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## Iannone, Carol: News Articles (1991): News Article 11

Karen J. Winkler

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# Foot- notes

An economist at Pennsylvania State University has brought back an unusual, but important, souvenir from his recent visit to Eastern Europe: an agreement from statisticians there to submit key economic data to Columbia University's Center for International Business Cycle Research.

In 1974, Philip A. Klein, a professor of economics at Penn State, and Geoffrey H. Moore, an economist at Columbia, set up a program to compile, on a monthly basis, leading economic indicators for countries around the world.

The indicators now used include data on initial claims for unemployment insurance, new orders for manufacturing plants and equipment, new permits for building construction, business start-ups and failures, and corporate after-tax profits. The data help government leaders to forecast fluctuations in employment, interest rates, inflation, foreign trade, and manufacturing output, says Mr. Klein.

Currently, 11 countries report such data to the Columbia center. Mr. Klein says that directors of national statistical offices in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Poland told him they, too, would send data, as part of their own efforts to establish market economies.

"For the past 25 years, nobody systematically monitored the Eastern European economies for what we call business growth cycles," says Mr. Klein.

He adds that "the statisticians I talked to had kept quite accurate records of their economies, even if the data had not been publicly revealed."

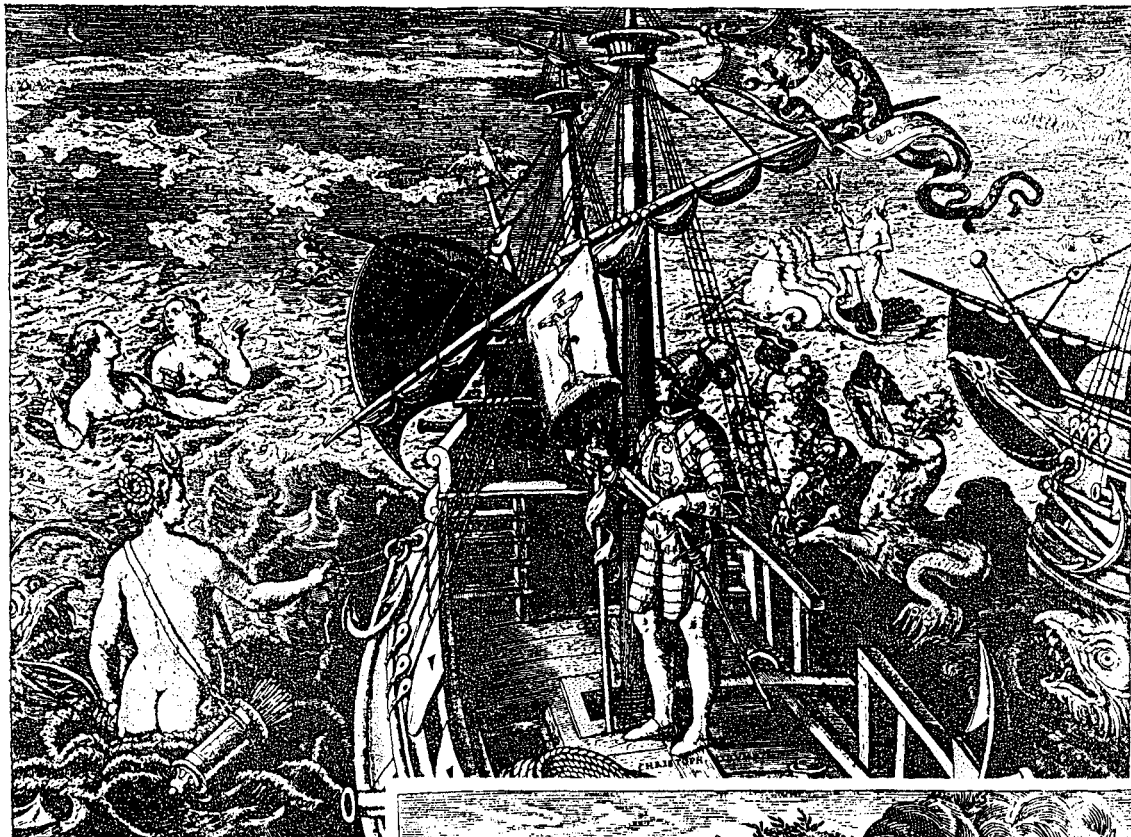
The University of Missouri at Columbia has bagged a rich trophy for its anthropology museum: a 5,000-piece archery collection that covers the entire history of the bow and arrow.

Acquired from Charles Grayson, a retired radiologist in Colorado, the 5,000 items include not just bows, arrows, and quivers, but also books, clothing, pendants, and other related materials and accessories from the Americas, China, Japan, Korea, Russia, and ancient Persia.

"The collection is irreplaceable," says Michael O'Brien, director of the university's Museum of Anthropology.

Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government is organizing a Pacific Basin Research Project to study the overlapping effects of four policy issues in the region: peace and security, the environment, education and culture, and international economic relations. Sponsored by Soka University, a language school near Los Angeles affiliated with a Japanese institution, the project will eventually become a research center at the University of California at Los Angeles.

# Scholarship



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, BY ANDRIANUS COLLARTE THE GRANGER COLLECTION

Traditional views of Columbus in the New World contrast with depictions suggesting that natives were victimized by many others who came from Europe.

## Humanities Agency Caught in Controversy Over Columbus Grants

By KAREN J. WINKLER

Christopher Columbus has put the National Endowment for the Humanities in the midst of a heated debate over the meaning of American culture.

Some scholars charge that the endowment is letting political bias and fear of controversy influence its grants for programs to honor the 500th anniversary of Columbus's first encounter with the New World.

The 1992 Columbus quincentennial is already causing friction between groups that see it as a celebration of Western civilization and those that view it as a commemoration of native cultures victimized by European imperialism.

### Too Cautious, Critics Say

Some scholars who have applied to the humanities endowment for grants to stage public quincentennial programs say the agency favors the approach that celebrates Western civilization. Other scholars say the endowment is overly cautious—reluctant to make available to a general audience research that might be controversial.

In a written statement to *The Chronicle*, the N.E.H. chairman, Lynne V. Cheney, said: "The endowment is not hostile to critical inquiry into any subject or cul-



BARTOLOMÉ DE LAS CASAS AT EXECUTION OF INDIAN CHIEFTAIN IN CUBA

ture." Mrs. Cheney declined to be interviewed.

Critics contend, though, that top N.E.H. officials are overturning peer and staff recommendations on Columbian grants.

The charges raise questions about who makes decisions at the endowment—and how.

Last fall, a group of scholars and film makers who had previously received

N.E.H. funds to plan and write a public-television series called *1492—Clash of Visions* was turned down for a final grant to produce the programs.

The applicants included Yanna Kroyt Brandt, a producer whose previous historical documentaries include *A House Divided*, on slavery. Among the members of the project's advisory board are leading scholars of the period.

### 'Multiple Points of View'

"Rather than telling the traditional story of Columbus and his ships, we proposed looking at 1492 from multiple points of view," says Nancy L. Roelker, who heads the advisory committee and is a visiting professor of history at Brown University.

The series proposed that the experiences of different nations and cultures in

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**"There's a double standard being applied: It's O.K. to talk about the barbarism of the Indians, but not the barbarism of the Europeans. That's a political bias."**