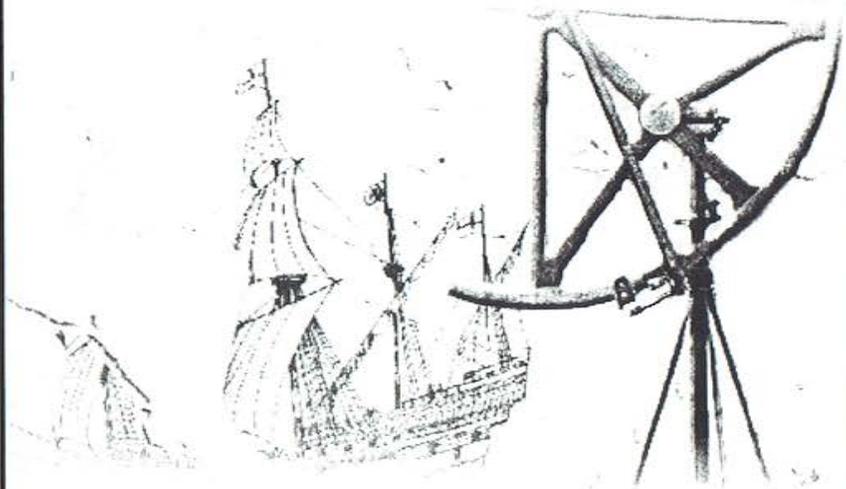


# Columbus Day



2005

May the vision and courage  
of Christopher Columbus  
inspire us all



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THE NATION'S CAPITAL  
CELEBRATES 513 YEARS  
OF DISCOVERY



HONORING THE GREAT  
DISCOVERER  
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

MONDAY OCTOBER 10, 2005

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

SPONSORED BY THE  
WASHINGTON COLUMBUS CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION  
IN COORDINATION WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## CELEBRATING CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

### The Site

In the years following the great quadricentennial (400<sup>th</sup> 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

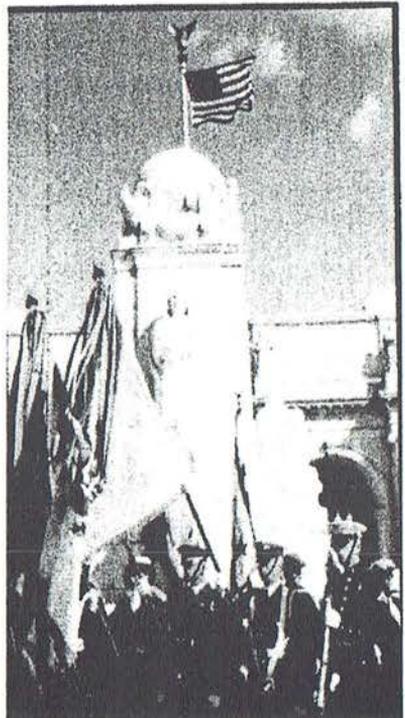


fountain sixty-six feet broad and forty-four feet deep and in the center, a pylon crowned with a globe supported by four eagles connected by garland. A fifteen foot statue of Columbus, facing the U. S. Capitol and wrapped in a medieval mantle, stands in front of the pylon in the bow of a ship with its 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.

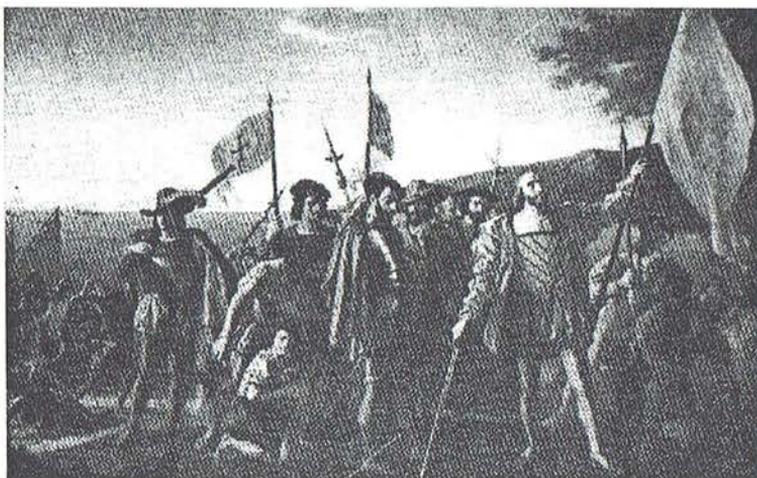
Daniel Burnham, who designed Union Station, was the major architect of the 1892-1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Burnham's architecture was so well received in Chicago that it launched the "City Beautiful" movement, to transform major cities, especially our nation's capital into a series 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**

