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<u>On Uncovering an Epic of Discovery: The Sixth Neo-Latin Columbus Epic – José Manuel Peramás' *De Invento Novo Orbe Inductoque Illuc Christi Sacrificio* (1777)</u>

The text:

Josephi Emmanuelis / Peramasii / Sacerdotis Hispani / ***D**e **I**nvento* / ***N**ovo **O**rbe* / *Inductoque Illuc* / *Christi Sacrificio* / Libri Tres. / Faventiae MDCCLXXVII. / Ex Chalcographia Josephi Antonii Archi. / Superioribus Annuentibus.

A facsimile of this first (and only) edition is available through Google Books. See: tinyurl.com/thedino

The previous five:

1) Lorenzo Gambara (1581-5) *De Navigatione Christophori Columbi*
2) Giulio Cesare Stella (1585/9) *Columbeis* (*Columbeidos Libri Priores Duo*)
3) Vincentius Placcius (1659/68) *Atlantis Retecta*
4) Ubertino Carrara (1715) *Columbus*
5) Alois Mickl (ca. 1730) *Plus Ultra* **(NB. Not published at the time. It was edited for the first time in 1902)**

On the idea of the closed canon:

'…the chronological frame of the integral [i.e. monothematic] Neo-Latin Columbus epics covers exactly a period of 150 years (1581-1730). […] **This chronological frame, within which the Columbus theme was chosen as a subject of Neo-Latin epic poetry**, requires an explanation that cannot yet be given in any satisfactory way.' (Hofmann 1994: 644)

'…comprenden un período de 150 años, de 1581 a 1730, y forman un ***corpus* cerrado**.' (Villalba de la Güida 2012: 29)

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1) 'Hujus laboriosae vitae fructus extitere opera jam vulgata typis: […] <u>De Sacro in novo orbe invecto Poema</u> quatuor libris distributum.'
(Anon., *Josephi Peramasii vitae sinopsis*, 1793)

2) 'Nec vero nos latet <u>poetis olim aliis aditum jam fuisse Novum Orbem</u>, & Columbi, Hispanorumque Argonautarum facta heroico celebrata carmine ab Ubertino Carrara, & Laurentio Gambara, qui ante Ubertini COLUMBUM, suum de eodem argumento poema ediderat.'
(Peramás, *DINO* – Prologue, p. 9)

3) 'Verum, quod huc attinet, poetae isti rem hanc alio, quam nos, tractarunt cum modo, tum ordine: neque id sibi proposuerant, ut <u>de inducto in Novum Orbem Christi Sacrificio, quae operis nostri princeps pars est</u>, praesertim agerent.'
(Peramás, *DINO* – Prologue, p. 9)

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4) <u>Perpetuum ver spirat ibi</u>, <u>Zephyri</u> <u>tepentes</u>
frugiferum <u>mulcent</u> <u>alienis mensibus</u> annum,
nimbosasque fugant hiemes; atque obruta sulcis
semina <u>bis</u> redeunt, messis <u>bis</u> aurea surgit.
<u>Quid tidi odoratis memorem sudantia lignis</u>
<u>balsamaque, et succos semper stillantis amomi</u>?
<u>Quid</u> **<u>Brasilum</u>** niveis sata culta <u>nitentia lanis</u>?
Illa <u>nigrum</u> mittunt <u>Ebenum</u>, croceumque liquorem,
purpura cui Tyriis fucata coloribus impar.
(*DINO*.I.109-17)

<u>hic ver adsiduum</u> atque <u>alienis mensibus</u> aestas:
<u>bis</u> gravidae pecudes, <u>bis</u> pomis utilis arbos.
(Virg. *Geo*.2.149-50; cf. also Ovid, below)

sola <u>*India*</u> <u>nigrum</u>
fert <u>hebenum</u>, solis est turea virga Sabaeis.
<u>quid tibi odorato referam sudantia ligno</u>
<u>balsamaque et bacas semper frondentis acanthi</u>?
<u>quid</u> nemora Aethiopum molli <u>canentia lana</u>,
velleraque ut foliis depectant tenuia Seres?
(Virg. *Geo*.2.116-21)

