



**Columbus Day – 2003**

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of Christopher Columbus  
inspire us all



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HONORING THE GREAT  
DISCOVERER

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

MONDAY OCTOBER 13, 2003

THE COLUMBUS MEMORIAL  
COLUMBUS PLAZA - UNION STATION,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

## CELEBRATING CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

### The Site

In the years following the great quadricentennial (400th anniversary) celebration in 1892 of the achievements and discoveries of Christopher Columbus, an effort was launched by the Knights of Columbus to establish a monument to the great discoverer. The U. S. Congress passed a law which mandated a Columbus Memorial in the nation's capital and appropriated \$100,000 to cover the construction costs. A commission was established composed of the secretaries of State and War, the chairmen of the House and Senate Committees on the Library of Congress, and the Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus. With the newly completed Union Railroad Station in 1907, plans focused toward locating the memorial on the plaza in front of this great edifice.

After a series of competitions, sculptor Lorado Z. Taft of Chicago was awarded the contract. His plan envisioned what you see this day, a monument constructed of Georgia marble; a semi-circular fountain sixty-six feet broad and forty-four feet deep and in the center, a pylon crowned with a globe supported by four eagles connected by garland. A fifteen foot statue of Columbus, facing the U. S. Capitol and wrapped in a medieval mantle, stands in front of the pylon in the bow of a ship with its prow extending into the upper basin of the fountain terminating with a winged figurehead representing democracy. Flanking Columbus are two seated, allegorical figures: To his left representing the Old World is a patriarchal figure resting his arms upon a shield and grasping a crumpled map while to his right representing the New World is a pre-Columbian figure (American Indian) crouching behind his crude shield reaching for an arrow. On the rear of the large pylon is a double medallion picturing the Spanish monarchs King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. Set at the extremes of the axis of the balustrade are couchant lions. Three towering flagpoles flank behind the monument representing the historic ships of 1492 the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria. Classic-columned lampposts in front of Union Station feature replicas of ships on their cross-axis near the base mounts. The dedication of the majestic tribute to Columbus occurred on June 8, 1912 with many thousands attending. It was the prelude to and the focal point for the annual Columbus Day celebrations since.



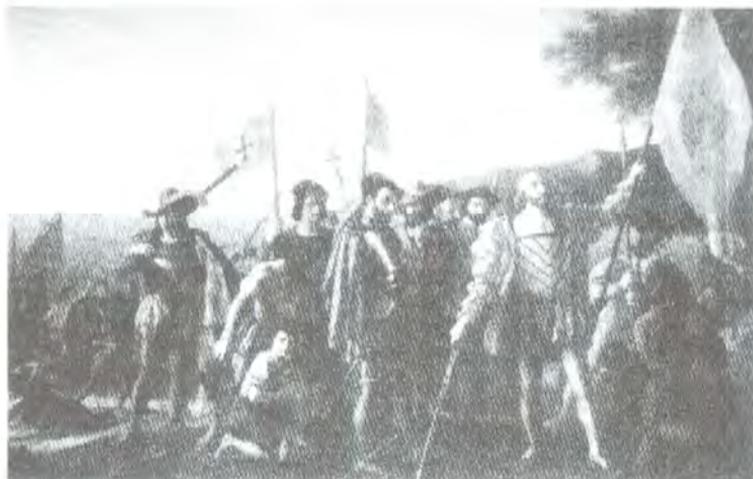
Daniel Burnham, who designed Union Station, was the major architect of the 1892-1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Burnham's architecture was so well received in Chicago that it launched the "City Beautiful" movement, to transform major cities, especially our nation's capital into a series of well-landscaped neo-classical palaces, expressing confidence in our Republic during the 1890 period. Burnham's Columbus Fountain and Taft's Columbus statue were influenced in part by Frederick MacMonnies fountain at the World's Columbian Exhibition. In recent years Union Station has been rejuvenated as a lively commercial space while still serving as a train terminal. As a major artistic remnant of the Exposition, the statue, fountain and edifice rightly serve as the focal point for the annual Columbus Day Celebration.

### The Ceremony

The first ceremony took place on June 8, 1912 during which Marquis Cusani Confalonieri, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Italy unveiled the statue. Victor J. Dowling, Justice of the New York Supreme Court and former Director of the Knights of Columbus gave the opening speech and President William Taft gave the closing speech. A four day celebration, organized by the Knights of Columbus, brought huge crowds to the District. Throughout the years that followed there have been many fraternal, civic and cultural organizations who have provided the leadership for the ceremony each year. The appearances of the U.S. Military Honor Guard, the service bands, and the Knights of Columbus Color Corps, add to the pageantry. Addresses by national and international dignitaries, members of the diplomatic corps, especially representing Spain, Italy, the Bahamas, and the Organization of American States,

have added interest to the occasion; and along with the audience all have joined in the festivities. In an effort to perpetuate a more unified event, in 1989 the Washington Columbus Celebration Association (WCCA) was formed. In an extended outreach of its membership to more than 25 States within the past decade, the organization has changed its name to the National Columbus Celebration Association (NCCA). The Association, in cooperation with the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, plans the yearly ceremony which is open to the public free of charge. In addition to the highlights of the program already described in this history, the ceremony closes with wreath presentations representing many national and local fraternal, civic, patriotic and cultural societies.





## CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

*(Relevant contemporary events are shown in italics;*

*some important recurrent New World locations are shown in boldface italics.)*

**1451** - Christopher Columbus is born in Genoa, Italy, the son of Susanna and Domenico Colombo, a Ligurian weaver and one of the keepers of the city's gates. (Queen Isabella and Amerigo Vespucci are both born this same year).

*1453* - *Turks capture Constantinople, kill the Emperor and the thousand-year-old Byzantine Empire ends.*

**1465** - Columbus's first sea voyages to Corsica.

*1468* - *Gutenberg dies.* **1470** - *Portuguese discover West African Gold Coast.*

*1473* - *Copernicus is born.* **1475** - *Michelangelo is born.*

**1477** - Columbus has moved from Genoa to Lisbon; sails to England, Ireland, Iceland and possibly near the Arctic Circle.

*1478* - *St. Thomas More is born in England.*

**1479** - Columbus marries Felipa Moniz Perestrello of Porto Santo in the Madeira Islands. The union gives Columbus a son and heir, Diego.

*1483* - *Martin Luther is born.*

**1484** - Columbus approaches King John II of Portugal with a plan for an expedition to seek lands to the west via a sea route; Columbus and Diego arrive in Palos, Spain (going to the Franciscan Monastery La Rábida, near Palos) to discuss sponsorship of expedition westward on the "Ocean Sea."

**1485** - Felipa Perestrello dies.

**1486** - Son Fernando (Ferdinand) is born of union with Beatriz Enriquez.

*1488* - *Bartholomew Diaz rounds the Cape of Good Hope.* **1492** - *The Spanish take Granada, ending the Moorish kingdom in Spain and consolidating the monarchy of Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile.*

**1492** - **April 17:** King and Queen of Spain sign the Santa Fé document defining Columbus's proposed expedition.

**1492** - **May 23:** King and Queen decree citizens of Palos will be crew members.



## First Voyage: Discovery of the New World (Bahamas, Cuba, and Hispaniola), 1492-1493



**1492 - August 2:** Mass held for Columbus and crew at Church of St. George, Martyr, in Palos at noon; Columbus embarks from Palos de la Frontera that day with three caravels (*Niña*, *Pinta*, and *Santa Maria*) and 90 men.

**1492 - October 12:** After 33 days crossing the Atlantic, land is sighted at 2 a.m., and at dawn Columbus lands on the island of Guanahani in the Bahamas archipelago. On **October 27** at nightfall the shore of Cuba is sighted, and on **December 6** the three vessels reach the western end of the island of Hispaniola, containing the modern Dominican Republic and Haiti.

**1492 - December 24:** The *Santa Maria* runs aground on the north coast of Hispaniola. A fort and tower are constructed and 39 or 40 men left behind in this first settlement, named *La Navidad* because of the day of the accident. Columbus and the rest leave in the *Niña* to rejoin the *Pinta* and return to Spain.

**1493 - March 15:** Columbus returns to Palos and receives a special audience at the Spanish court in Barcelona.

**1493 - May 4:** *Pope Alexander VI* establishes a line of demarcation dividing the New World between Spain and Portugal; it will be revised **June 28**.

## Second Voyage: Colonization of Hispaniola and Exploration of Southern Coasts of Cuba, Jamaica, and Hispaniola, 1493-1496

**1493 - September 25:** Second voyage leaves Cadiz with 17 ships and 1200-1500 colonists, including 200 volunteers not on salary from Spain, youngest brother Diego (Giacomo, or James, not to be confused with his son of the same name, who, with his other son Ferdinand, would become a page at court early in 1494), and five religious with the mission of evangelization.

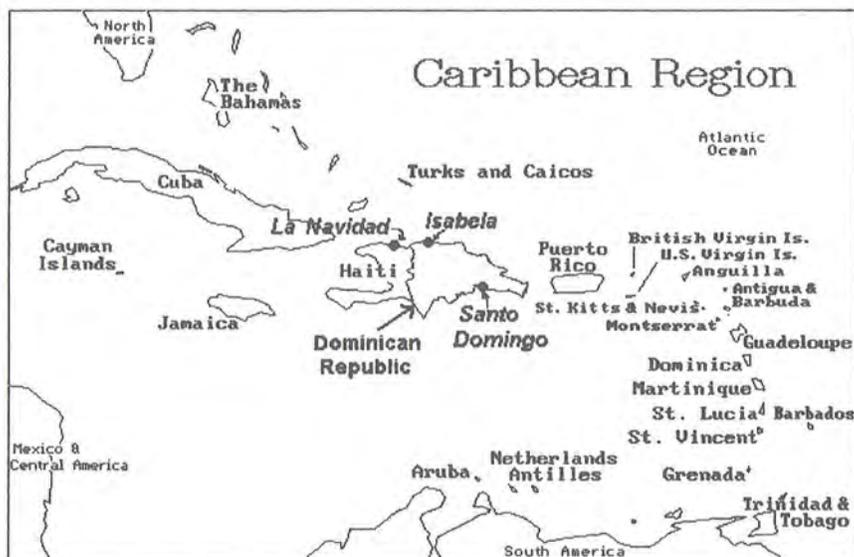
**1493 - November 2:** Columbus's second expedition arrives in the Indies on a Sunday, and he names the landfall island Dominica.

**1493 - November 27:** After sailing up the Leeward Islands, through the Virgin Islands, along the south shore of Puerto Rico, and then along the north coast of Hispaniola, the expedition arrives at *La Navidad*. They find the colonists dead, the town and surrounding villages burned to the ground in vicious retaliation for reported mistreatment of the Indians by the garrison. Columbus treats kindly the local chief of this northwest part of Hispaniola, his earlier friend Guacanagarí, who (apparently rightly) blames the attack on another cacique (of the north central part of the island), Caonabó.

On **December 8** the expedition leaves, heading eastward. Later that month, Columbus is sick, until mid-March.

**1494 - January 2:** In a solemn ceremony a new settlement is established about seventy miles east of *La Navidad*. It is named *Isabela* to honor the queen, and planned to be a grand capital city. Established to be within reach of reported gold mines, it is otherwise poorly sited near a river that flooded and a miasmatic marsh, and will last only a couple of years.

**1494 - January 6:** On the Feast of the Epiphany all attend the first Mass known to be offered on the soil of the Western Hemisphere, celebrated by Fray Buyl who heads the religious contingent. Afterwards, a party of 2 captains and 15-30 men and Indian guides set out to find the mines, in an area several dozen miles distant, returning on **January 20** with some gold in hand. Several hundred



men take sick by the end of January, and soon half the population are laid low. Columbus himself will be sick again in April for eight days.

**1494 - February 2:** With provisions spoiled by rain and humidity, Columbus orders twelve ships back to Spain under Antonio de Torres, his second in command, with a request that three or four be returned with food, medicines, clothing, work animals, and 100 miners.

**1494 - March:** Columbus leads a party of 500 men to the area of the mines and erects a fort, naming it Santo Tomás. After returning to *Isabela* he learns that the native King Caonabó plans to attack the fort. Columbus sends 400 men to deter the Indians, and a small amount of bloodshed results. At *Isabela* in this period there is much dissension, and even rebellion. Unfortunately the colony had been set up by the crown with a fragmentation of the authority Columbus had on the first voyage. He has to arrest the comptroller, who had schemed to make off with several ships and a load of gold; to threaten to withhold rations from workers who don't work; and to deal with the hidalgos who refuse to do manual labor (required due to the general sickness) and resent orders from this foreigner.