Throughout the years 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 and the Bahamas, 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 and 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 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.

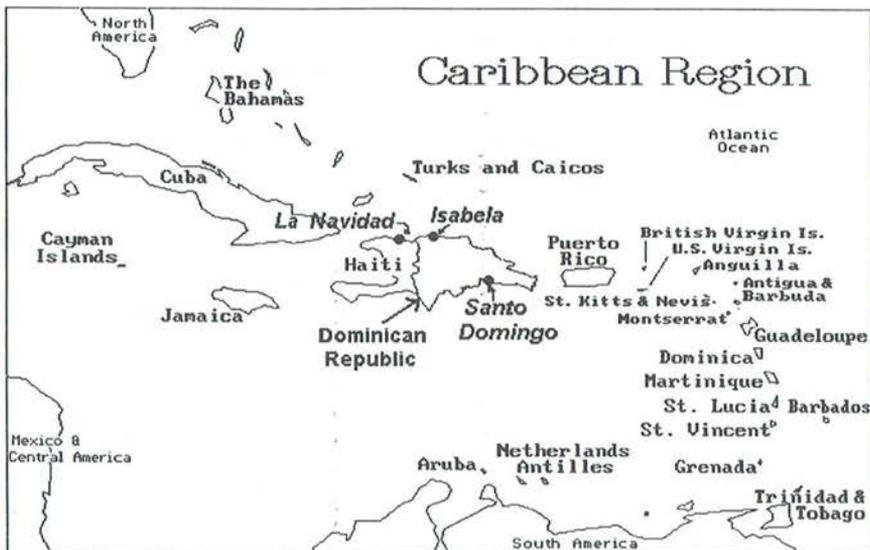
**1493 - November 2:** Columbus's second expedition arrives in the Indies on a Sunday, and he names the landfall island Dominica.

**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

### 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 Center, 1992], pp. 72-74.

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 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.

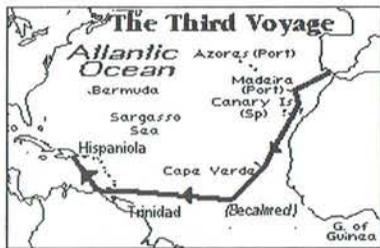
**1497:** *Cabots, father and son, reach the east coast of North America.*

### 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 Roldan, resulting in an agreement on **November 16** on terms favorable to Roldan 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 Roldan 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.*

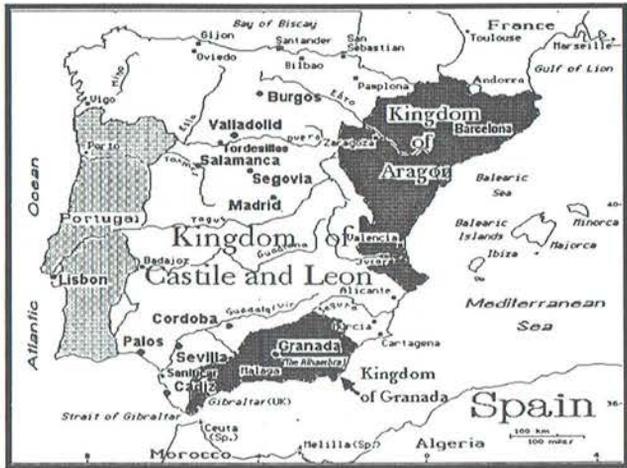
**1500 -** Another rebellion, by Adrián de Moxica, one of Roldan's lieutenants, is put down by Columbus with Roldan's help. To reinforce authority, Columbus has moved to a "get tough" policy, with executions of key rebels.

