me know. I have just moved to the Washington area from Philadelphia and find this place most interesting to work. At present I am working for Health Care Financing Administration in a senior level management position, but I can see already other areas where I could be more useful and with greater impact potential. We will see if we can get there.

I am giving you my new home address and hope that we will keep in touch.

Kindest regards,


Philip J. Gomez
10041 Cape Ann Drive
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Attachment

James M. Goode

THE

OUTDOOR

Smithsonian

SCULPTURE

Institution Press

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Washington, D.C.

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1974

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A Comprehensive Historical Guide

that he was drawn into the struggle for independence. The Buenos Aires junta persuaded him to head an insurrection in Uruguay. Marshaling a small force, mainly of gauchos (ranchers), some of whom were armed only with long knives attached to poles, and with the help of Argentine volunteers, he defeated the royalist troops. He captured 500 prisoners, most of whom came over to his side, proclaimed his allegiance to the government in Buenos Aires, and laid siege to Montevideo.

Artigas was a dedicated federalist, strongly influenced by the United States Articles of Confederation and the Constitution, a copy of which he was reputed to carry with him at all times. In line with his federalist views, he instructed the five delegates he sent to the 1813 Congress in Buenos Aires to advocate a complete break from Spain and almost absolute autonomy for Uruguay. When the Argentine government refused to recognize these delegates and displayed an arrogant disregard for Uruguayan interests, Artigas abandoned Montevideo and led an amazing exodus into the interior. His army, numbering 3,000, was followed by 13,000 men, women, and children loyal to him. He proclaimed himself "Protector of Free Peoples," and in the next few years gained control of most of the interior of present Uruguay and some provinces of Argentina.

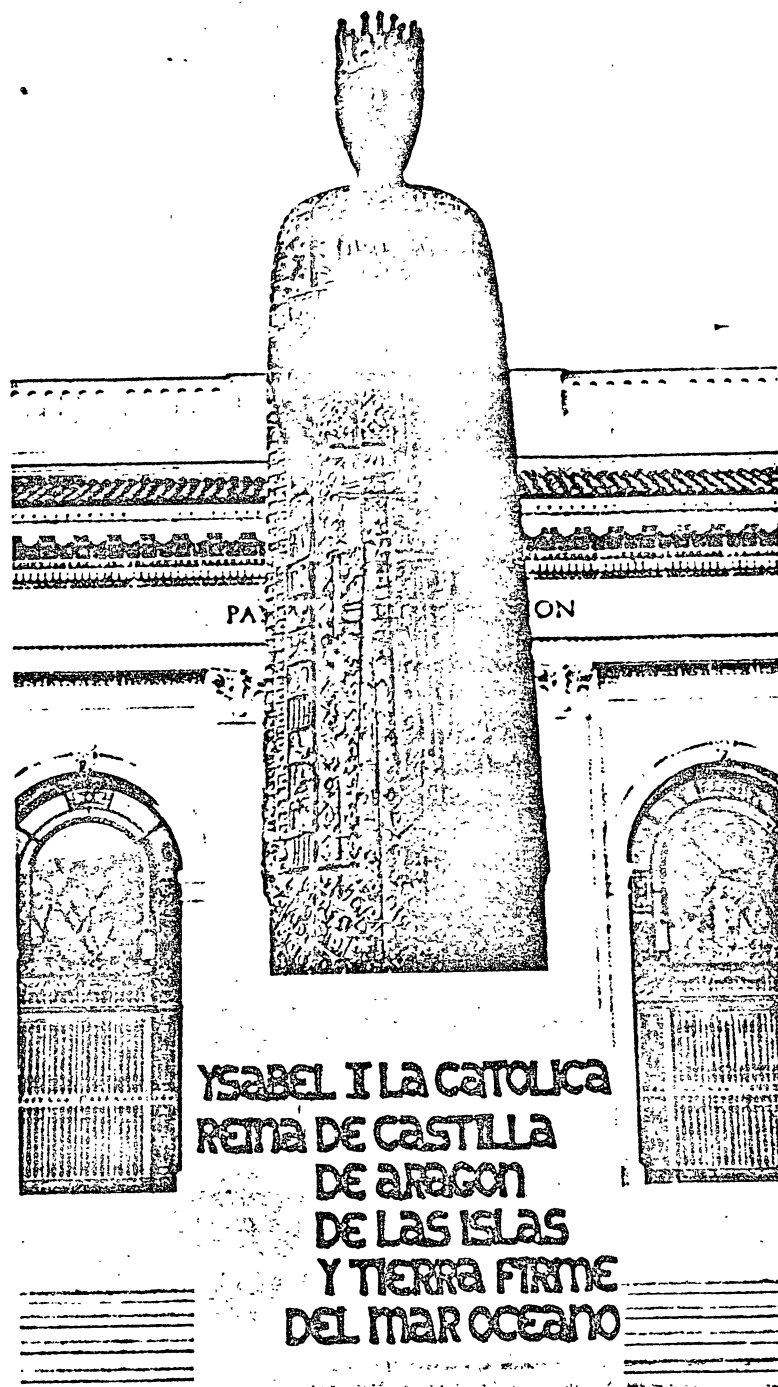
Unfortunately, his movement lacked the support of any central organization and was without economic or financial resources. When Brazil invaded along the coast and conquered Montevideo, Artigas was defeated in a bloody battle and was forced to flee. For the next thirty years he lived as an almost forgotten exile in Paraguay. In recognition of his former exploits, he was given a small farm some distance from the capital. On the death of the Paraguayan dictator in 1840, there was evidently some fear that the 76-year-old former revolutionary might be a threat to the new head of state, and he was imprisoned. When he was released a year later, his farm had fallen into ruins, but the new dictator permitted him to live on as his pensioner until he died at the age of 86 in 1850.