**1494 - April 25:** Leaving his brother Diego in charge, Columbus takes an expedition to explore neighboring lands. He visits Cuba, thinking it a peninsula, and, for the first time, Jamaica, and will be gone five months.

**1494 - June 7:** *Treaty of Tordesillas between Spain and Portugal moves the Pope's 1493 line of demarcation 600 miles west, following Columbus's suggestion before he left Spain that the Pope's original specifications be treated as guidelines for further negotiations.*

**1494 - June:** During the Admiral's absence, his dearest brother, Bartholomew, arrives at *Isabela* with three caravels and supplies, joining brother Diego there. During the Admiral's prolonged absence, there is a rebellion of Indians because of the behavior of Margarit, commander of the fort at San Tomás. Summoned by Bartholomew to explain his conduct, the quick-tempered Margarit grabs the

three ships Bartholomew had brought and, before the return of the Admiral, leaves for Spain with the aggressive Fray Buyl (who thought Columbus should have been tougher on the Indians), arriving in November to spread more negative and slanderous reports on Columbus. On Hispaniola some of Margarit's men and disaffected colonists run rampant on the island with licentiousness and brutality toward the natives, with responses from the Indians and counter responses.

**1494 - June 13:** Meanwhile, away exploring the southern coast of Cuba, the Admiral is convinced it is part of the Asian mainland. He turns back within a few miles of the western tip of the island, and his extended indirect return to *Isabela* involves more explorations--including the southern coast of Jamaica and of Hispaniola. At the site of the future Santo Domingo he dispatches a land party of nine men to cross Hispaniola by way of San Tomás to *Isabela*, which they do while he takes the sea route around the eastern end of the island. On this return trip Columbus becomes very seriously ill.

**1494 - September 29:** The Admiral's expedition arrives back at *Isabela* and he has to be carried ashore sick, and is bed for weeks. The three Columbus brothers are now reunited, and the ill Christopher appoints Bartholomew his deputy and as Adelantado (equivalent to a provincial governor), an honor to this Italian that is much resented by the Spaniards. Along with a friendly letter from the sovereigns, Bartholomew had brought news that many negative reports had been sent to Spain by dissatisfied colonists.

**1494 - Fall:** De Torres and the four caravels requested by Columbus in **February** arrive with more provisions, apparently the first women and children as well, and another letter from the sovereigns.

**1494 - late:** A series of military campaigns against the disaffected Indians starts.

*1495-98 - Leonardo Da Vinci paints "The Last Supper."*

**1495 - February 24:** De Torres with his four caravels, and Columbus's brother Diego, leaves again for Spain, carrying as slaves about 500 of the 1600 Indian captives from the recent punitive expedition (200 die during the voyage, probably due to lack of immunity to unfamiliar diseases suffered by these tropical natives in a winter crossing of the cold North Atlantic).

**1495 - March 27:** Columbus leads 200 men, horses, and native auxiliaries under his friend, the cacique Guacanagari, deep into the island where another chief had assembled an impressive army of thousands. The Indians are frightened and routed by the cavalry, and many are captured. Alonso de Ojeda later captures Caonabó (responsible for the massacre at *La Navidad*) by a ruse.

**1495 - May:** Starting in May, for about ten months the Admiral and Bartholomew are engaged in subduing the island, traveling throughout it. Three forts are built, and a harsh and much-criticized system of tribute in gold or cotton is initiated. The Indians fight a guerrilla war, adopt a scorched earth policy, suffer a famine, and thousands die, from violence, hunger, and suicide.

**1495 - June:** A hurricane destroys three ships, leaving only the *Niña*. From salvage a ship similar to her, the *Santa Cruz*, also called *India*, is built.

**1495 - October:** Four caravels arrive from Spain under the command of Juan Aguado, a former friend, sent by the monarchs to conduct a judicial investigation of Columbus' behavior in light of the negative reports that had been spread in Spain. There is great discontent in *Isabela*, where most--who

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### Slavery in the Sixteenth Century

In the sixteenth century all theologians held that it was licit to enslave pagans, but not Christians, captured in a just war, and Moors and Christians enslaved each other without scruple. Presumably it was that understanding that underlay the enslavement of the Indians, who were also seen as potential converts and as a profitable income source. Isabella did not approve of this policy. Early on, the Spanish monarchs prohibited enslavement of the Indians because they were not known enemies of Christianity like the Saracens, and had committed no crime against Spain. But exceptions were allowed: for Caribs, understood to be cannibals who preyed on others, and for rebellious Indians, according to the doctrine on pagan captives in war. Spain was the first country to examine seriously the moral aspects of slavery and to bring about changes in thinking in this regard. Perhaps for the first time in history a great ruler—in this case, Charles V, who ruled most of Europe and the New World—called a halt to all conquests until it was clear whether they were just or not. A famous debate was held at Valladolid in 1550-1551 before learned and high-ranking men about the morality of slavery, as a result of which the anti-slavery view gained general acceptance. (See Louis H. Rivera, *A Violent Evangelizing: The Political and Religious Conquests of the Americas* [Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992], pp. 93-96, 103; Gianni Granzotto, *Christopher Columbus* [Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987], p. 222; John Noble Wilford, *The Secret History of Columbus* [New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991], pp. 185-190; Robert Royal, *1492 and All That* [Washington: Ethics and Public Policy Center, 1992], pp. 72-74.)

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had come to get rich quick rather than settle--want to leave. The disadvantages of the settlement's location have become evident, and the Admiral has been looking for a new site. He decides to return to Spain to answer the allegations against him.

**1496 - March:** Columbus leaves for Spain in the *Niña* and the *India*, after telling Bartholomew, left in charge, to relocate the city on the southern shore. Both agree it is to be named for their father, Domenico. Traveling via Mariegalante and Guadeloupe, he arrives at Cadiz **June 11**. Bartholomew's first job is to erect a fort, San Cristóbal, near the site of present-day *Santo Domingo*.

**July:** Supply ships to *Isabela* bring a letter from Columbus and royal instructions to relocate the capital to the Ozama River near Fort Cristóbal.

**1496 - Summer:** Work begins on *Santo Domingo*, originally called *Isabel Nueva*, destined to be the first permanent settlement by Europeans in this hemisphere. This time the site has been very well chosen.

**1497 - April 23:** The sovereigns issue instruction for the third voyage. His titles and privileges and Bartholomew as adelantado have all been confirmed.

**1497:** Cabots, father and son, reach the east coast of North America.

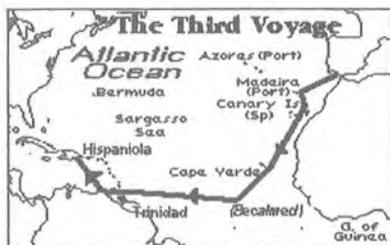
### Third Voyage: South American Discoveries; Administration of Hispaniola, 1498-1500

**1498 - January 23:** *Niña* and *India* depart from Sanlúcar with supplies for the settlement, sent in advance of Columbus's own departure..

**1498 - May 30:** Columbus departs from Sanlúcar on his third voyage with six caravels, three of which he takes on a very southerly route to investigate rumors of a southern continent. After a becalming near the Equator in terrific July heat,

he opts not to go as far south as planned, but much more directly to the west..

**1498 - July 31 - August 13:** He discovers Trinidad and explores mainland South America (principally the Gulf of Paria and the Paria Peninsula on the north coast of Venezuela, both just west of Trinidad), and records on **August 14/15** that he has discovered a hitherto unknown large continent, which he later comes to believe holds the Garden of Eden.



**1498 - August 31:** Columbus is escorted to the new *Santo Domingo* by Bartholomew, whom he had met near Hispaniola's southernmost point, about 100 miles to the west. (*Niña* and *India* had already arrived at Isabela.) A rebellion is in progress led by Francisco Roldán, chief justice of the colony, who had allied himself with some of the Indians. The three of Columbus's caravels on the direct

route had overshot their destination and ended up in the vicinity of Roldán, who was at large in the southwest part of the island (the area called Xaragua, a peninsula now part of Haiti, and had induced many from their crews to desert to him.

**1498 - October 18:** Columbus sends two vessels back to Spain with somewhat incoherent letters describing his discoveries in South America and ideas for a settlement there, and asking for the appointment of someone to administer justice. He also suggests that he could send all the slaves that could be sold (presumably captives from battles with hostile Indians), The letters apparently do not make a good impression on the rulers, who are losing confidence in him.

**October 20:** He makes a conciliatory overture to Roldán, resulting in an agreement on **November 16** on terms favorable to Roldán and his men. To fulfill a provision that he provide transportation back to Spain within a specified time for those rebels who wished to go, Columbus sacrifices his plan to send Bartholomew with *Niña* and *India* to Paria in South America to organize fishing and the taking of pearls. Instead, the ships are to be used for the rebels' home trip. But a storm and needed repairs delay things past the specified deadline and Roldán uses that to win more concessions, which Columbus finally agrees to in **September, 1499**. One result of the settlement will be the beginnings of what later becomes the system of *repartimientos* or *encomiendas*--plantation lands, together with the Indians on them at the service of the grantee, which is agreed to by the caciques. Meanwhile, without approval by Columbus as viceroy (whose influence at home has greatly declined), three other expeditions are allowed to take off from Spain to explore parts of the New World (perhaps necessary to establish claims before other nations did so).

**1498 - Vasco da Gama** discovers a sea route to India for Portugal and arrives at Malabar coast; Michelangelo sculpts the *Pietà* in Rome.

**1499 - In Spain, one of Columbus's former captains on Hispaniola, Alonso de Ojeda** (who had captured Caonabó), has obtained Columbus's chart of his explorations of South America and a license to go there, and he and Amerigo Vespucci leave Spain on a voyage of discovery, explore the northern coast of South America, and discover the mouth of the Amazon River, (Vespucci's account of the voyage, predated two years, omits mention of Ojeda, and results

*in the continent being named for him.)*

**1499 - September 5:** Ojeda arrives in Xaragua on Hispaniola, and without authority starts cutting logwood, which the crown had reserved for itself. Roldan agrees to capture Ojeda and his men for Columbus and send them to Santo Domingo, but they manage to get away, load up with slaves in the Bahamas and return to Spain.

**1499 - October:** Columbus sends two caravels back to Spain explaining his settlement with Roldan as forced by circumstances, and again asking that a wise administrator of justice be sent to help him govern. However, in the spring the rulers have already selected Francisco de Bobadilla, a distinguished and trusted aristocrat who has long served them, to go to Hispaniola as chief justice and also as royal commissioner to hear complaints. He is not well-disposed toward Columbus, apparently resenting him as an upstart foreigner (a wave of anti-Genoese sentiment is sweeping the court at the time), has been affected by the negative reports, and seems to regard his task as to rein in Columbus. It will be over a year after his selection that he finally sails for Hispaniola, in **July, 1500.**

*1500: Pedro Avarez Cabral discovers Brazil, claiming it for Portugal; Vincente Yanez Pinzón, former captain of Niña, lands on the Brazilian coast, and Vespucci and Ojeda return to Spain. 1500-1501: King Ferdinand fights Moorish revolts in Granada, declaring it a Christian kingdom in 1501.*

**1500 -** Another rebellion, by Adrián de Moxica, one of Roldan's lieutenants, is put down by Columbus with Roldan's help. To reinforce authority, Columbus has moved to a "get tough" policy, with executions of key rebels.

**August 23:** Bobadilla arrives at *Santo Domingo* while Columbus is away suppressing another rebellion, is upset to see two Spanish corpses hanging from the gallows, and learns of more executions scheduled the next day. He has a run-in with Columbus's brother Diego, who had been left in charge, arrests him, apparently engages in rabble-rousing, and impounds Columbus's house, money, papers, and possessions. When Columbus returns in **September**, he perhaps at first thinks that Bobadilla is another of those explorers he has not authorized, but then accepts his credentials and is shackled like Diego. Convinced in the eventual triumph of justice, he also persuades Bartholomew, still at large with a military force, to submit as well. (Columbus has more than once asked for a judicial administrator as an assistant or even a replacement for himself, and had expressed willingness to pay the cost. But he afterwards feels that the man he got is, in his negative view of the enterprise, the opposite of what is required.)

**1500 - October:** Bobadilla sends Columbus and his two brothers back to Spain. The Admiral is accused of injudicious governing of natives in Xaragua. When the ship captain, once underway, offers to remove his chains, Columbus insists on keeping them on, to be removed by direct orders of the rulers. They arrive in Cadiz by the end of the month. Soon freed by the sovereigns, Columbus goes to the Carthusian monastery in Seville where he draws maps of the new lands to the west, having an idea that they are a barrier in front of Asia. Studying reports of other explorations, he sees the possibility of a middle passage between the lands explored to the north and to the south.