**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.



"Columbus in Chains"



**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.

**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. here 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 cows 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.

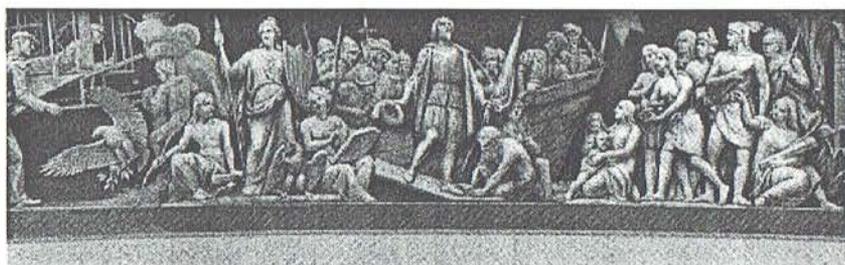
**1506 - May 20:** Christopher Columbus dies at Valladolid and is buried at the Franciscan Monastery there.

*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.



## Cover Story

### Constantino Brumidi: Life and Work

*Our cover celebrates the anniversary of the birth of an artist who played a major role in the decoration of the Capitol, including several Columbus-related works of art. It reproduces a section of the frescoed frieze in the Rotunda, 8 feet 3 inches high, and 58 feet above the floor, showing the landing of Columbus, the first of 19 historical events or themes depicted in the frieze, which is 300 feet in circumference. (The three-figure group immediately to Columbus's right—the reader's left—represents "America in History," the beginning of the frieze, and next to them is part of "Aviation in the United States," the end of the frieze.) The frieze was designed by Brumidi, who executed about a third of it, including the section shown, before his death, the rest being executed by another artist following his designs. The following article was provided by Barbara Wolanin, of the Office of the Curator, Architect of the Capitol.*

On July 26, 2005, the United States Congress celebrated the bicentennial of Constantino Brumidi's birth with a ceremony in the Rotunda along with special exhibits and programs.

Constantino Brumidi (1805–1880) is primarily known for the murals he painted in the United States Capitol over a twenty-five-year period. His artistic vision was based on the wall paintings of ancient Rome and Pompeii and on the classical revivals that occurred in the Renaissance, particularly those of Raphael, and in the Baroque Period. He was born in Rome to Stauros Brumidi from Greece and Anna Bianchini Brumidi of Rome.

Beginning at age 13, Brumidi studied for 14 years at the Accademia di San Luca under sculptors Bertel Thorwaldsen and Antonio Canova and painters Vincenzo Camuccini and Filippo Agricola. He was trained in the full range of painting mediums, including true fresco, and gained a mastery of the human figure and of creating the appearance of three-dimensional forms. In Rome he painted murals for Prince Alessandro Torlonia. He began working in the prince's no-longer-extant palace on the Piazza Venezia in 1836. From 1842 to 1844 he created paintings for the gothic-style family chapel in the palace. At the Villa Torlonia, Brumidi is thought to have been in charge of decorating the new theater, where there are murals that he signed and dated in 1844 and 1845. The walls of the theater's numerous rooms are covered with trompe l'oeil architectural forms and classical motifs that he later adapted for the Capitol.

Brumidi also worked extensively for the Catholic church. From 1840 to 1842, for Pope Gregory XVI, he restored one bay of the third Loggia in the Vatican Palace. He painted a portrait of Pope Pius IX, worked in the papal residence, and was commissioned to create portraits of fifteen popes as models

for mosaics at Saint Paul's Outside the Walls. His last commission in Rome was for the murals in the tiny church of the Madonna dell'Archetto, which was dedicated in 1851.

Brumidi helped support his family by running the coffee shop inherited from his father. He also served as captain in the civic guard that Pius IX had authorized in 1847. However, the Romans soon became caught up in the revolutionary spirit pervading Europe. The pope fled the city, and a republic was declared in 1849. During the turmoil, when monasteries were being occupied by soldiers, Brumidi moved art and furniture for safekeeping. After the pope was restored to power, Brumidi was among many arrested and accused of serious crimes. Despite numerous testimonies in his favor, and after 13 months of incarceration, he was sentenced to 18 years in prison. He was pardoned by the pope with the understanding that he would be leaving America, where he was already promised a church commission.

