

The 1516 Genoa Psalter¹ by Eric James Keller

With its heavy pages and intricate style, the 1516 Genoa Psalter is awe inspiring to behold. Financed by wealthy Genoese statesman Agostino Giustiniani and published by Petrus Paulus Porro, the immense undertaking of printing the Psalms in multiple languages was completed. Fully titled *The Psalter in Hebrew, Greek, Arabic, and Aramaic*, this book of psalms is the first of its kind. Comprising eight columns of beautifully legible printing, spanning five languages and providing scholarly notes on the psalms in Latin, this rendition of *The Psalter* is notable for more than just being a book in multiple languages. *The Psalter in Hebrew, Greek, Arabic, and Aramaic* is a grand work of accomplished scholarship and should be renowned as such, even if it was not a financial success upon release².

Columbus and Psalm Nineteen

Within any psalter one will be able to find Psalm Nineteen. However, Psalm Nineteen of the Genoa Psalter is exceptional. From the notes of the Psalter, the psalm in question provides the earliest known biographical information of Christopher Columbus, seen by the editor as having fulfilled a biblical prophecy³. T

thousand copies of the book destroyed⁴. Despite this order of decimation, copies have managed to survive to present day.

Whose Line Is It Anyway?

A targeted translation of the Genoa Psalter's Arabic reveals even more about this Psalter's contribution to the world as a scholarly work. Agostino Giustiniani was not only a bishop, but a linguist who studied the languages presented in the Genoa Psalter⁵. His knowledge of Arabic is pronounced and commendable. There is, however

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first known account of Christopher Columbus's second voyage. Additionally, The Genoa Psalter contains in-depth scholarly notes on every page, allowing insight into classical thought on the psalms. Giustiniani should have been praised for his efforts, yet he was not rewarded by the people of Europe in the early sixteenth century and he abandoned his plan to make a polyglot version of the New Testament. Despite this, *The Psalter in Hebrew, Greek, Arabic, and Aramaic* of Agostino Giustiniani will go down in the annals of history as a great achievement.

Appendix

Table 1.

Bibliography

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