**1501 -** At the monastery, he completes his "Book of Privileges" (outlining what is his due from the sovereigns) and works on preparing and dictating his "Book of Prophecies" (intended as a poetic statement of their and his divine vocation regarding the New World), a project that ends by **March 23** of the next year.



"Columbus in Chains"



**1501 - September 13:** Nicolás de Ovando receives appointment to succeed Bobadilla as Hispaniola's governor, and departs on **February 13, 1502**.

**1502 - March 14:** The sovereigns authorize Columbus's fourth voyage, and he takes leave of Seville for Cadiz on **April 3**.

**1502 - Vasco da Gama** founds a Portuguese colony at **Cochin, India**; **Vespucci** concludes after his second voyage that **America is a separate continent, not identical with India**.

#### **Fourth Voyage: Central American Discoveries and Marooning on Jamaica, 1502-1504**

**1502 - May 9:** Columbus, almost 51 years old, leaves from Cadiz, with 4 ships (*La Capitana*, *Vizcaina*, *Santiago*, and *Bermuda*) and 140 men and boys. There were 56 of the latter, virtually all teen-agers, some as young as 13 or 14. Included in the company are Columbus's brother Bartholomew and son Fernandez, who keeps a record of the voyage. (A quarter of those setting out will never return.) The expedition is financed by the sovereigns and is to focus on finding precious metals, stones and items of value, but no slaves, and to visit Santo Domingo only on the way home. **May 25:** They leave the Canary Islands. **1502 - June 15:** They arrive at Martinique and head northwest along the islands. **1502 - June 29:** Columbus arrives off Santo Domingo, hoping to replace one of his ships and take shelter from an impending hurricane, the signs of which he has recognized. Governor Ovando, having succeeded Bobadilla, does not permit the ships to land, disregards Columbus's warning about the hurricane, and sends a fleet of 28 ships off the next day for Cadiz. **June 30:** Forbidden the harbor, Columbus anchors offshore in a protected area and his ships ride out the storm without great damage. But the home-bound fleet runs directly into the storm. Nineteen ships go down with all hands, others with a few survivors, and four limp back to Santo Domingo. Over 500 men and a fortune in gold are lost. Only one ship goes on to reach Cadiz--the very one carrying Columbus's own revenues from the colony, sent by his agent. Among the drowned are fleet

commander de Torres (formerly Columbus's second in command), Bobadilla, who had sent Columbus home in chains, Roldan, and many other rebels.

**1502 - July 14:** After repairs to his storm-damaged ships, Columbus leaves Hispaniola, heading for the mainland (Central America), farther west than anyone had gone before. Winds and currents force him to toward the Cuban coast, whence he heads south by west toward his original intended destination.



**1502 - July 30:** He arrives at the island of Guanaja, off the north coast of present-day Honduras. **August 14:** Ashore this Sunday they attend the first Mass known to have been celebrated on the continent, in an area he names La Costa de la Orejas. **August 17:** Columbus formally claims the mainland for the sovereigns.

**1502 - September 14:** After slow and torturous progress east along the forbidding coast against the prevailing wind under terrible stormy conditions,

he rounds the cape he names Gracias a Dios ("Thanks be to God"), and turns south.

**1502 - October 5:** With several stops en route meeting and trading with Indians, they reach a large body of water first mistaken for the passage to Asia, but in fact the beautiful Chiriqui Lagoon, where they spend a week and a half.

Columbus learns that an isthmus separates him from another ocean to the west, and apparently loses hope of finding a westward passage through the land mass, settling for finding gold to bring some success to his royal sponsors.

**1502 - October 20:** He arrives at the Guayga river, the beginning of a gold-bearing region called *Veragua* by the Indians.

**1502 - November 2:** Driven eastward by a storm, he arrives at a harbor he names Portobelo. Weather forces him to stay seven days before continuing east, and then being pushed part way back by winds, to a place near Nombre de Dios, where he stays until **November 23** to repair vessels and casks.

**1502 - November 26:** Heading east again he is again driven back and shelters in a small harbor he calls Retrete ("closet") nine days in more miserable weather.

**1502 - December 5:** In the face of continuing bad weather and headwinds from the east, Columbus decides to go back west to learn the truth of what Indians had said about gold mines of *Veragua*. Winds now begin to whipsaw between east and west, with fierce thunderstorms and the ever-present danger of reefs.

**1502 - December 20:** The ships are blown back into the same harbor they had been in eight days earlier. The new year finds Columbus anchored near the end of what will be America's answer to his long-sought passage--the Panama Canal. They stay until **January 3, 1503**, then head west again.

**1503 - January 6:** On the Feast of the Epiphany Columbus reaches a river he christens Belén (after Bethlehem) near *Veragua* and the reputed gold mines. They explore and trade. **February 6:** He has decided to make a settlement in the area, leaving Bartholomew with most of the men and one ship, while he returns to Spain for reinforcements and supplies. **February 24:** After further exploring and trading, Bartholomew starts to build the settlement on the Belén River,

having found no better location, though this site is not a good one. Heavy flooding rains have ceased, but now sandbars at the mouth of the previously-flooded river trap the ships in the estuary. They also learn that the Indians, displeased at their settlement, plan to destroy it and kill them.

**1503 - March 30:** Bartholomew with 74 men go to *Veragua*, and capture the cacique, who later escapes. Rains come, the ships can leave, and Columbus decides to leave immediately for Hispaniola with three ships. Seeing them gone, Indians attack the settlement. Bartholomew is wounded. Columbus, off shore, is out of contact with the settlers, and Indians slaughter a ten-man party he sends to fetch fresh water. (On **April 6** he is left alone on his ship, all his men ashore, and sick and feverish in a terrible storm when he can do nothing for the ship and can get no help, has either a hallucination or mystical experience.) Ten days pass with no communication with the settlers on account of the weather, then all are evacuated after another weather delay of several more days. In the nearly three-month stay at *Veragua*, ship worms have done great damage. and *Gallega* is left in the estuary. The site does have gold, but environmental conditions make it impracticable even later to exploit the mines. **In 1536** Columbus's grandson D. Luis Colón, will be granted by Emperor Charles V 25 square leagues in the area along with the title *Duke of Veragua*, which will be passed on to his descendants to the present day, in exchange for renunciation of hereditary titles and privileges over all of the Spanish Indies.

**1503 - April 15:** Columbus heads east again to Portobelo, where *Vizcaina* is also abandoned because of worm damage. He continues east beyond Retrete to what is probably the present Punta des Mosquitos.

**1503 - May 1:** Flagship *La Capitana* and *Bermuda*, the only ships left and both needing continual pumping due to worm holes, head north for Hispaniola, but on **May 13** arrive well to the west, at islands off the south coast of Cuba. (Sick and exhausted, Columbus had been persuaded to turn north before he had intended.) **1503 - June 23:** The leaking ships have limped to Jamaica and two days later are permanently beached at Santa Gloria. Columbus had been there ten years earlier, and experienced hostile relations with the Indians, so restricts his men to living aboard the beached ships, as at sea. He barter for food and canoes from the Indians.

**1503 - July:** Since there is no hope of any ships visiting the place, two loyal ship captains, Diego Mendez, and Bartolomeo Fieschi of Genoa, take an expedition of two canoes with Indian paddlers to the east end of Jamaica and then across the treacherous hundred-mile passage to Hispaniola. After arriving they must still go 350 miles to get to Santo Domingo, which they reach in **September**. But Ovando the governor has no interest in sending help. He forces Mendez to wait for the next fleet from Spain to charter a rescue vessel.

*1503 - In Spain, Ferdinand and Isabella issue a decree granting liberty to Indians; in Italy, Leonardo da Vinci paints the Mona Lisa.*

**1504 - January 2:** After months with no news from the party sent for help, 48 men, under the leadership of Francisco de Porras, have decided to revolt. They take ten canoes, are joined by others who don't want to be left behind, and head east, leaving Columbus and a handful of loyal men at Santa Gloria. They rob the Indians along the way and set out to cross the strait to Hispaniola, but after only a few miles turn back due to overloaded canoes, headwinds, and their own inexperience. They throw everything but their weapons overboard. including

Indian paddlers, of whom 18 perish. Two more unsuccessful attempts convince them to return to Santa Gloria.

**1504 - February 28-29:** Meanwhile, anticipating that the Indians had become hostile and want to kill the Spaniards, Columbus invites them to a palaver, and crows them into submission by using his foreknowledge of a lunar eclipse to convince them that he has power to intercede with God to control such things and keep terrible evils from befalling them.

**1504 - End of March:** a small caraval finally sent by Ovando (after about six months' delay!) arrives to learn what has happened to Columbus, but with orders to bring no one home. However, it does carry a welcome letter from Mendez saying he is chartering a rescue vessel.

**1504 - May 19:** The rebels return to Santa Gloria and, choosing to fight, are defeated in a battle with Bartholomew and Columbus's fifty men. The ringleader, Porras, is shackled, but the others pardoned, and allowed to remain ashore under a leader Columbus selected.

**1504 - June:** The rescue ship promised by Mendez arrives, and on **June 18** Columbus and his 100 men leave for Santo Domingo, where he is now well treated by Ovando who, however, releases Porras.

**1504 - September 12:** Columbus leaves the New World for the last time.

**1504 - November 7:** The Admiral arrives at Sanlúcar in Spain

### The End

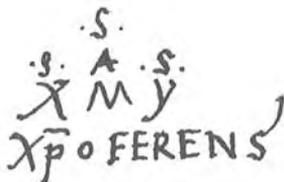
**1504 - November 26:** Queen Isabella dies.

**1506 - May 20:** Christopher Columbus dies at Valladolid and is buried at the Franciscan Monastery there.

**1507 - Martin Waldseemuller proposes the New World be called "America" after Amerigo Vespucci.**

+ + +

The original of John Vanderlyn's picture of the "Landing of Columbus at the Island of Guanahani, West Indies, October 12, 1492," reproduced at the beginning of this chronology, hangs in the Rotunda of the U. S. Capitol. The statue of "Columbus in Chains" was given to Pope Pius XI on his golden jubilee, later bequeathed to , Supreme Secretary of the Knights of Columbus (1939-1964) Joseph F. Lamb and is now in the Knights of Columbus Headquarters Museum in New Haven, Connecticut. Photo by John Pelverts.



Signature of Columbus,  
"Christ-bearer"

## 1503: With Columbus 500 Years Ago

*This year saw the 510th anniversary of Columbus's return to Spain after his initial discoveries, and of the beginning of his second voyage. Even more significant, the middle portion of his fourth and last voyage was exactly 500 years ago this year. In last year's program book the article "1502: With Columbus 500 Years Ago Today" examined events of that fourth voyage that took place in 1502. The story is continued here through 1503. But it begins with a backward glance at what had gone before--especially events of that second expedition connected with places the fourth voyage would take him to again.*

News Years day of 1503 found Christopher Columbus's fourth and last expedition forced by weather to anchor in an extraordinary place. It was a bay almost precisely at what would a little over four hundred year later become the Atlantic end of the Panama Canal--that twentieth-century passage to the west which would be the man-made realization of what he had most laboriously been searching for in nature for a decade.

He was a little over half a year into his fourth and final voyage. The expedition in 1503 centered on a place called Veragua that would give his heirs the title, Duke of Veragua, that they bear to this day. It would a year and a half later come to an inglorious end at a place he had nine years earlier named Santa Gloria.



Where Columbus spent New Year's, 1503.

### **The First Expedition: Discovery of the Presumed Far East**

The first voyage, a three-ship venture a decade earlier in 1492, had as its precise object the finding of a western route to what we even today call "The Far East." Columbus discovered instead obstacles on the way to such a route: the Bahamas, Cuba, and Hispaniola. Thinking, however, that he had succeeded and was indeed in "the Far East," he explored several islands of the Bahamas, and then the eastern part of the northern coast of Cuba and the western part of the northern coast of Hispaniola.

Then about six weeks after his initial landfall an accident

intervened: the grounding and loss on Christmas Eve, 1492 of his flagship, *Santa Maria*, off the northern coast of what is now Haiti in western Hispaniola. He established an outpost there (named La Navidad, because of the date). and, leaving there almost half of the 90 men who had set out with him, returned to Spain after an eventful return trip, arriving in March with triumphant news of his successful explorations.

### **The Second Expedition: Colonization of Hispaniola and Search for the Mainland**

Six months later on September 25, 1493--almost exactly 510 years ago this Columbus Day--he set out on his second voyage as the newly-titled Admiral of the Ocean Sea (i.e., "of the Atlantic Ocean") and Viceroy and Governor of the lands he had discovered and would discover in "the region of the Indies." He had to succor the small ad hoc settlement of La Navidad. But beyond that, now with an armada of 17 ships, he was to exploit what he had discovered and colonize the lands he had found.