Arriving in New York in September 1852, Brumidi immediately applied for citizenship, which was granted in 1857. Although he undertook private portrait and domestic commissions in the New World, the majority of his work outside the Capitol was religious. He painted altarpieces for the Mexico City cathedral (1854) and for the new St. Stephen's Church in New York (1856); he returned to St. Stephen's to paint murals from 1868 through 1871. He also painted altarpieces for the Church of St. Ignatius in Baltimore (1856) and the Church of St. Aloysius in Washington, D.C. (1859); he created frescoes in the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia (1864) and worked in the cathedral in Havana, Cuba (1867).

Beginning in 1855, Brumidi worked at the Capitol under Captain Montgomery C. Meigs, who superintended construction and decoration of the Capitol extensions and dome designed by Thomas U. Walter. His sample fresco in room H-144, which was to be assigned to the House Agriculture Committee, was well received, and Brumidi was hired to complete the decoration of the room and to make designs for the most important of the other new rooms. He worked with teams of artists of various national origins to carry out his designs, executing all of the true frescoes himself. His murals throughout the building combine classical and allegorical subjects with portraits and scenes from American history and tributes to American values and inventions. Brumidi designed and executed murals for the Hall of the House of Representatives (now in H-117), the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs room (S-127), the Senate Military Affairs Committee room (S-128), the Senate Library (S-211, later the post office), the office of the Senate Sergeant at Arms (S-212), the Senate Reception Room (S-213), the President's Room (S-216), other office spaces, and the Senate first-floor corridors. Because Brumidi was never allowed to complete his designs in some rooms, some blank spaces remain.



Brumidi Fresco of Columbus (approximately 5 feet high and 3 feet wide) in the corner of the ceiling of the President's Room in the Senate wing of the United States Capitol. The room also contains a Brumidi fresco of Amerigo Vespucci.

Columbus and the Indian Maiden  
 , c. 1875, by Constantino Brumidi.  
 Fresco, approximately 6 feet high  
 x 9 feet wide, Senate Wing, first floor,  
 west corridor of the Capitol. A lunette,  
 symbolically representing Columbus's  
 unveiling of the New World. The lun-  
 ette next to this depicts Bartholome  
 de las Casas, the Dominican mission-  
 ary who was both an admirer of Col-  
 umbus and critic of his policy toward  
 the native inhabitants.



Brumidi worked intensively at the Capitol through the early 1860s. He continued to add frescoes in the 1870s. His major contributions are the monumental canopy and frieze of the new Capitol dome. In the canopy over the Rotunda he painted *The Apotheosis of Washington* in 1865. Brumidi began painting the frieze depicting major events in American history in 1878 but died in 1880 with the work less than half finished. His remaining designs were carried out by Filippo Costaggini between 1881 and 1889; the entire frieze was completed in 1953. In 1985, the Architect of the Capitol began a program to systematically clean Brumidi's murals of grime, discolored coatings, and heavy-handed over painting, revealing their original beauty and high quality.

In addition to being respected for his painterly abilities, Brumidi was known for his love of literature and history. He enjoyed music and pursued historical research for his murals. All evidence shows that he was a convivial and generous friend as well as a dedicated artist. Brumidi had children from each of his two marriages in Rome and an American son, Laurence Stauros Brumidi (1861–1920), who also became a painter.

Brumidi depicted Christopher Columbus three times in Capitol frescoes. Columbus is seated in a niche examining a globe in the President's Room (S-216).<sup>\*</sup> One of the lunettes in the Brumidi Corridors is called *Columbus and the Indian Maiden*; it shows Columbus lifting the veil from a Native American woman representing the New World, with rowboat and ship in the background. "Landing of Columbus" is the first historical scene in the frieze in the Rotunda designed to look like a sculptural relief. In each of the depictions Columbus wears a similar costume, although in the frieze Brumidi gave him a more mature-looking beard.

