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# The Marco Polo of Christopher Columbus

Francesco Pipino's Latin Version of *Il Milione*

**Austrian Science Fund (FWF)**

**Stand-Alone Project**

(P 32723-G – €406,305.49)

**Duration**

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**Project Leader**

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Mario Klarer

**Marco Polo:** Around the year 1300, Marco Polo made public his extraordinary travel narrative *Il Milione* – the most important source about Asia for generations of Europeans.

**Francesco Pipino:** Between 1310 and 1322, the Dominican friar Francesco Pipino carried out the most influential Latin translation of Polo's *Il Milione*, which has been preserved in more than 60 manuscripts.

**Legacy:** Even Christopher Columbus used Pipino's Latin *Il Milione* as a guide for his voyages. Mistaking the New World for India, Columbus interwove Polo's description of Asia with the emerging European image of the Americas.

**Edition:** No proper scholarly edition exists of this landmark text. The planned bilingual Latin and English edition will be based on all extant fourteenth-century Pipino manuscripts. It will close a major gap in the fields of cultural and literary studies.