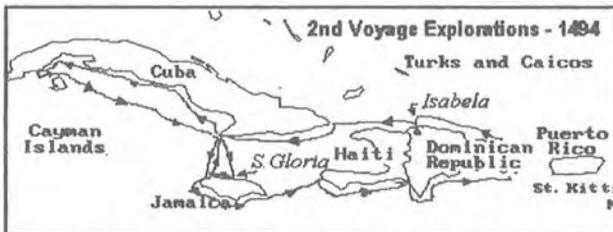
That second venture focused primarily on Hispaniola, and on arrival the triumphalism quickly gave way to harsh reality. He found La Navidad in ruins, destroyed by Indians (apparently with some justice) and its colonists massacred. He now established a new settlement, Isabela, some miles to the east on that part of the coast that is now the Dominican Republic.

The main problems he encountered on this beautiful island were human difficulties--not only with the native inhabitants but perhaps especially among many of the Spanish adventurers, ill-suited to be colonists and resentful of these Columbus brothers (Italians! foreigners!) who led and governed them. Then, too, the organizational structure and functionaries that Spain had imposed on the Admiral/Viceroy on this colonization expedition made a rather more complicated situation than he had to contend with on the first voyage of discovery. These human problems were severely exacerbated by disease and privation due in large part to the poor siting of the new settlement, chosen originally for its proximity to reported gold mines.

Ever the discoverer, Columbus for a while left--some would say "ran away from"--his gubernatorial duties and problems, placing them in the hands of his brother, Diego, a would-be priest who later became one, but apparently not the most suited to governing. However, Christopher trusted him, and headed west to explore for the first time the southern coast of Cuba, which he thought to be at its eastern end a peninsula of

mainland China, and probably the mainland itself as one goes farther west, a notion he never gave up. When Indians on Cuba near present-day Santiago told him of an island to the south said to have gold, he later departed the Cuban coast to investigate, thus finding Jamaica. He landed and spent a night at present St. Ann's Bay, which he named Santa Gloria "on account of the extreme beauty of its country."<sup>1</sup> It was a beauty spot he would sadly become only too familiar with nine year later.

The Indians along this coast, noted for their huge dugout canoes (he measured one that was 96 feet long with an eight-foot beam) were more hostile than others he had recently encountered. At Santa Gloria 60 canoes came out and he cowed them with a blank cannon salvo. Sailing westward, he explored about a third of this northern coast (encountering another hostile Indian demonstration, in which his crossbow men killed a few Indians) before heading back north to continue his explorations. He then resumed sailing westward along the southern coast of Cuba to a point only about 50 miles from the western end of Cuba. But the coast turned southward at that point, and Columbus took this to be where the Malay Peninsula reached out from mainland China.<sup>2</sup>



Columbus's excursion from Isabella on Hispaniola

Had he continued along the coast just a little more, he would have learned that Cuba is in fact an island rather than a peninsula. However, he again turned southward before heading back to Hispaniola, sailing around the western end of Jamaica and then eastward along its southern coast back toward Hispaniola. Reaching that island, he continued eastward along its southern coast for the first time, finally rounding the eastern end of Hispaniola to return to Isabela on the north shore from the opposite direction to that he had set out in five months earlier. He had completed the first circumnavigation by Europeans of larger islands in the New World--Jamaica and Hispaniola. It was almost exactly a year after he had set out from Spain on this second voyage. He had suffered much illness in the five months'

excursion to Cuba and Jamaica and was now very sick--yet much cheered to find that his favorite brother, Bartholomew, had in the meantime been able to join the colonists in this New World. The sick Admiral appointed Bartholomew his deputy, and gave him a high title and rank (adelantado) that caused much resentment among the Spaniards.

It would still be about another year and a half before Christopher again returned to Spain, but the cumulative effect of his approximately two and a half years in the New World on this second expedition served to demonstrate his inadequacies as an administrator. He finally had to go back to Spain to patch things up at court, as well as deal with slanderous charges carried back by some former colonists. Diego had returned to Spain a year earlier and Bartholomew was left in charge on Hispaniola, with instructions to relocate the badly-sited Isabela settlement from the north to the south shore.

Christopher succeeded in fence-mending: his position was reaffirmed, and approval given for Bartholomew's position and title and for another expedition. Almost two years after his return to Spain, the Admiral's third voyage, of six vessels, set out.

### **The Third Expedition: Development of the Colony and Search for a Southern Continent**

This third expedition had two purposes. The first was further development of the Hispaniola colony, now centered on Santo Domingo on the southern coast, the first permanent European settlement in the New World and hence the oldest. The Admiral sent three of his ships directly to Hispaniola for that. The second purpose, of particularly great interest to Columbus, was to search for a continent to the south, of which he had heard reports from the Indians. For this, with his other three vessels he crossed the Atlantic on a much more southerly route than on any of his other three voyages.

In the second goal he was successful, first discovering the islands of Trinidad and then a portion of the neighboring mainland coast of Venezuela in South America, which he rightly concluded was indeed a continent (from the size of the river flow).

But when he finally arrived at Hispaniola he found not only Bartholomew's new city of Santo Domingo abuilding, but also a rebellion in progress led by the former chief justice of the colony, Francisco Roldán. Christopher adopted a conciliatory attitude toward the rebels only to find that damage to a couple of vessels in a storm prevented fulfillment of his commitments, and negotiations with the

rebels dragged on for a year before a final settlement was reached.

Six weeks after arriving in Santo Domingo Christopher had sent a somewhat incoherent letter to the sovereigns reporting on the new continent and setting forth plans for Hispaniola, which lessened their confidence in him. Though he had more than once asked for an administrator of justice to help him govern, they appointed a man (Francisco de Bobadilla) whose personal disposition Columbus saw as the opposite of what was wanted. For Bobadilla apparently saw it as his duty to sit down on this upstart Italian sea-captain and put him in his place.

But things moved slowly in those days: it took over a year before Bobadilla left Spain. In the interim there was yet another rebellion in the colony, led by one of Roldán's lieutenants,



Adrian de Moxica, and the Columbus brothers adopted more of a "get tough" policy, the evidence of which was two men hanging from the gallows when Bobadilla arrived. Like an avenging angel, he confiscated Christopher's records and possessions and proceeded to sack and pack: sacking the three Columbus brothers and packing them off to Spain. Christopher voluntarily kept his chains on during the voyage until they could be removed by direct order of the sovereigns, and then kept them as a precious possession for the rest of his life.

### **The Fourth Expedition: Search for Valuable Products of the Earth, and for a Western Passage between the Land Masses**

Again winning the approval of the rulers, Columbus was authorized to undertake a fourth voyage of discovery. But he was no longer Viceroy or Governor. Aware of the animus against him in Santo Domingo and with a new man, Nicolás de Ovando, now in charge on site, the rulers forbade him to go there. Instead, he was to focus on seeking sources of

valuables: precious metals such as gold and silver, pearls, gems, spices, and on conversion of the native population. A number of other exploratory expeditions to the New World had been authorized but had not been all that productive, so what could be lost by letting him have another go at it?

He, in the meantime, had studied reports of those expeditions and noticed that they had been directed either north or south of the islands he had discovered--but no one had sailed farther to the west of them. This gave rise to a third aim that was not explicitly stated but understood by all: discovery of a passage west between the two land masses understood to lie to the south (the new continent) and to the north (the mainland of China, which Cuba was still believed to be a part of). Such a passage would make it possible to circumnavigate the globe.

Columbus set forth on May 9, 1502 with 140 hands, including his 13-year-old son Ferdinand and brother Bartholomew and an unusually high proportion of teenagers and very young men, in four vessels: *La Capitana*, *Vizcaína*, *Santiago* (also called *Bermuda*), and *Gallega*. The fourth voyage can be viewed in three phases, focusing respectively on Hispaniola (lasting about a month in 1502), Central America (lasting about ten months in 1502-3), and Jamaica (lasting about a year in 1503-4).

### **Hispaniola**

The Hispaniola phase started when, after arriving in the New World Columbus ignored the royal prohibition and turned toward Santo Domingo, on the plea that one of his four ships was proving unsuitable for exploration and he wanted to trade it there for another. Before he arrived there, his experienced eye detected signs of a coming hurricane (he had weathered one previously), and he sent a warning to Ovando. But the latter not only refused permission for him to put into Santo Domingo, but also ignored his weather warning and sent off the next day to Spain a large fleet of ships, carrying much gold, under the same captain (de Torres) who had commanded Columbus's 17-ship armada his second voyage. They sailed directly into the hurricane, 19 of the 28 ships going down with all hands and 500 lives and a fortune in gold being lost--including DeTorres, the rebel Roldán and many of his men, and Bobadilla, who had sacked Columbus. Ironically, the only ship making it through to Spain was the one carrying Columbus's own earnings from his interests on Hispaniola.

During the storm Columbus had sheltered his four vessels somewhat west of Santo Domingo. They suffered some damage, which he repaired and then headed westward into the second phase of fourth voyage.

Sailing south of Jamaica, he retraced in a reverse direction the travel of nine years earlier. The vessels were then carried by currents northward toward Cuba, also not far from where he had been nine years earlier, whence they were finally able to sail southwest to hit Central America off the coast of Honduras.

### **Central America**

There followed a miserable 28 days of extremely slow progress beating eastward against the wind in terrible stormy conditions until finally the coast dropped off to the south and there was better sailing. In about three weeks they arrived at the beautiful Chiriqui lagoon near the Costa Rica - Panama border, and spent ten days there recovering from the hardships and illnesses they had suffered since reaching Central America.

Based on earlier misunderstood reports from Indians, Columbus had his hopes up that they were at the mouth to the long-sought passage to the west. It was almost ten years to the day after his initial discovery of the New World. What he had anticipated finding here was the Strait of Malacca, which in fact lies near Singapore, separating the Malay Peninsula from the Indonesian island of Sumatra. But those hopes were dashed when he learned instead that there is an impenetrable barrier between where he was and the western ocean of which the Indians had spoken.

He now concluded that his focus had to shift to making the voyage otherwise profitable to the sovereigns by finding the valuable commodities specified by his mission. Presumably, once he found an area worth exploiting, a more prolonged presence there would give an opportunity to pursue the other part of his mission--the conversion of the inhabitants.

The coastline, in a concave curve, had shifted from north-south to northwest-southeast, and now began to run roughly in a west-east direction before curving more northward again. He did hear of a source of gold farther along the coast in an area called Veragua by the Indians, and in short order arrived there. The Indians had some gold ornaments, but the area was not a very hospitable one (for one thing, there were no good anchorages), and after a stay of several days he proceeded further along the coast, interested in collecting samples of what might be available, in a kind of survey of what the prospects were. When after several days' progress along the coast he concluded that those prospects had petered out, he decided to head back to Veragua again.

Again the weather turned against him. When the wind and currents were strong enough and there were no good anchorages or ports

to put into, a sailing ship could not resist and could only “go with the flow,” and his little fleet was forced eastward. About two months were lost due to the weather as his vessels were tossed back and forth along that coast by these uncontrollable forces, before finally getting back to Veragua. Sometimes they were able to shelter, perhaps for several days, in ports they found farther along the coast, only to have the wind turn against them when they ventured forth again. It was thus that Columbus ended up passing Christmas and New Year’s at what would just over 400 years later become the entrance to the Panama Canal that would provide the passage to the west he had sought but did not then exist.

Aside from discovering Central America (and of course claiming it for Spain) followed by exploring along the coast, the expedition had in fact accomplished very little in 1502 for all the hardships (and they were great) suffered from the weather--September through December, with October excepted. Perhaps the most significant result was a negative: the hugely disappointing conclusion that a westward passage through the land mass to the western waters could not be found.

## The New Year: 1503

### Veragua

But in the dawning days of the new year more favorable weather now made it possible for him to make it quickly back to Veragua. On January 6 he christened one of the two rivers in that area Rio Belén, for “Bethlehem,” in honor of the Feast of the Epiphany. (The first Mass known to have been offered in the New World had been celebrated exactly ten years before on this day at La Navidad.) Though in much more recent years the passage



The River Belén. Outpost was on the point on the left.

over the bar is much shallower, at that time, with six or seven feet of water over the bar, Columbus could get his three caravels across into a small basin, and use that as a base for exploring Veragua at the end of the rainy season. But now, after all the buffeting by the weather in the last two months, it rained for a month without letup. Two and a half miles west of the River Belen lies the River Veragua, which was even shallower at its entrance and unsuitable for his vessels, but up that river, in a mine worked by the Indians, *there was gold*:

And there may still be today, despite numerous attempts at exploitation after Columbus, all of them failures as well. But the

habitat is wild and inhospitable, consisting of high mountains covered entirely with an impenetrable tropical forest. In the valleys that lead to the deposits--the Veragua and Belén river valleys--the climate is unbearable. A good deal of the soil is alluvial and pounded by frequent and heavy rain which the terrain is unable to absorb. Thus the rivers often swell and overflow, inundating everything. To create conditions stable enough to permit the proper functioning of a mining industry would require large investments, perhaps so large as to render inadequate the value of the exploitable gold.<sup>3</sup>

Columbus first sent his boats up the river for trading, but the Indians here and up the Veragua were disinclined to trade. However, an Indian who had probably dealt with the Spaniards earlier at the lagoon gave them a favorable report on the Spaniards, and on January 12 Bartholomew then took the boats up the River Veragua where they met a cacique named El Quibián, who gave permission for them to explore further, and visited and exchanged gifts with the Admiral on the *Capitana* the following day.

