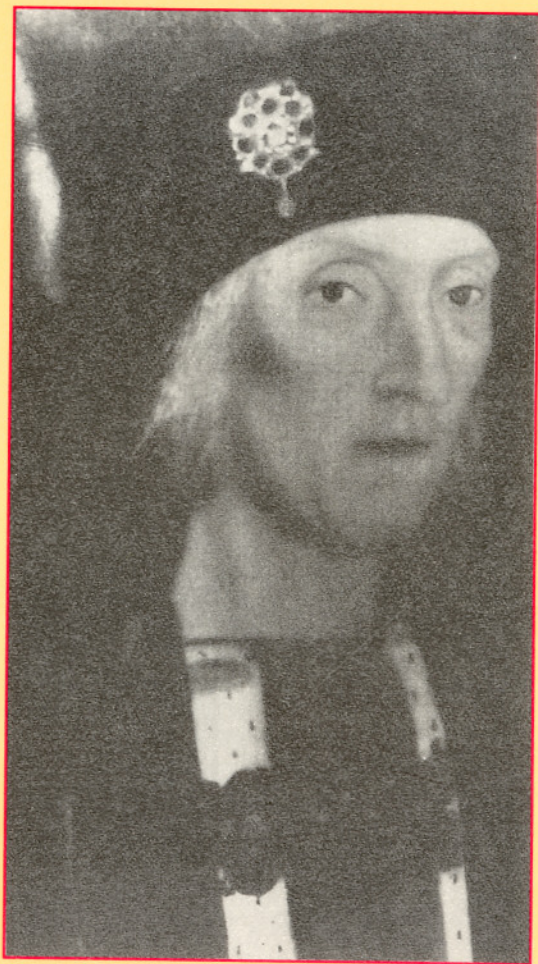


THE VISION OF COLUMBUS

A POEM IN NINE BOOKS

by Joel Barlow



Three essays on Columbus

by Fredo Arias

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THREE ESSAYS ON COLUMBUS

(In English and Spanish)

by Fredo Arias

Frente de Afirmación Hispanista, A. C.
México, 1992

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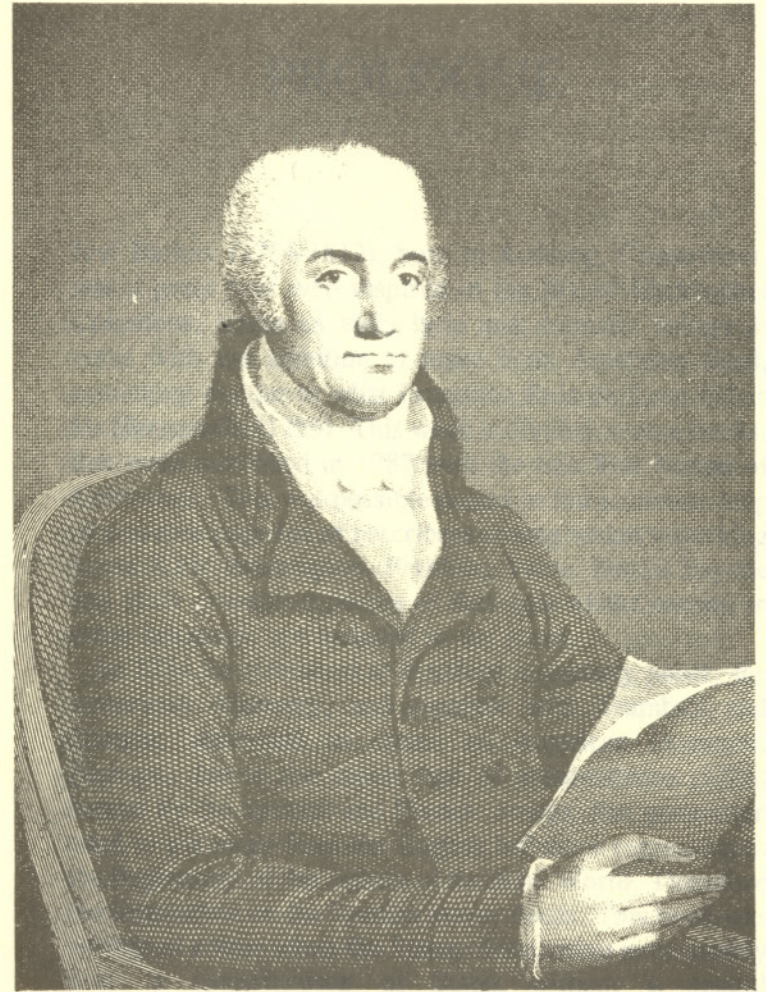
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INDICE

