

[SHD Virtual Lecture: "Hearsay on America \(and Ethiopia\) Around 1340"](#)

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Type:

Lecture

Location:

Texas, United States

Subject Fields:

African History / Studies, Atlantic History / Studies, Italian History / Studies, Medieval and Byzantine History / Studies, Maritime History / Studies

The Society for the History of Discoveries

Virtual Lecture Series Presents

Hearsay on America (and Ethiopia) around 1340

(Paolo Chiesa, University of Milan, Italy)

September 7, 1-2pm

Professor Chiesa presents new findings emerging from the study of the (still unpublished) *Cronica universalis* by Galvaneus de la Flamma, a work written in northern Italy around 1340. Within the work, there is a lengthy geographical section, devoted to several exotic regions. In addition to pieces of information depending on traditional sources, Galvaneus also reports unpublished news from oral sources available to him. In particular, Galvaneus mentions a land called *Marckalada*, located west of Greenland, spoken of by sailors: this land is recognizable as the *Markland* mentioned by some Icelandic sources, and identified by scholars as some part of the Atlantic coast of North America: this is the first mention of the American continent in the Mediterranean region. Furthermore, Galvaneus reports news about an embassy from Ethiopia to Western Europe, which occurred around 1314: he details Ethiopia as a Christian, wealthy, and well-organized country, in a very different way from the traditional image of a wild and uncivilized land. Much evidence indicates that Galvaneus receives this news from Genoa; and this opens new perspectives on the geographical knowledge that circulated in Columbus's city one hundred and fifty years before his voyage.

Cost: FREE

Register at: <https://discoveryhistory.org/event-4917251>

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