Suddenly on January 24 the rains in the mountains produced a flood, with consequent damage to *Gallega*, and the flooding, heavy rains, and rough seas breaking over the bar enforced a two-week hiatus in exploration, during which energies were turned to repair and maintenance on the ships.

By February 6 the sea was such that the ships' boats could cross the bar again and Bartholomew took them to and up the River Veragua, where they spent the night with the Quibián and continued upriver the next day to the Indians' gold mines, which indeed proved to be a good source of gold. Pleased with the report of the expedition, Columbus decided to make a settlement at the mouth of the River Belén with Bartholomew in charge, returning himself to Spain for men and supplies.

Then on February Bartholomew and 54 men rowed about another 20 miles west of the River Veragua, met a friendly reception from one cacique, then met another cacique, sent samples of gold disks they had bartered for back to the ships, and went on foot to another couple of villages where they collected a large number of such disks (which the Indians wore around their necks).

On their return, work began on the outpost, named Santa Maria de Belén. *Gallega* was to remain there, and contained the supplies from Spain. But the rain stopped when about a dozen structures had been built, the water level over the bar dropped to only two feet, and the ships were temporarily trapped in the estuary. Further, seeing that the Spaniards intended a permanent settlement, the Indians changed their hospitable attitude. Morison quotes Columbus: "They were very

simple and our people very importunate',” and suggests that some of the Spaniards probably had been clandestinely extorting gold from neighboring Indians by force, as in fact had taken place several months earlier when the ships had sheltered for about a week and a half from the adverse weather to the east in a small harbor Columbus had named Retrete (“closet”).<sup>4</sup>

Decked out as for combat, some Indians appeared in the area, pretending they were joining a war party against Indians more to the west. Rightly suspicious, one of Columbus most faithful lieutenants, Diego Mendéz, (of whom more shortly) rowed toward Veragua and found an encampment of a thousand warriors. Columbus still wanted more confirmation of a threat to the settlement and so Mendéz (who had apparently been studying the language) with a single companion walked to the mouth of the Veragua and there encountered a couple of Indians and learned from them that an attack was planned for a couple of days later. The encampment had been moved to the Quibian’s village upriver, and Mendéz induced the pair to take him there. He gained access to the area of the cacique’s hut on the pretext that he had come to treat an arrow wound the cacique had sustained. Ignoring rude treatment and knowing of the Indians’ attraction to novelty, he there produced a barber’s kit (scissors, comb, and mirror) and in front of the Indians coolly received a haircut from his companion. Bemused, the Quibián then willingly had a trim, received the kit as a gift, and hosted a friendly meal.

But Mendéz returned to Columbus convinced that the Indians planned to wipe out the Spaniards. Columbus was convinced by him that the only solution was to capture the cacique. So with about 80 men, Bartholomew and Mendéz rowed up the River Veragua and hid most of the force in the vicinity of the Quibian's village. With three men the two leaders went up and demanded to meet with the Quibián, who came out to find Mendéz showing concern for his wound, grasping him by the arm. A shot fired by one of the Spaniards at this point signaled the ambush party to rush out and capture the cacique and about 30 of his household, women and children among them, along with some gold booty. But that night as they were descending the river, the Quibián managed to escape, and rallied the Indians against the Spaniards.

Meanwhile, rain having raised the water level over the bar, three of the ships were towed out of the estuary, the intention being that *Gallega* would remain behind for Bartholomew, Mendéz, and the 70 men who were to stay at the settlement with them. On April 6, as they were saying their goodbyes, 400 Indians attacked the settlement with spears, slingshots, and bows and arrows, killing one Spaniard and

wounding several, including Bartholomew, before being driven off after a three-hour battle, with the aid of the Spaniards' Irish wolfhound, much feared by the Indians.

Offshore the *Capitana's* captain with a boat party had put into the mouth of the Belén to go upriver and load up fresh water before leaving. They watched the battle and then continued on their mission, the captain confident they could take care of themselves when warned that the Indians might get them. A mile or so upstream they were ambushed from foliage-covered banks, the captain being killed by a spear through his eye and only one man escaping alive by swimming away underwater.

The boat, too, was destroyed, and there was only one left. and it was outside of the estuary with the three ships, Much as they might otherwise have decided to abandon the settlement at this point, they couldn't get *Gallega* over the bar and Columbus could not risk sending his one remaining boat due to the shallowness of the water there, and of course there was still danger from the Indians.

*It was during this fight that Columbus, sick and alone on Capitana, had a strange experience that may have been due to illness-induced delirium but which in his own view may have had a less mundane explanation. (See description following this article)*

After three days the Indians withdrew, but for another five days no boat could cross the bar. In the meantime, some of the captured Indians escaped from *Santiago*, where they had been imprisoned, and those who could not managed to hang themselves in the hold.

One man volunteered to swim in to learn the status of the settlement. He found the men at odds among themselves, vulnerable to another attack, and eager to abandon the outpost. When the Admiral approved, Mendéz made a raft of two dugouts and timbers and in seven trips over two days was able to carry all of the men and their supplies and gear over the bar, leaving behind the worm-eaten *Gallega*. The grateful Admiral appointed Mendéz to succeed the captain of *Capitana* who had been lost in the fresh water expedition.

## **Exodus**

On Easter night, April 16, 1503 the three ships left Veragua. Columbus planned to head for Santo Domingo for repairs and then sail for Spain. While his pilots all thought Hispaniola was north of them, his calculations correctly indicated it to be northeast, from which came the prevailing wind. Ships at that time could not sail against the wind (that is, tack, or beat) closer than 56 degrees<sup>5</sup>, so the Admiral decided to sail eastward before heading in a more northerly direction, which would give

his three worm-eaten ships a better chance of making Hispaniola. But the decision was opposed by the pilots and caused much grumbling out of suspicion that he was planning to sail directly back to Spain with inadequate vessels and stores.

Within a week, on April 23 he had to abandon another vessel, *Vizcaína*, at Porto Bello, east of where he had anchored over New Year's. Eight days later, on May 1, when 125 miles beyond Porto Bello the coast started dropping away to the south and points unknown, he gave in to the pilots and headed northward against his better judgment. The pilots mistakenly thought the ships were about 900 miles east of where they really were, which was due south of Jamaica, as Columbus realized.

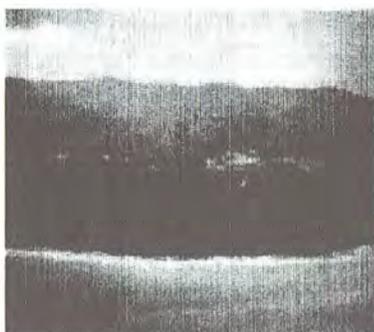
Leaving the Central and South American mainland for the last time they thus they moved from the second to the third phase of this fourth expedition. With his ships leaking due to the worm damage and requiring constant pumping, they sailed 700 miles north (and were also blown 90 miles west by the continuing wind), passing the Cayman Islands on May 10 and reaching Cuba two days later--making landfall in a large group of islands off the southern coast that, almost exactly nine years before on his second voyage, Columbus had named The Queen's Garden. They lie just west of the point (Cabo de Cruz) Columbus used as the point of departure and return for his week-and-a-half excursion of discovery to Jamaica that earlier year.

Exhausted from constantly manning the pumps and hungry from the shortage of food, they anchored and then had to ride out a great storm that night which smashed one ship against the other, with considerable damage to both. Bad weather continued for about six days, and then in desperate straits they headed eastward along the Cuban coast. The situation on the vessels was getting worse daily. "Of all melancholy work on shipboard, pumping a hopelessly leaky vessel is the worst; the labor is back-breaking, there is no respite, and you know it can never improve,"<sup>6</sup> observes Morison.

## **Jamaica**

Finally the situation on *Santiago* got so bad that Columbus realized that in the condition they were in his ships could never make it directly to Hispaniola (the nearest port of which was about 200 miles East Southeast) against wind and current. It was almost a month after they had reached Cuba. He was now sufficiently far east to head downwind to Jamaica, aiming to hit that island as far eastward as he could, as a possible jumping-off point for Hispaniola. He reached it on the night of June 22-23, and on the 25th was able to take advantage of a land

breeze to go about a dozen miles east to the reef-enclosed harbor that nine years earlier he had named Puerto Santa Gloria. (Years later it would become St. Ann's Bay.)



Santa Gloria, where the ships were beached, from the air.

According to Columbus's 14-year-old son and shipmate, Ferdinand (who left us the most complete account available of the fourth expedition), the ships could no longer be kept afloat, so were here run as far onto the beach as possible, butted against each other, and

shored up on the sides so that they wouldn't budge. With his previous experience of hostility from the Indians here, Columbus had thatched-roof cabins built at the bow and stern of each boat so the men could live there in safety:

"The two caravels thus planted 'board on board' as Ferdinand says, made a dry home, and no mean fortress. There were two good streams of fresh water near by, and a large Indian village, Maima, lay about half a mile away, convenient as a source of supply. No more suitable place for the purpose could be found on the north shore of Jamaica," wrote Morison, after visiting the site in January, 1940.<sup>7</sup>

The main security problem was that the Indians might try to set the ships afire at night, but the most immediate problem was 116 hungry mouths, since stores were depleted or spoiled. They had already lost 24 of the original complement of 140: 6 prior to Veragua from death or desertions, 12 felled by the Indians at Belén, and another 6 claimed by death since then. Knowing the unruliness of his men and fearing it would raise the hostility of the Indians, as had happened at Retrete and then apparently again at Belén, Columbus restricted them to the two ships as though anchored offshore, and sent Mendéz and three others off to negotiate for food.

The redoubtable Mendéz was eminently successful, making arrangements for food in exchange for trading items (which the Spaniards still had) with a couple of villages and then with a great cacique. At the eastern of the island he even entered into a close friendship with another cacique, from whom he bought a dugout canoe, in which, with six Indian paddlers, he returned triumphantly to Santa Gloria loaded with provisions. Noting that those on the beached ships were then completely out of food and starving. Morison wonderingly comments, "I cannot understand why they were unable to catch fish, or to buy maize and cassava from the nearby village of Maima. However,

Indians from near and far now came daily with food supplies, and for several months the question 'when do we eat?' did not arise."<sup>8</sup>

But how to get home? Captains of that time, unlike later ones, didn't carry the tools needed for felling trees and shipbuilding, and the expedition's two caulkers had fallen at Belén. The sole remaining boat had been lost in the storm in the Queen's Garden, no ship had visited Jamaica in the last nine years, and none could be expected. Columbus would have to send a dugout to Hispaniola to seek help--105 miles across open water from the east end of Jamaica to that island in the face of contrary winds and current, and then another 350 miles to Santo Domingo. When it was put to all of the officers, Diego Mendéz was the only one to volunteer. Columbus knew matters couldn't wait, for the Indians might at any time turn against him, or he might lose control over his men in this unhappy situation. They do not seem to have been the most reliable lot.

Mendéz added a mast and sail and other modifications to the canoe he had bought, selected another man and six Indian paddlers, and set out around July 7, carrying a letter of that date from Columbus to the sovereigns, known today as the *Lettera Rarissima*. Near what he believed to be the eastern end of the island, when he walked alone into a forest he found himself suddenly surrounded by a party of Indians. While they were gambling to see who would kill him, he was able to escape, return to the canoe, and head back to Santa Gloria.

At Columbus's request, Mendéz agreed to try again, if accompanied by an armed escort to the jumping-off point on the east end of the island. This time there would also be a second canoe, commanded by the Genoese former captain of the abandoned *Vizcaína*, Bartholomew Fieschi. Each would take six Spaniards and ten Indians, and the two canoes would be accompanied to land's end by Bartholomew and a sizable force in a number of dugouts. All this seems to have been arranged with considerable and surprising dispatch, for they set out only about ten days after Mendéz had set out on the ill-fated first attempt.