It was the fate of Artigas, as with other of the early leaders in the struggle to free South America from foreign domination, that he was not to be accorded his rightful place as national hero and founding father until after his death.

421
M-6
Title QUEEN ISABELLA I, 1966
Location Pan American Union
Building, Constitution Avenue
and 17th Street, NW
Sculptor José Luis Sanchez
Architect Unknown
Medium Bronze

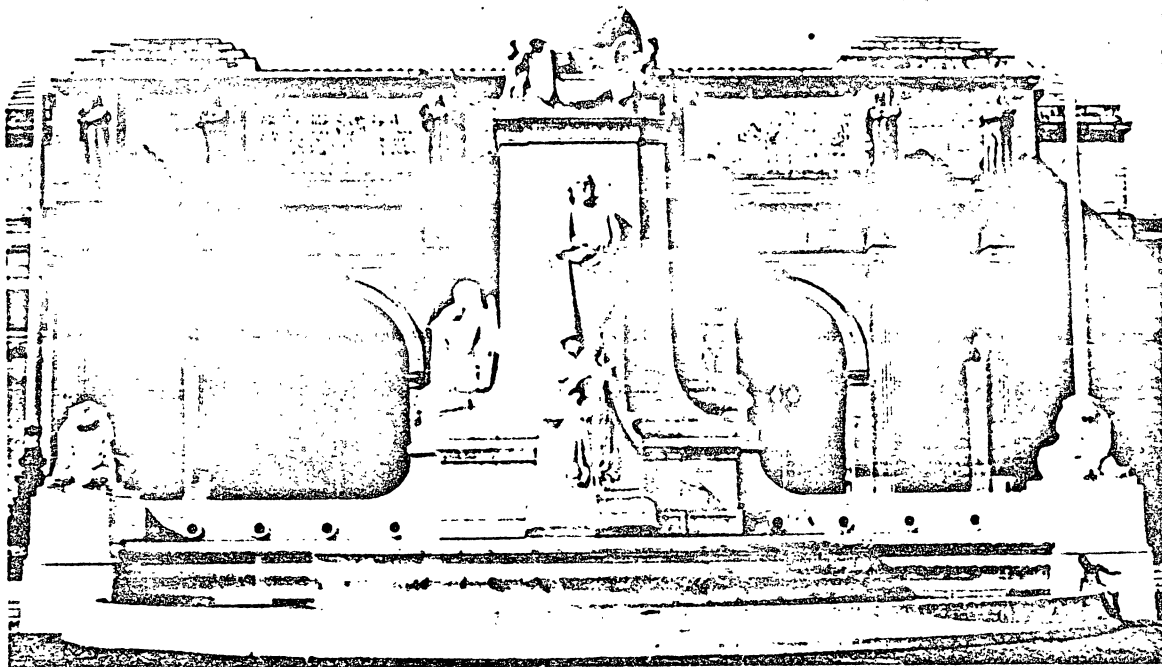
Isabella I, Queen of the Three Kingdoms of Spain and the New World, meets with regal serenity the visitors to the Organization of American States within the Pan American Union Building. The bronze life-sized statue wears the crown of Castile, and a mantle that bears the crests of Aragon and Leon. She holds a pomegranate from which a dove bursts forth. A gift of the Institute of Hispanic Culture of Madrid, the statue was cast using the lost-wax process.

