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Lope de Vega's *El nuevo mundo descubierto por Cristobal Colon*  
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17 The Indian as Image and as Symbolic Structure: Bartolome Arzans's  
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Eighteenth-Century Spanish Comedy; Chapter 19 Humboldt and the  
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#### Sommario/riassunto

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The legacy of Columbus's discovery of the New World and its subsequent colonization is a current focus of much historical investigation. Columbus himself continues to be a cipher like the signature he crafted for himself, a signature no one has been able to decode. What is certain, however, is that this signature symbolized the construction of a colonial imagery that is still operative and that the consequences of the violent encounter between the European and Amerindian civilizations are now being debated and reinterpreted. *Amerindian Images and the Legacy of Columbus* examines the constitution

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