If both got through, Fieschi was to return to let Columbus know help would be on its way, while Mendéz was to continue on to Santo Domingo and contract for a rescue vessel. But Columbus and his men marooned at Santa Gloria heard nothing. Weeks passed, and then months, and no Fieschi. There was considerable discontent, particularly with the enforced restriction on "liberty" or "shore leave" from the beached ships, and two political appointees, the Porrás brothers, hatched rebellion.

Francisco Porrás, though captain of the *Santiago*, knew little of seamanship, and Bartholomew Columbus filled that role on a *de facto*

basis, while Diego Porras, comptroller and crown representative, was an idler whose only work on the voyage had been to keep track of the relatively little gold brought aboard. Taking advantage of the growing discontent, they convinced about half of the men to join in their plot.

The date set for action was January 2, 1504, when, as it happened, the Admiral was laid low with arthritis.

Thus ended the dismal, disappointing year 1503. The new year, 1504 was to come. And so, obviously, were more trials for Columbus.

## Epilogue

We leave the final word on Veragua to Morison and Obregón<sup>9</sup>:

In subsequent years Felipe Gutierrez and other conquistadors attempted in vain to subdue the natives of Veragua from the Pacific side. The crown in 1537 granted Veragua, between the Rio Belén and Puerto Limón, to Don Luis Colón, the Admiral's worthless grandson, together with the title Duque de Veragua. In 1546, when Don Luis sent an expedition under Cristóbal de Peña to secure his duchy, the Quibián's successor repelled it with heavy loss, and among those killed was Francisco Colón, another grandson of the Discoverer. Eleven years later, Don Luis leased his duchy to Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, who succeeded in establishing a settlement called Trinidad up the Rio Belén, and another, La Concepción, at the mouth of one of the many rivers between the Veragua and the Chiriquí. Vasquez brought a coffle [a train of men chained together] of slaves to extract the gold, and employed enough force to keep the natives at bay; but after his death in 1560 both settlements were abandoned. Every later attempt to exploit the gold deposits has failed; surviving Veragua Indians have retired to the high mountains, and only miserable villages of Negroes at the river mouths mark the scenes of these high hopes and tragic events.

--Edward M. Sullivan

*The photographs were originally published in Samuel Eliot Morison and Mauricio Obregón, The Caribbean as Columbus Saw It, Little Brown and Company, Boston, 1964. Morison and Obregón took an aerial photographic tour of the sites visited by Columbus on his four expeditions.*

## NOTES

1. Samuel Eliot Morison, *Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, vol. 2 (New York: Time, 1962), p. 439.

2. *Ibid.*

3. Gianni Granzotto, *Christopher Columbus* (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987), p. 258.

4. Morison, vol. 2, p. 611

5. Morison, vol. 1, p. 126

6. Morison, v ol. 2, p. 622.

7. Morison, vol. 2, p. 624.

8. Morison, vol. 2, p. 627

9. Morison and Obregon, pp 204-205

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## Columbus' Faith—And What Else?

(From our 2002 program book.)

Was it a mystical experience, an hallucination, or a dream? It was described in a lengthy, rambling, and not completely coherent letter to the sovereigns (today called the *Lettera Rarissima*) which Diego Mendez carried when he was sent by the marooned Columbus from Jamaica to Hispaniola for help. It is possible, of course, that the Admiral was trying to impress their majesties, but however the experience might be classified, its content as described by him is consistent with that muscular faith which Columbus was ever ready to express and which was the mainspring and motivation of his life, and echoed similar experiences he had recorded for February 14, 1493 returning on his first voyage, and Christmas Day, 1499 on Hispaniola.

The scene: April 6, 1503. Three ships without their stores were light enough to cross the bar at the mouth of the Belén River. The fourth, with Bartholomew and most of the men, was still inside the bar. Columbus, ailing, was left completely alone on his flagship as small boats went back to get water and stores, during which they had to beat off an Indian attack. The sea turned bad and prevented their return. With a high fever and despairing at his inability to take practical action alone on his storm-tossed ship, or to escape, he struggled up the mast to the crow's-nest and in great fear cried for help to the other captains—to no effect. He says he then lost consciousness. Then:

*I heard a voice in pious accents saying, 'Oh, foolish man and slow to serve your God, the God of all! What more did he accomplish for Moses or for his servant David? From the hour of your birth He has always had a special care of you. And when He saw that you were of an age that it pleased Him, He made your name resound in all the earth. The Indies, that are so rich a portion of the world, He gave you for your own. You bestowed them where you pleased, and He empowered you to do so. Of the bonds of the Ocean Sea, which had been bound with such mighty chains, He gave the keys to you. And you were lord over many lands, and your honour was great among Christian men. What more did He do for His people Israel, when He delivered them out of Egypt? Or for David, when from a shepherd He made him a king in Judaea? Turn to Him and confess your fault. His mercy is everlasting.*

*'Old age will not make all great deeds impossible for you. Manifold and great is the inheritance in His gift. Abraham surpassed a hundred years when he begot Isaac. Nor was Sarah a young woman. You are calling on God to help you: consider, in your ignorance, who has afflicted you so often and so sorely—God or the world? The privileges and promises that God grants, He does not break.*

*'Nor does He say, after service has been done Him, that such was not His meaning and that His words should be otherwise understood. Nor does He bestow a martyr's lot as a means of cloaking compulsion. He abides by the literal sense of His words. Whatever He promises He bestows with increase. That is His way. As I have told you, so has your creator dealt with you, and thus He deals with all men. And now', the voice told me, 'show Him the resolution you have shown in all your endeavours and angers in the service of others.' And, half-dead as I was, I heard all this, but I knew no way to respond to those words of truth, save to weep for my sins. Whoever it was Who spoke, closed with the words, 'Be not afraid, but of good courage. All your afflictions are engraved in letters of marble and there is a purpose behind them all'.*

(Felipe Fernández-Armesto, *Columbus*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1991, pp. 167-68. Another translation is in Samuel Eliot Morison, tr. and ed., *Journals and Other Documents on the Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus*, The Heritage Press, New York, 1963.)

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# NIAF

*The National Society of the  
Daughters of the American Revolution*  
and  
*The National Italian American Foundation*  
are pleased to announce  
co-sponsorship in an  
Essay Contest featuring Christopher Columbus

Contest is open to students  
of all ethnic and racial groups in Grades 9 and 12.

#### TOPIC

2003-2004 topic is "A Day in the Life of  
Christopher Columbus the Explorer"

#### PRIZE

The prize for the national winner is \$1,200, paid transportation to Washington, D.C. and housing for winner and one parent, all financed by the National Italian American Foundation. The national winner *must* read the prize-winning essay at the Columbus Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Columbus Day (October 11, 2004), during ceremonies conducted by the National Columbus Celebration Association.

The prize for the second place national winner is \$500, and the third place national winner will receive \$300.

#### FORM

Essay is to be typewritten with no more than 750 words. Essay must have a title page which includes student's full name, address, phone number, school, grade level, name of sponsoring DAR chapter and number of words in essay. ***Do not submit a photograph with entry.***

#### NSDAR ADMINISTRATION OF CONTEST

This contest will be administered by the NSDAR.

For further information about this contest contact

Shirley M. Gilkeson, National Vice Chairman

Christopher Columbus Essay Contest, American History Committee, NSDAR

1921 Oakridge Drive, Charleston, WV 25311 • Phone (304) 342-3087

or

Office of the Historian General, NSDAR

1776 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20006-5303 • Phone (202) 879-3256

**“How did the voyages of Christopher Columbus express the general political, social and scientific outlook of the fifteenth century?”**

*By Ami Patel*

*Stoughton High School, Grade 11, Stoughton MA*

*Sponsored by Brockton Chapter, NSDAR*

In the twilight of the Renaissance, during a time when Europe was swathed by the dusky robe of knowledge and bathed by the steadfast light of ambition, was birthed a permanent interaction between a New World and an Old World that would forever impact Western civilization. The precedent being referred to is of course, the fateful 1492 voyage of Christopher Columbus and his subsequent contributions to the Americas. The journey represented more than the trifling pursuits of one man to turn a profit or substantiate his claims of a spherical Earth. Indeed his travels truly symbolize the growing priorities of a progressive Europe, a Europe emerging from the shadows of the Middle Ages. Simply the funding of Columbus's brazen expedition seemed to distinguish the continent which centuries before had consisted of scattered fiefdoms from a continent revitalized and awakened by the scientific illuminations of the Renaissance. This new Europe was defined by a number of distinct nation-states typified by varying cultural identities, potential nations which contained peoples of particular political loyalties and social customs. These loyalties, among other political, social and scientific outlooks of the fifteenth century were reflected in the voyages of Columbus.

Columbus himself was a man molded by the persevering ideals of the Renaissance period. Improvements in technology, especially navigation, were vital to the success of his journeys. Columbus lived in an era of philosophical thought, scientific experimentation and technological innovation. Inventions such as the sailing compass, gunpowder and the printing press provided the means for the efficient spread of information and the sustenance of young countries like France, England, Spain and Portugal. People thrived on the works of Copernicus, Vesalius and Galileo. The writings of Ptolemy, a 2nd century geographer, mathematician and astronomer may have influenced Columbus in his endorsement of a western route to India. In fact it can be said that Columbus's explorations were fueled by the scientific beliefs concerning the shape of the Earth, involving heliocentric theory, and formed by the most prominent Renaissance thinkers of Columbus's time. The seaworthiness of Columbus's three ships showcased the advances which had been made in shipbuilding during this period. Of particular interest to a skilled navigator such as Columbus would have been the great improvements in mapmaking which occurred during 15th century. In total, Columbus's voyages reflect the achievements of the intellectual

inquiry which characterized the Renaissance.

Columbus's voyages also represented the pursuits of a developing middle class in Europe. This middle class consisted largely of merchants, artisans and traders, a class to which Columbus belonged. The proletariat had emerged after the Crusades, when crusaders were first introduced to the wonderful Asian market of spices, silken cloths, and jewelry. A merchant class arose from this European desire for such luxuries. Columbus's famous voyage was motivated by such commercialism. He had encouraged and pursued the idea of a western trade route that would facilitate more efficient interactions between Asian lands and Europe.

Often, such ventures were supported directly by the monarchs of nation-states. Columbus's expeditions were financed by the country of Spain, newly united through the marriage of Isabella of Castile and Ferdinand of Aragon, the queen and king. In 1492, the regents had succeeded in driving the Moors out of their last stronghold in Spain, Granada. This transfer of power from the Moors to the Roman Catholics was the goal of the Reconquest, an agenda which sought to purge Spain of Islamic heritage. Columbus's voyage represents the ambitions of these newly-formed nations, which were displayed by an increased competition for trade among neighboring kingdoms. His search for a Western sea route to India exemplifies the economic and rationalistic motives of these political entities, who wished to claim a stake of the blooming spice empire of Indochina. Columbus, riding on the heels of the Reconquest, also displayed a certain duty to the Catholic Church and the spread of Christianity. These were ideals encouraged by the developing nations of his day, and explorers asserted these views in the lands they conquered, which included present-day Cuba and Hispaniola for Columbus.

The travels of Columbus cannot be localized to the outlooks of Spain alone, they embody the views of all Europe during the 15th century. The 15th century was an age of discovery and rebirth. Scientific, political and social revolutions swept through the European continent, stimulating the search for knowledge, instigating economic and religious contention between countries and contributing to a stratified society in which resided a noticeable middle class. The adventurous voyages of Columbus depict an improved, headstrong and enterprising young Europe.

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christopher%20Columbus



National Society  
Daughters of the American Revolution  
1776 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20006-5303

The DAR is a women's volunteer service organization made up of approximately 166,800 members with nearly 2,900 chapters located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Australia, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, and the United Kingdom.

On October 11, 1890, 18 women met officially to organize the NSDAR for historic, educational and patriotic purposes and it is now in its second century of service to the nation. Over 820,000 have been admitted to membership since 1890.

The National Headquarters of the NSDAR is located in Washington, D.C. between 17th and 18th and C and D Streets, N.W. It covers an entire city block across from the Ellipse and is two blocks from the White House. Two of the three buildings of this complex have been designated Registered National Historic Landmarks. Memorial Continental Hall, the original building erected by the DAR, was dedicated in 1905, and now houses the DAR Genealogical Library, one of the finest in the country, the DAR Museum Gallery and 33 period rooms representing particular historic periods. Constitution Hall, the only known building dedicated to the Constitution of the United States, was designed by John Russell Pope and constructed in 1928-1929. The Hall was primarily built to hold the DAR's annual meeting, but from the beginning has been used for concerts, lectures and other performing arts events.

The Library and Museum are open to the public Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



From its inception, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution has recognized a special bond with Christopher Columbus and Queen Isabella, Queen of Castile at the time Columbus's expedition sailed in 1492. During the formative period of the DAR, the summer and fall of 1890, the consistent intent was to organize the National Society formally on October 11, in order to recognize the anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus and to pay homage to Queen Isabella who provided financial assistance to his expedition. Within a couple of years of its founding, the DAR decided to take active part in the World's Colombian Exposition which was held in Chicago in 1893 in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of America.