Remembered as the queen who pawned her jewels to finance the first voyage of Columbus, *Queen Isabella I* was dedicated on April 14, 1966, on the 475th anniversary (old calendar) of Columbus's first sighting of



ISABEL I LA CATOLICA
REINA DE CASTILLA
DE ARAGON
DE LAS ISLAS
Y TIERRA FIRME
DEL MAR OCEANO

the New World. Queen Isabella (1451-1504) came from parentage of mixed nationalities. She was married to Ferdinand of Aragon in 1469; upon the death of her brother, Henry IV, in 1474, she was proclaimed Queen of Castile and Leon. In 1479 her husband became King of Aragon, thus uniting Spain under joint rulers for the first time in history. Queen Isabella had a profound moral influence on the nation, creating a court of complete virtue. She strongly supported the arts, forming the palace school and supporting such men of letters as Peter Martyr d'Anghiera. Unfortunately her religious fervor resulted in several grave errors of national policy such as the Inquisition of Castile and the proscription of the Spanish Jews. Fernando Maria Castiella y Maiz, foreign minister of Spain, told the assembled ambassadors from North and South America at the time of the dedication that the gift was not simply an historical relic, "but a testimony of your European past and above all a token of future collaboration" with Spain.



A-1

Title COLUMBUS FOUNTAIN,
1912

Location Union Station
Plaza, Massachusetts and
Delaware Avenues, NE

Sculptor Lorado Z. Taft

Architect Daniel H.

Burnham

Medium Marble

One of the more prominent memorials in the District is this semi-circular fountain richly embellished with sculptured figures, lions, and flagpoles. At the center is a large 45-foot shaft from which projects the prow of a ship with a winged figurehead symbolizing Discovery. The ship acts as a pedestal for a heroic statue of Christopher Columbus, about 15 feet tall, who wears a medieval mantle and stands quietly with folded hands and a steady, confident gaze. With its suggestion of calmness and permanency, his figure is reminiscent of the simplicity of Egyptian sculptures. Surmounting the shaft is a large globe on which appears the outline of the Western Hemisphere. Four eagles, united by garlands, support the sphere.

The sides of the shaft are decorated by single male figures. On the right or east side appears an elderly figure, representing Europe or the Old World, while the opposite side contains the figure of an American Indian, symbolic of the New World. On the rear of the shaft is a low-relief medallion picturing Ferdinand and Isabella, the Spanish monarchs who financed Columbus's travels. The medallion is about 3 feet in diameter. The grouping is completed by two couchant lions, each about 5 feet in height, which act as guardians. Three flagpoles behind the marble shaft represent the ships which carried Columbus's discovery party to America in 1492; each is topped by a small globe on which rests an American eagle.

Taft's *Columbus Fountain* was influenced in part by the Frederick MacMonnies fountain at the World's Columbian Exhibition in Chicago in 1893. In this earlier work the figure of Columbia sat enthroned on a ship, while Fame stood with her trumpet on the prow and Father Time dominated the stern.

Christopher Columbus (1451-1506), the Italian-born explorer, has been traditionally credited with being the first European to have discovered America. In spite of his fame, one finds in Columbus a character study of frustration. He had great difficulty financing his expeditions, landed on the wrong continent, and died when he was not completely "in favor." Even in death he cannot have found real peace, since his body has been interred and reinterred several times in the Caribbean and Spain; he now rests in Seville. His fascinating life has been vividly portrayed in the bronze reliefs on the *Columbus Door* of the United States Capitol.



*Detail from left of pedestal:
American Indian symbolizes the
New World*



A-9

Title COLUMBUS DOOR, 1858

Location U.S. Capitol, central portico, east front

Sculptor Randolph Rogers

Architect Thomas U. Walter

Medium Bronze

The Columbus Door, or, as it is often called after the sculptor, the Rogers Door, was acquired for the United States Capitol in 1858 when Thomas U. Walter was the Capitol architect. It was cast by Ferdinand von Müller, director of the Royal Bavarian Foundry in Munich, and measures 17 feet in height and 10 feet in width.