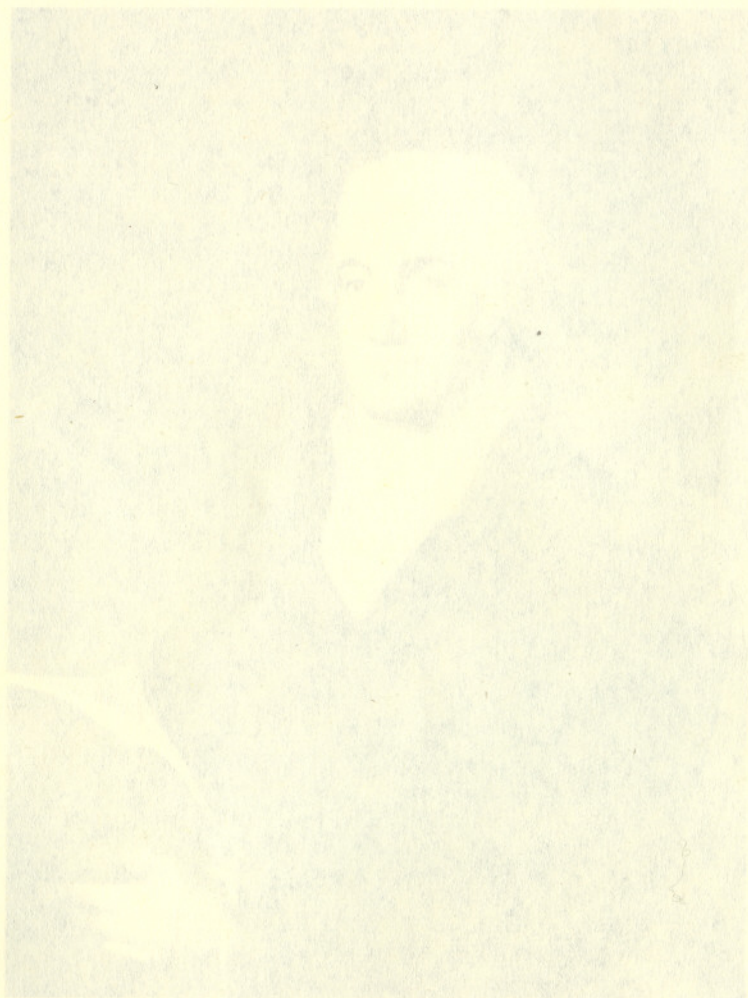
PROLOGUE	XI
PROLOGO	XIII
FACSIMILE The Vision of Columbus	18
ESSAYS ENSAYOS	271
Columbus Discovered I	273
Columbus Discovered II	285
Columbus Discovered III	293
Colón Descubierto I	303
Colón Descubierto II	315
Colón Descubierto III	323

INDICE

XI	PROLOGO
XII	PROLOGO
18	FACSIMILE: The vision of Columbus
271	ESSAYS: ESSAYS
273	Columbus Discovered I
288	Columbus Discovered II
293	Columbus Discovered III
303	Colón Descubierta I
315	Colón Descubierta II
323	Colón Descubierta III



Joel Barlow



PROLOGUE

Joel Barlow (1754-1812), born in Redding, Connecticut, was a great poet who inspired in the life of Christopher Columbus, wrote an epic, lyric and dramatic eulogy in verse with the ambition to make it an American *Iliad*, something similar to what Francisco Ruiz de Leon did in his *Hernandia* (1755). This work is divided in nine books, that were published in 1787 with the title **The Vision of Columbus**. This was possible thanks to the economic help of a twelve page list of subscribers among which were king Louis XVI, Washington, Franklin, Paine, De La Fayette and other prominent people of that time whose names, in some instances, are included in the poem.

In 1784 he established at Hartford a weekly paper, the **American Mercury**, and together with Trumbull and Dwight, attempted to create an American literature. Perhaps, due to the recent war of independence (1776) helped by the Spanish and French crowns, that generation tried to get away from the English influence regressing to the beginnings of the culture of the New World. Therefore the inspiration on the Spanish heroic deeds. This book was written at a time when the States of the union were simply that: a confederation of States without a central government; perhaps the happiest political epoch that country has ever had. This book was published when Washington was elected first President by the Convention.

Obviously the **opus** has a poetic value and not an historical one and will be easily read if the (f) is changed to an (s) in most instances except when the (f) is supposed to be such.

For example:

Ages unborn shall blefs the happy day,
When thy bold streamers steer'd the trackless way,
O'er these delightful realms thy fons shall tread,
And following millions trace the path you led.

Should be read:

Ages unborn shall bless the happy day,
When thy bold streamers steer'd the trackless way,
O'er these delightful realms thy sons shall tread,
And following millions trace the path you led.