The fascination of the DAR with Christopher Columbus has continued to be active throughout the 113 years since the National Society's founding in 1890. Over fifteen articles featuring Columbus have appeared in the *DAR Magazine* and the renowned explorer has been featured on the cover of the magazine. At the time of the Columbus quincentennial celebration in 1992, the DAR formed a special committee, the Columbus Quincentennial Committee, which encouraged special state celebrations and projects to mark the occasion—all in an effort to publicize Christopher Columbus in the community. The committee produced a slide program "Discover Columbus, Discover America," 100 copies of which were sent out across the nation. Over 3,000 DAR members purchased a special DAR Columbus Quincentennial pin. Through fund raising efforts, the DAR raised over \$4,000 that was contributed to the Columbus Chapel in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, for historic preservation. At the DAR headquarters in Washington, D.C., a small exhibit entitled "A Century Old Bond, 1890-1992: The Daughters Honor Christopher Columbus" was mounted. Four years after the 500th anniversary of Columbus's arrival in the Western Hemisphere, the DAR, once again, displayed its keen interest in honoring Columbus. In 1996, the DAR joined with the National Italian American Foundation in sponsoring an annual national essay contest focusing on Christopher Columbus. The DAR administers this contest, which is now open to students in grades 9 through 12. During the contest's first year over 1,700 students participated. This contest has enjoyed increasing popularity and annually thousands more students have been writing essays for this special, Columbus-oriented contest.



## THE NATIONAL ITALIAN-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

A non-profit organization in Washington, D.C. that is preserving the heritage of an estimated 20 million Americans of Italian decent, the nation's fifth largest ethnic group.

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Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation  
is pleased to participate in the  
2003 Dedication of the Columbus Memorial

The Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation is an independent Federal government agency established by Congress in 1992 to encourage and promote new discoveries in the visionary spirit of Christopher Columbus.

The Foundation has developed *Frontiers of Discovery–Work in Progress and Discover the Future* programs that recognize “cutting edge” innovation, innovative ideas of America’s youth, and honor teachers.

The *Work in Progress* program awards the *\$50,000 Frank Annunzio Award* for “cutting edge” innovation in the field of Science and Technology. This year the Foundation instituted four new *Homeland Security Awards* for innovative ideas that will fortify America’s resolve to thwart terrorism at every level.

*Discover the Future* sponsors three programs. The *Christopher Columbus Awards* encourages middle school students to find and solve a community problem using science and technology. The *National Gallery for America’s Young Inventors* inducts six young inventors in grades K-12 into the National Gallery annually to preserve their innovations. The *Freida J. Riley Teacher Award* annually honors a teacher who works with a disability or teaches in an adverse working environment yet inspires students on a daily basis.

For more information on the Foundation’s programs please visit:  
[www.columbusfdn.org](http://www.columbusfdn.org) or call (315) 258-0090.

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## “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band

For over two centuries, “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band has been part of the events that have shaped our national heritage. On June 8, 1912, the Marine Band, with President William Howard Taft, participated in the unveiling of the Columbus Memorial Fountain, providing ceremonial music during the official ceremony. Like the monuments the Marine Band has helped dedicate, its continued presence in American life stands as a symbol of the traditions and ideals on which our country was founded.

Established by an act of Congress in 1798, the Marine Band is America’s oldest professional musical organization. Its primary mission is unique—to provide music for the President of the United States.

President John Adams invited the Marine Band to make its White House debut in the still-unfinished Executive Mansion on New Year’s Day, 1801. In March that year, the band performed for the inaugural of Thomas Jefferson and has performed for every Presidential inaugural since that time.

In Jefferson, the band found its most visionary advocate and friend. An accomplished musician himself, Jefferson recognized the unique relationship between the band and the Chief Executive by giving the Marine Band the title, “The President’s Own”.

Whether performing for South Lawn arrival ceremonies, State Dinners, or receptions, Marine Band musicians appear at the White House more than 200 times each year. Additionally, the band participates in more than 400 public and official performances annually, including concerts and ceremonies throughout the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Each fall, the band travels through a region of the United States during its concert tour, a century-old tradition started by the band’s legendary 17<sup>th</sup> Director, John Phillip Sousa.

As Director from 1880-1892, Sousa brought “The President’s Own” to unprecedented levels of excellence and shaped the band into a world-famous musical organization. During his tenure, the band was one of the first musical ensembles to make sound recordings. Sousa also began to write the marches that earned him the title “The March King.”

“The President’s Own continues to maintain Sousa’s standard of excellence. Marine Band musicians are selected at auditions much like those of major symphony orchestras. Auditionees perform behind a screen to ensure anonymity. The audition committee makes its selection based on musical graduates of our nation’s finest music schools, often holding advanced degrees in music. More than 90 percent serve with the Marine Band for 20 or more years.

As America’s oldest professional musical organization, the Marine Band’s omnipresent role in events of national importance has made it part of the fabric of American life. As President Ronald Reagan said, “Whether serenading Adams or Jefferson, accompanying Lincoln to Gettysburg, or performing here at the White House, the Marine Band has become a national institution and a national treasure.”

# CIVIC CEREMONY

Sponsored by  
NATIONAL COLUMBUS CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION  
in cooperation with the

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

**Monday - October 13, 2003**  
COLUMBUS PLAZA -- UNION STATION

**MUSIC PRELUDE .....10:45 a.m.**

**"The President's Own"**

**United States Marine Band**

Capt. Jason K. Fetting, conducting

**POSTING OF THE COLORS.....11:00 a.m.**

U.S. Armed Forces Honor Guard - Military District of Washington  
Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Color Corps - Calvert Province  
Districts of Washington Archdiocese, Maryland and Virginia

**PROCESSION OF WREATH PRESENTERS**

Led by the Columbus Expeditionary Banner

Mr. James K. Raywalt portraying Christopher Columbus

**NATIONAL ANTHEMS** United States of America

Italy

Spain

Commonwealth of The Bahamas

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Col. William M. Mulvihill,  
Vice Supreme Master 4th Deg. K of C

**INVOCATION:** RADM Dr. Louis V. Iasiello, Chief of Chaplains,  
U. S. Navy, U. S. Marine Corp, U. S. Coast Guard

**RETIRING OF THE COLORS:** U.S. Armed Forces Honor Guard

**WELCOME:** Dr. David R. Curfman, President, NCCA

Mr. Gentry Davis, Deputy Regional Director, National  
Capital Region, NPS

**REMARKS:** Ambassadors of Diplomatic Corps

Representative, Organization of American States

**READING OF PROCLAMATIONS**

From the President of the United States of America  
From the Mayor of the District of Columbia

**INTRODUCTION: NATIONAL YOUTH COLUMBUS ESSAY CONTEST WINNER**

**SPONSORED JOINTLY BY**

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Mrs. Linda Tinker Watkins, President General

The National Italian American Foundation

Mr. John B. Salamone, Executive Director

**Ami Patel**, Stoughton, Massachusetts

"How Did the Voyages of Christopher Columbus Express the General,  
Political, Social and Scientific Outlook of the Fifteenth Century?"





**MUSIC INTERLUDE: "Columbia's Pride" J. P. Sousa  
(1914)**

**PRESENTATION OF MEMORIAL WREATHS:**

- National Columbus Celebration Association
- National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior
  - Embassy of Italy
  - Embassy of Spain
- Embassy of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas
- Organization of American States
- Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation
- The National Italian American Foundation
- The Lido Civic Club Of Washington
- Supreme Council, Knights of Columbus
- District of Columbia State Council, K of C
- Maryland State Council, K of C
- Virginia State Council, K of C
- Washington Council No. 224, K of C
- Roma Lodge, Order Sons of Italy in America
- Catholic War Veterans
- Knights of Columbus Insurance Agency
- United States - Mexico Chamber of Commerce
- Hispanic Cultural Association of Maryland
- The Jamestown Society
- Society of Mayflower Descendants
  - in the District of Columbia
- National Society of the Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims,
  - District of Columbia Branch
- National Society of the Sons of the American Colonists
- National Society Children of the American Colonists
- Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America
- National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
  - District of Columbia D.A.R.
  - Maryland State Society D.A.R.
  - Virginia State Society D.A.R.
- District of Columbia Society Sons of the American
  - Revolution.
- National Society Children of the American Revolution
- The District of Columbia Society C.A.R.
- Boy and Girl Scouts of America and Campfire Youth
- Archdiocese of Washington

**CLOSING HYMN (AUDIENCE)**

**AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL**

O beautiful for spacious skies  
For Amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain.

(Refrain) America, America  
God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for patriot dream  
That sees beyond the years,  
Thine alabaster cities gleam  
Undimmed by human tears.

(Refrain)

**DISMISSAL**

**MUSIC POSTLUDE - "Stars and Stripes Forever"**

John Phillip Sousa

**"The President's Own"**

The United States Marine Band



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- ◆ **THE NATIONAL COLUMBUS CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION** expresses its sincere gratitude to the following for their timely efforts, both physical and financial, for the success of this celebration.
- ◆ *GUSTAV S. WEBER*, for production of the souvenir ceremony program book, and *JOHN C. MOORE* for obtaining advertisements.
- ◆ *THE LIDO CIVIC CLUB OF WASHINGTON* for their very generous contribution towards the success of the Columbus Day celebration.
- ◆ *EDWARD M. SULLIVAN, Ph.D.* for his extensive research and preparation of articles in the annual program books, and particularly for the Chronology.
- ◆ *WILLIAM M. MULVIHILL*, Vice Supreme Master, Calvert Province; *JAMES P. McCUSKER*, Master, Virginia District; and the Archdiocese of Washington District for providing the Fourth Degree Color Corps of the Knights of Columbus.
- ◆ *WILLIAM M. MURRAY* and *S/SGT NICHOLAS NELSON*, Division of Ceremonies, Military District of Washington for the U.S. Joint Military Service Honor Guard and planning arrangements for the United States Marine Band.
- ◆ *JONES LANE LASALLE*, Union Station Venture, Ltd., for their hospitality for the winner of the National Columbus Essay Contest.
- ◆ The National Park Service for preparing the site and for their support; *RICHARD E. MERRYMAN*, Chief of Park Programs, *RANGER ROBBIN M. OWEN*, *SEAN J. KENNEALY*, Chief of Maintenance, *FLOYD SMITH* and Officers of the U.S. Park Police.
- ◆ *USHER SERVICES* provided by *GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY* Council No. 6375, *CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA* Council No. 9542, and *GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY* Council No. 13242, Knights of Columbus.
- ◆ *MGySGT WILLIAM A. PERRY*, Operations Chief, for professional arrangements for the appearance of The United States Marine Band.
- ◆ *MGySGT D. MICHAEL RESSLER*, United States Marine Band, Chief Music Librarian, for his assistance in repertoire planning.
- ◆ The National Italian American Foundation, *MR. JOHN B. SALAMONE*, Executive Director, for their generous support of the National Christopher Columbus Essay Contest.
- ◆ National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, *MRS. LINDA TINKER WATKINS*, President General; *MRS. BEVERLY WOODRUFF JENSEN*, Historian General, and *MRS. SHIRLEY M GILKESON*, National Vice-Chairman, National Christopher Columbus Essay Contest, for their devoted leadership and management of the contest.
- ◆ *BETH COLEMAN-DEEHAN*, Director of Catering, and *ELAINE McSWEENEY*, Catering Sales Manager, Phoenix Park Hotel, for hotel arrangements for the contest winner and her family.
- ◆ *DONA De SANCTIS, Ph.D.*, Deputy Executive Director, Order Sons of Italy in America, for her public relations services.
- ◆ *TERRY J. ADAMS*, National Park Service, and *RAYMOND S. HONDA*, Knights of Columbus, for providing photographic services.
- ◆ *TOURMOBILE. CARLA BELL*, Assistant Sales Director, for their generosity in providing transportation for the winner of the Columbus Essay Contest and her family.

## BIOGRAPHIES

◆ *DR. DAVID R. CURFMAN*, a native of Ohio and a neurosurgeon in private practice in Washington, D.C. is serving his ninth year as president of the National Columbus Celebration Association. His devoted interest in Christopher Columbus goes back over several decades and in 1992 during the quincentenary of the great explorer's discovery was an invited guest accompanied by his wife for embarkation anniversary ceremonies in Spain and other commemoration events in Italy and later in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. Dr. Curfman has held numerous professional and civic leadership positions in both the metropolitan area and at the national level along with several citations and commendation medals from military and civic organizations. He is a biographee in WHO'S WHO in MEDICINE and HEALTH CARE, WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA, WHO'S WHO in the EAST, WHO'S WHO in SCIENCE and ENGINEERING, WHO'S WHO of EMERGING LEADERS IN AMERICA, WHO'S WHO in the WORLD, and WHO'S WHO (International) in MUSIC and MUSICIANS' DIRECTORY (Cambridge, England).