5) Sparsique per undas
<u>perpetuum spirant pictis ver floribus horti</u>.
(*DINO*.III.456-7)

<u>ver erat aeternum</u>, placidique <u>tepentibus auris</u>
<u>mulcebant</u> <u>zephyri</u> natos sine semine <u>flores</u>
(Ovid *Met*.1.107-8)

6) **<u>Guaranium prope litus</u>**, ubi <u>sublime cacumen</u>
<u>arboris alatae numquam tetigere sagittae</u>,
<u>torquendis gens illa licet non tarda pharetris</u>.
Hos inter, **centum vix hinc labentibus annis**,
Dia Fides, moresque pii pia limina figent.
Quippe **Sacerdotes casti, trans aequora missi,**
in loca certa viros compellent undique nigris
ex umbris nemorum, specubusque latentibus. (…)
(*DINO*.I.118-25)

aut quos Oceano propior gerit <u>*India*</u> lucos,
<u>*extremi sinus orbis*</u>, <u>ubi aera vincere summum</u>
<u>arboris haud ullae iactu potuere sagittae?</u>
<u>et gens illa quidem sumptis non tarda pharetris.</u>
(Virg. *Geo*.2.122-4)

et te, maxime Caesar,
qui nunc extremis Asiae iam victor in oris
imbellem avertis Romanis arcibus <u>*Indum*</u>.
(Virg. *Geo*.2.170-2)

7) Post, ubi sublimi descendit culmine, visa
<u>umbrosas inter silvas</u> **Ameria nympha**
venatrix, <u>qualis per flumina Thermodoontis</u>
<u>trux solet Harpalice virides circumdare saltus</u>.
(*DINO*.III.408-11)

Cui mater media sese tulit <u>obvia silva</u>,
virginis os habitumque gerens, et virginis arma
Spartanae, <u>vel qualis equos Threissa fatigat</u>
<u>Harpalyce, volucremque fuga praevertitur Hebrum</u>.
(Virg. *Aen*.1.314-7)

8) Sollicitis spectant oculis, totamque pererrant
luminibus tacitis, **ignotoque ore loquentem**
nequicquam compellat Iber: commercia discors
lingua vetat, vacuasque sonum diffundit in auras.
<u>Ergo</u> argento, auroque micans, quod forte gerebat,
<u>objicit ante oculos scutum</u>.
(*DINO*.III.424-9)

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9) Novum stat pone Leonum,
ursorumque genus, variis cum Tigribus; atque
pantherae caedi assuetae, mitesque Guanaci.
(…)
Hydris horret ager, caecisque repente latebris
agmina prosiliunt trifidis minitantia linguis.
Et quae delituit mala tactu in frondibus aspis
occupat incautos, figitque in vulnere virus.
(*DINO*.III.547-9, 565-8)

at rabidae tigres **absunt** et saeva leonum
semina, **nec** miseros fallunt aconita legentis,
nec rapit immensos orbis per humum neque tanto
squameus in spiram tractu se colligit anguis.
(Virg. *Geo*.2.151-4)

haec loca **non** tauri spirantes naribus ignem
invertere satis immanis dentibus hydri
(Virg. *Geo*.2.140-1)

10) Latior Arctoo tellus quae subjacet axi,
latior Austrinum quae fert et frigus, et auras.
In medio Panamae fauces vastissima regna
partibus exaequant binis, Boreamque nivalem
Pacifico prohibent fluctus confundere ponto.
(*DINO*.III.437-41)

Cernitur heic longo tellus Atlantica tractu,
in partes diffissa duas: divergit in austrum
altera, frigentes ast altera verberat Arctos.
Utramque **in medio** porrectam colligit **Isthmus**,
rupibus excelsis hinc atque hinc vasta coërcens
aequora
(Vincentius Placcius, *Atlantis Retecta* 1079-84)

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