

## **5A. COLUMBUS COLLECTION**

**The specialized book collection on the figure of Columbus was established thanks to an important donation from the city of Genoa in 1892, on the occasion of the Fourth Centenary of the Discovery of America. Later, the collection was enriched also thanks to donations from private individuals including, and especially, Giuseppe Baldi, a passionate collector of books and Colombian memorabilia, whose library, consisting of 422 works, was acquired in 1897.**

**The Columbus Collection of the Berio Library, in addition to most of the published sources of Colombian historiography and the writings of Columbus himself, includes very rare ancient texts such as the Colombo-American diplomatic code edited by the city of Genoa in 1823, the Colección de viajes y descubrimientos que hicieron por mar los españoles desde fines del siglo XV, published in Spain in 1825, the Colombian Collection in 9 volumes promoted by the Italian government in 1892, and the works of chroniclers and historians contemporary to Columbus. There are around 200 old editions, including the Historie of Fernando Colombo, the Historia del mondo nuovo by Girolamo Benzoni (both published in Venice in the 1570s), and the Historia general de las Indias by Francisco Lopez de Gomara (published in Zaragoza in 1554).**

**In 2000, the Berio Library enriched its collection thanks to the donation of an important specialized library, comprising over 3,000 volumes and pamphlets belonging to Senator Paolo Emilio Taviani, an eminent politician and world-renowned scholar of Christopher Columbus, which he offered in testimony of his love for his city. The Berio Library thus doubled the number of books dedicated to Columbus and the Discovery of America, becoming not only the leading Italian institution on the subject, but also one of the most important in the world.**