◆ *CAPTAIN JASON K. FETTING*, assistant director of "The President's Own" The United States Marine Band, is a native of Manchester, New Hampshire. Captain Fetting received two bachelor degrees from the University of Massachusetts Amherst; clarinet performance (1997) and music education with an emphasis in conduction (1998). He continued his post graduate studies in orchestra conducting with directors of the Springfield (MA), Cheyenne (WY) and Richmond (VA) symphonies. Prior to joining "The President's Own" in 1997 as a clarinetist Fetting was a musician and conductor of several distinguished music groups in New England. In 2000 he won first prize in the International Clarinet Association's Young Artist Competition. Captain Fetting is on demand as a guest conductor, soloist and clinician.

◆ *AMI PATEL*, the seventh annual winner on the national essay contest on a theme of Christopher Columbus from over 4,000 entries, was born in St. Louis, Missouri on November 17, 1985. She is the daughter of Kumar Patel, MD and Nella Patel, RN. She is currently a senior at Stoughton High School, Stoughton, Massachusetts where she has excelled in mathematics and science. Miss Patel serves as editor of her high school newspaper "The Knight" and is a member of the student council. In 2002 she was the winner of a New England intra-mural essay contest in her school and has major scholarships from both Rensselaer Polytec Institute and the University of Rochester, New York. Her writing abilities have won a national award and recognition in Indian dancing and its cultural effects in daily life. Miss Patel has set her life's goal to be a physician. Her brother, Ravi, has similar interests in a science career.

## NATIONAL COLUMBUS CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION

The most prominent commemorative figure of Christopher Columbus in the nation's capital, the only U.S. jurisdiction named for Columbus, stands in a marble fountain setting in a plaza in front of one of the great landmark buildings in the city-- Union Station-- opposite the U.S. Capitol. Dedicated in 1912 before a crowd of nearly 20,000 individuals including President Taft and cabinet members, Supreme Court justices, members of the U.S. Congress, thousands of Knights of Columbus, and others, it has been a focal point for annual celebrations to honor the great navigator and discoverer. Over the decades the celebrations were held by various organizations. In 1934 Congress authorized and requested the President to issue an annual Columbus Day proclamation, and in 1968 declared Columbus Day a public holiday, commencing in 1971.

After that time there was a gradual evolution of planning, which involved the Knights of Columbus, Italian-American organizations, U.S. military organizations, the diplomatic corps--especially Italy, Spain, and The Bahamas--and the National Park Service. In 1989 these efforts culminated in the organization of The Washington Columbus Celebration Association, which has been responsible since then for the yearly Columbus Day event. The Association is governed by a board of directors elected by its general membership, with officers chosen annually by the board.

The Association seeks to honor not only the memory of Columbus and his historic achievement in linking the Old World and the New, but also the higher values that motivated and sustained him in his efforts and trials. These virtues--his faith, the courage of his convictions, dedication to purpose, perseverance in effort, professional excellence, and boldness in facing the unknown--are as appropriate today as they were in his time. The Association invites individuals and organizations who identify with these purposes to join the membership.

Visit our web site at [www.columbuscelebration.org](http://www.columbuscelebration.org)

For a splendid view of Columbus monuments around the world, visit the website: <http://columbus.vanderkrogt.net>. (This is a changed address) Log on, you will enjoy.

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Statue of Christopher Columbus erected in the courtyard of Holy Rosary Church, Washington, DC.

The inscription on the statue reads as follows:

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This monument erected on the occasion of the 1992 Quincentennial Jubilee celebrating the discovery of America, pays tribute to Cristoforo Colombo and his seafaring companions.

Their bold voyage led to a historic encounter between the European world and the Americas. A turning point in Western Civilization, this event paved the way for the spreading of the Gospel and the establishment of a society anchored on the principles of Christian love and holiness.

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## Mementoes from the Dedication

An article in the July 2003 issue of *Numismatist* by David E. Schenkman featured mementoes from the ceremonies and celebration connected with the unveiling of our national Columbus Memorial and Fountain on June 8, 1912, and we have received the publisher's permission to reproduce text and pictures from that article. After briefly describing the genesis and design of the memorial and the unveiling and celebration (from materials from our Association), the author wrote:

The best-known numismatic memento of the original 1912 event is an elongated coin that undoubtedly was sold as a souvenir during the ceremonies. The monument is depicted in the center, with the inscription COLUMBUS MEMORIAL / JUNE 8 1912 / WASHINGTON, D.C. All examples I have seen were rolled on Lincoln cents. (See upper left corner of next page)

I own two other pieces relating to the event. One is a cream and purple celluloid pinback button depicting the monument with the date JUNE 8th 1912 below. Around the edge is COLUMBUS MEMORIAL / WASHINGTON, D.C. Attached are two ribbons: one is purple, with "K. of C." imprinted in gold; the other is red, white and blue stripes. (See upper right corner of next page).

The second piece is a brass, shield-shaped badge with the legend UNVEILING OF / COLUMBUS MEMORIAL / WASHINGTON, D.C. / JUNE 8, 1912. The monument is depicted in the center. The medal is suspended from a brass pinback bar bearing the word SOUVENIR. The reverse of the medal is blank except for the die-sinker's three-line signature in tiny letters: SCHWAAB S & S. CO. MILWAUKEE. (See middle of next page)

The pieces are rarely encountered--I have seen only these examples. Even so, they provide a numismatic link to a colorful event in American history

*(The author supplied contact information in the form of an e-mail address: [schenkman@money.org](mailto:schenkman@money.org))*

These pieces are illustrated here, along with a couple of other mementoes of the event from the collection of NCCA president Dr. David R. Curfinan: a framed lithographed metal souvenir showing the memorial and fountain (see lower right) which was reproduced on the title page of our 1997 program book. He also has a post card from the time of the unveiling (see lower left).



Not Actual Size

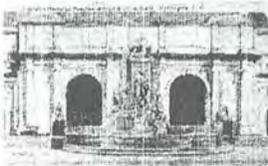
This is the elongated coin referred to on the previous page.



This is the memento referred to as the COLUMBUS MEMORIAL



This is the brass, shield-shaped badge referred to as the UNVEILING.



This is a reproduction of a souvenir post card issued by W. B. Garrison Co. after the dedication of the memorial.



This is the framed lithographed metal souvenir



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WITH PROFOUND  
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OUR HERITAGE  
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EXPLORER AND  
NAVIGATOR,  
CHRISTOPHER  
COLUMBUS GAVE  
TO THE WORLD  
IN HIS FOUR  
VOYAGES ON THIS  
FIVE HUNDRED  
ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY  
MARKING HIS  
FIRST LANDFALL.

\*

DR. and MRS.  
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## IN MEMORIAM



Louis Joseph Figliozi

On August 23, 2003 the Italian American community,  
the fraternal world,  
and devotees of Christopher Columbus  
lost a stalwart,  
Louis Joseph Figliozi.

A proud first-generation Italian American, he served as

President of the Roma Lodge, OSIA

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An active supporter of the

National Italian American Foundation,

and a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus.

He was a continuing advocate for Christopher Columbus and the establishment of Columbus Day as a federal holiday.

He headed the annual celebration for Columbus for many years, and, although battling ill health, served as Vice Chairman of the National Columbus Celebration Association at its establishment in 1989 and in its formative years.

Louis Figliozi, with his many involvements, friendliness, perseverance and diligence, is fondly remembered and missed by those who knew him.

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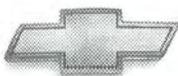
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<i>Corresponding Secretary.....</i>	<i>Kathy V. Harris</i>
<i>Trustee 1 year.....</i>	<i>Louwina Miles</i>
<i>2 year.....</i>	<i>Mary Maynard</i>
<i>3 year.....</i>	<i>Frances A. Cooper</i>

## **Prince of the Church Assembly**

### **Knights of Columbus, District of Columbia**

*Home Assembly of Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, PSD-DC, PGK*

**Faithful Frair SK Rev. Father Edward Walsh**

**Faithful Associate Frair SK Rev. Father John McMahon, OP**

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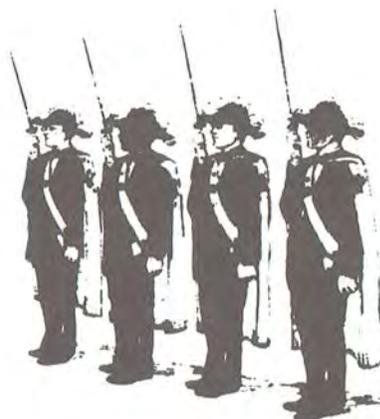
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TO THE N. C. C. A.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
91<sup>st</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF

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Faithful Navigator	John Purnell
Faithful Captain	Joseph Jackson
Faithful Pilot	Venantius Onunaku, GK
Faithful Admiral	Frank R. Shaw, IPSD
Faithful Scribe	Ernest T. Boykin, Jr.
Faithful Comptroller	James M. Toliver, PSD
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The Association seeks to honor not only the memory of Columbus and his historic achievements in linking the Old World and the New, but also the higher values that motivated and sustained him in his efforts and his trials. Those virtues - faith in God, the courage of his convictions, dedication to purpose, perseverance in effort, professional excellence, and boldness in facing the unknown — are as needed today and in the future.

The Association invites individuals and organizations who identify with our purposes to join with us by filling out the application below and sending it to the address given. Membership includes a gold plated membership pin, a personal colorful certificate with beribboned seal, suitable for framing, an invitation to the annual meeting with the right to vote, minutes, newsletters, and your name listed in the program published for the annual celebration. National Patrons will be listed in the annual program book and will be sent a copy of the program book upon request. Visit our web site at "www.columbuscelebration.org" for additional information or call John Moore 301-572-5181 or J.P.McCusker 703-361-6778

Annual membership dues are (please check appropriate box)

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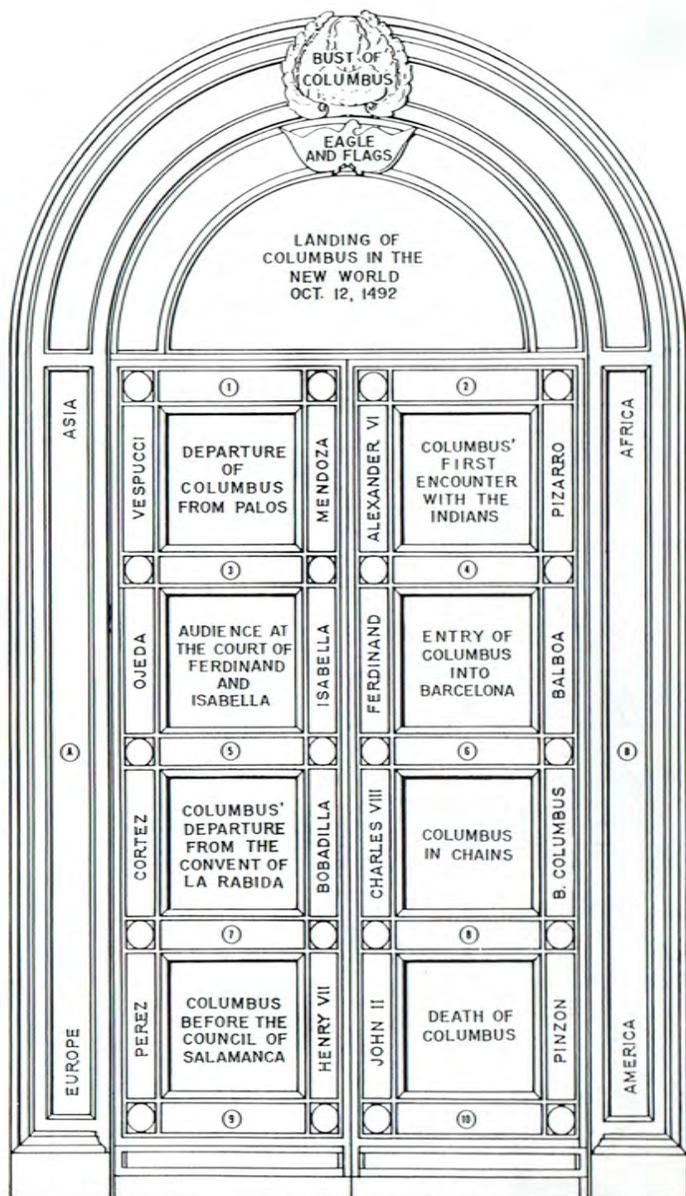


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