In 1807 Barlow published an enlarged edition with the title **The Columbiad** inspired in the reading of **Araucana** by Alonso de Ercilla and other historical books.

The original edition of 1787, that is now printed in facsimil, is a bibliographic gem which is worth publishing on the V Centennial of the Birth of America, together with three essays by Fredo Arias de la Canal: **Columbus Discovered**, which change somewhat the vision the world has of that man.

The editors

PROLOGO

Joel Barlow (1754-1812) nacido en Redding, Connecticut, fue un gran poeta que inspirado en la vida de Cristóbal Colón, compuso una loa épica, lírica y dramática en verso con la ambición de que fuese una **Iliada** americana, algo similar a lo que Francisco Ruiz de León hizo en su **Hernandia** (1755). Este trabajo está dividido en nueve partes que publicó en 1787 con el título **La Visión de Colón**, con la ayuda de suscriptores de la altura de Luis XVI, Washington, Franklin, Paine y De la Fayette, en una lista de 12 páginas, de gente importante de la época, cuyos nombres, en algunos casos están incluidos en el poema.

En 1784 fundó el semanario **American Mercury**, en Hartford, y junto con Trumbull y Dwight hicieron el intento de crear una literatura nacional. Quizás la reciente revolución de Independencia (1776) había alejado aquella juventud de los moldes ingleses regresando a los inicios de la americanidad: de ahí la inspiración en la gesta española. Este libro fue escrito cuando los estados de la Unión se manejaban como una confederación sin gobierno central, quizás la época política más feliz que ha vivido ese país. En el año en que se publicó este libro, la Convención eligió a Washington como el primer presidente de la República.

Desde luego que el valor de este libro es más poético que histórico y será fácil de leer trocando algunas de las efes por eses, excepto en los casos en que la (f) deba ser leída como tal.

Por ejemplo:

Ages unborn shall blefs the happy day,
When thy bold streamers steer'd the trackless way,
O'er these delightful realms thy sons shall tread,
And following millions trace the path you led.

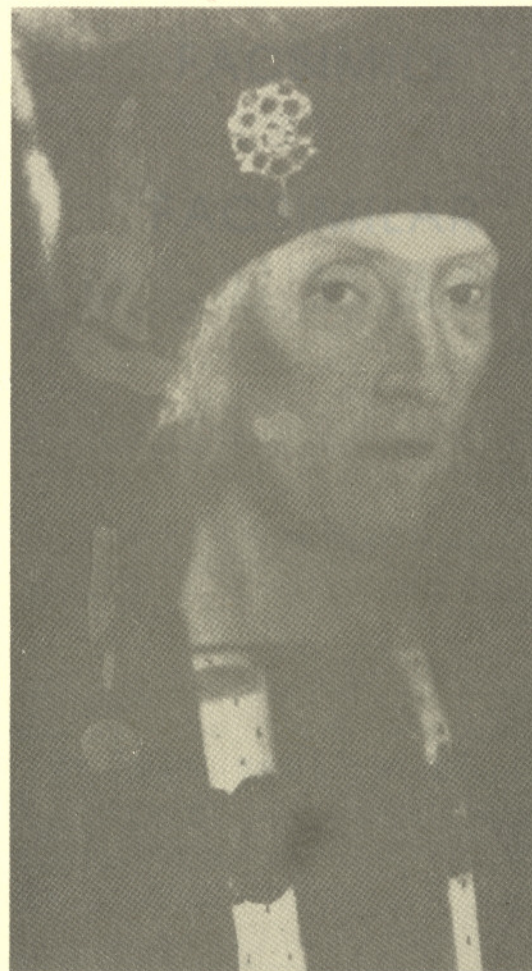
Debe leerse:

Ages unborn shall bless the happy day,
When thy bold streamers steer'd the trackless way,
O'er these delightful realms thy sons shall tread
And following millions trace the path you led.

En 1807 publicó Barlow una edición aumentada que intituló **La Columbiada**, -inspirado en la lectura de **La Araucana** de Alonso de Ercilla- y otros libros históricos.

La edición original de 1787, que ahora estampamos en forma facsimilar, es una joya bibliográfica que merece publicarse en el V Centenario del Nacimiento de América, con tres ensayos de Fredo Arias de la Canal: **Colón descubierto**, que cambian la visión que hasta ahora se tenía de ese hombre.

Los editores



Cristóbal Colón. Único retrato realizado cuando el Almirante aún vivía. Pintado por Pedro Berruete (1450-1504).

Christopher Columbus. This is the only portrait taken of the Admiral whilst alive. Painted by Pedro Berruete (1450-1504).