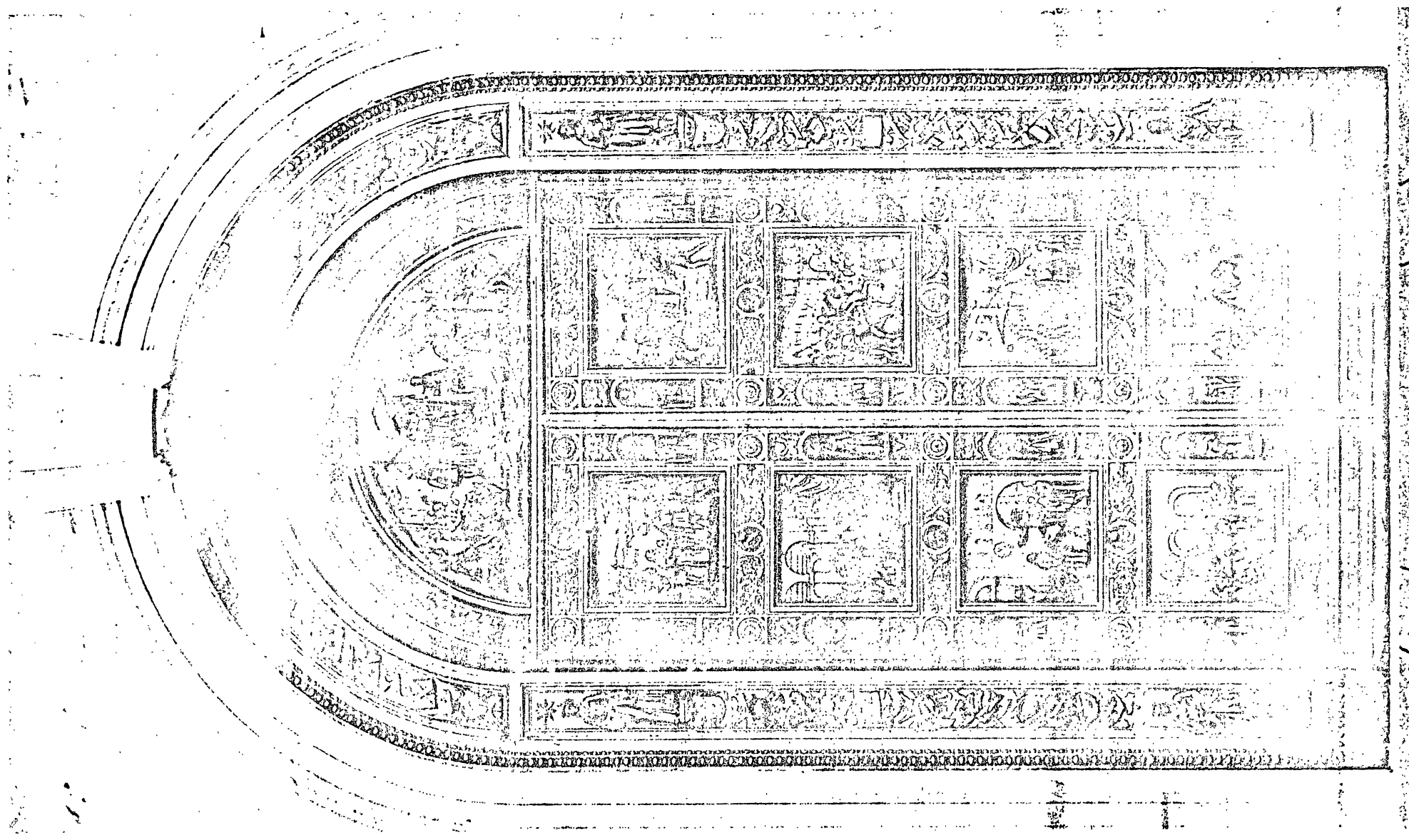
The door consists of two valves, or half-doors, with four panels each, dealing with important events in the life of Columbus. Bordering the valves are niches in which stand illustrious people who participated in the Columbus drama. Above the two valves is a semicircular transom or lunette portraying his first landing in the New World. A casing border, around the lunette, is decorated with various nautical motifs, such as, anchors, rudders, and armor; figures around the valves represent Asia, Africa, Europe, and America.

