Christopher Columbuswas an Italian explorer and navigator from the Republic of Genoa The name Christopher Columbus is the anglicisation of the Latin Christophorus Columbus. He married Portuguese noblewoman Filipa Moniz Perestrelo, who bore a son Diego, and was based in Lisbon for several years. He later took a Castilian mistress, Beatriz Enriquez de Arana, who bore a son, Ferdinand.