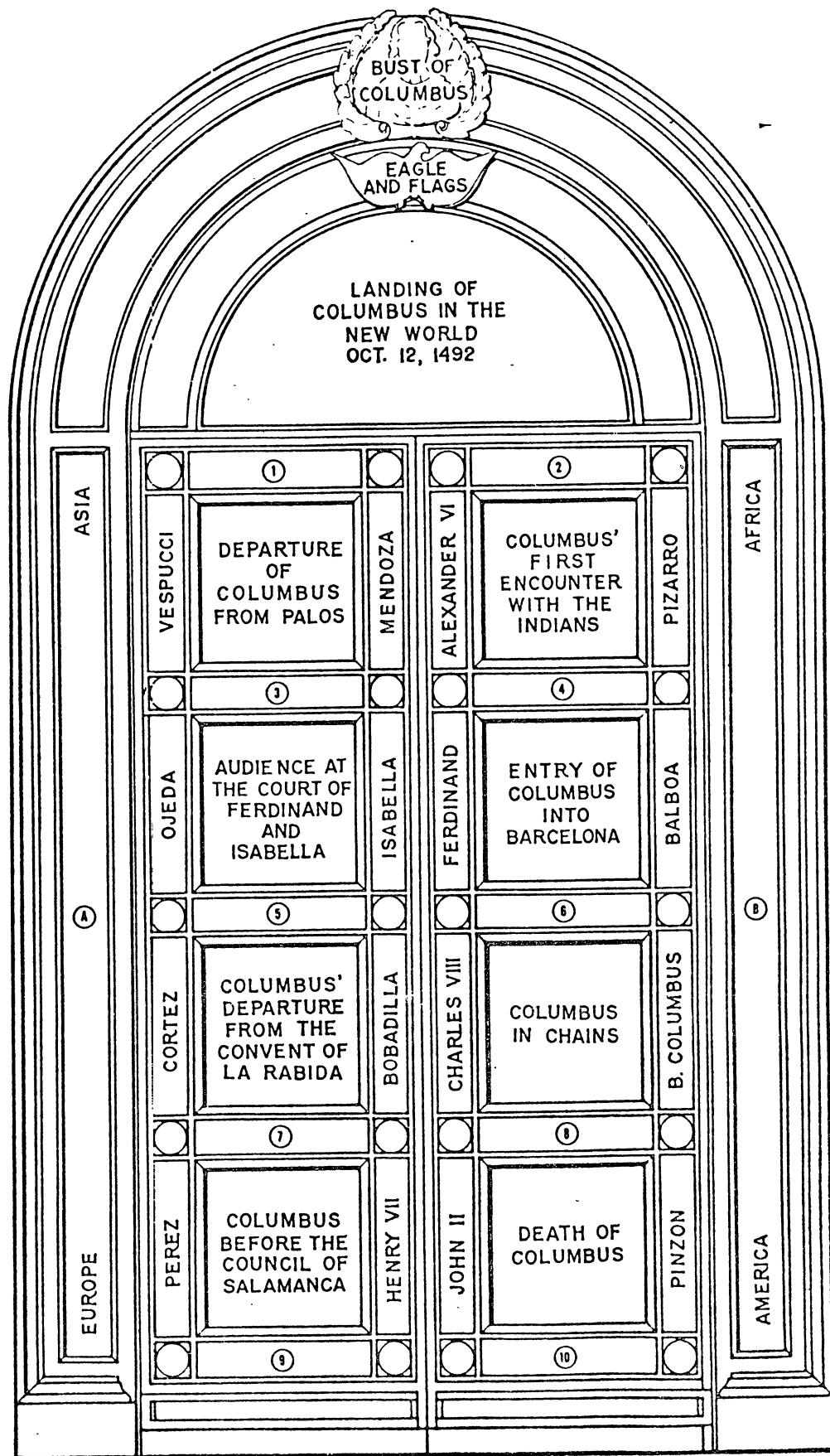
Sixteen portrait statuettes of persons connected with the story of Christopher Columbus are found adjacent to the relief panels on the door. Clergymen include Juan Perez de Marchena, prior of the Convent of La Rabida, Spain; Pedra Gonzales de Mendoza, archbishop of Toledo and cardinal of Spain, who supported Columbus's cause from the beginning; and Pope Alexander VI, a native of Spain, who also supported Columbus. Explorers include Hernando Cortez, who conquered Mexico; Don Alonzo de Ojeda, a Spanish explorer of America who turned against Columbus; Amerigo Vespucci, cartographer and lifelong supporter of Columbus's explorations and after whom America was named; Bartolomé Columbus, a brother of Christopher, who was lieutenant governor of the Indies; Martin Alonzo Pinzon, who commanded the *Pinta*, one of the three ships which formed Columbus's fleet; Núñez de Balboa, the Spanish explorer who first saw the Pacific Ocean when he crossed the Isthmus of Darien in 1510; and Francisco Pizarro, who conquered Peru. Another friend of Columbus was Dona Beatrix de Bobadilla, a favorite of Queen Isabella. The monarchs shown include Ferdinand and Isabella, king and queen of Spain, who financed Columbus's voyages; King Charles VIII of France; King Henry VII of England, who was active in supporting navigation proposals in the fifteenth century; and King John II of Portugal, who rejected Columbus's request for aid before he applied to Isabella and Ferdinand. The bronze relief heads, numbered 1 through 10 in the following diagram, include two American Indians and eight authors of books on Columbus; among the authors are Washington Irving and William Hickling Prescott, but records of the other six have never been

Above: transom, The Landing of Columbus in the New World, October 12, 1492

Below: panel detail, The Entry of Columbus into Barcelona, 1493







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