For additional information, see Barbara A. Wolanin's *Constantino Brumidi: Artist of the Capitol* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1998; on the U.S. Government Printing Office Web site at [www.access.gpo.gov/congress/senate/brumidi/index.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/senate/brumidi/index.html)) and the Architect of the Capitol Web site at [www.aoc.gov](http://www.aoc.gov).

—Office of the Curator, August 2005

<sup>\*</sup> Illustrated earlier in this article, and depicted in full color on the cover of our 1999 program book. This and other Columbus-related art by Brumidi and others can also be seen in full color in the section on "Columbus the Man." of the Association's web site, [www.columbuscelebration.org](http://www.columbuscelebration.org).

## 1505: With Columbus 500 Years Ago

*The year 1505 was for Columbus, like a number of years that preceded it, one of great frustration. His explorations and adventures were over. But many unfulfilled hopes depended on the crown—and he was running out of time.*

Exactly 500 years ago this month, October 1505 found Columbus, an aging and infirm 54, back in Spain for good, following the royal court in its move from Segovia to Salamanca in a diminishing hope to get what he felt was his due. (See map in the chronology in the front section of this booklet for these and other locations to be mentioned.)

He had returned to Spain a year earlier from his fourth and most trying expedition, and, delayed by ill health, had finally been able to go north to the court in Segovia only nine months later, in May, to further his claims regarding position and income for himself and his heirs. The positions were the offices of Viceroy and Governor of the Indies, and the income was percentages of the returns “his” new world was yielding. Alas, his friend and strongest patron, Queen Isabella, could no longer help him. Born in the same year as he, she had passed away on November 26, 1504, only 19 days after his return.

In recent years the Queen’s life had been blighted by the loss of her son, Prince Juan of Castile; the death in childbirth of her eldest daughter, Isabella, Queen of Portugal; and then, a year later, the death of the infant grandson who had embodied the hope of a union with Portugal. Finally, in 1504 Queen Isabella had been heartbroken by the insanity of her daughter and heir to her throne, Juana (called *la loca*--“the madwoman” by many), whose marriage to Prince Philip the Handsome of Burgundy, son of Emperor Maximilian of Austria, had taken place in 1496, the same year that Prince Juan had married Philip’s sister. The Queen was carried from Segovia to Granada in a rain-soaked procession for burial, and Infanta Juana succeeded to her mother’s throne, but she and Philip were in the Netherlands, so King Ferdinand ruled in Castile as regent according to Isabella’s will.<sup>1</sup>

### Columbus in Seville

Columbus, brother Bartholomew, sixteen-year-old (and illegitimate) son Ferdinand, and 22 more of the 100 or so survivors of that last expedition of 140 men had debarked at Sanlúcar de Barrameda on November 7.<sup>2</sup>

Disappointed by his failure and broken in health, the Admiral had to be carried ashore, and moved on to temporary rented quarters in Seville, about 60 miles away,

He got no attention from the crown, then over 250 miles north in Segovia and preoccupied with the final days of the Queen. He was himself too

infirm with arthritis to go to there, even at the news of her passing. But he had a good advocate at court--his elder (and only legitimate) son, Diego, now about twenty-four. Diego had been first a page, then a member of the Queen's bodyguard, then in King Ferdinand's guard after her death.<sup>3</sup>

On November 21, before the death of the Queen, Columbus hopefully wrote son Diego that his departure for court would be soon, but then his health prevented it. He pressed a steady correspondence with Diego. On December 1, unaware of Isabella's death the week before, he wrote Diego, "May the Holy Trinity give health to our Lady the Queen, so that what has been done may be finally settled." The last apparently referred to her support for his discovery efforts. When he heard of her death, he exhorted his son "to pray earnestly and devoutly for the soul of our Lady Queen"<sup>4</sup>:

Her life was ever catholic and saintly [she is known to history as Isabella the Catholic] and she was exacting in all that pertained to God's holy service. Therefore we can be confident that she has gone to glory and is free of all the concerns of this harsh and wearisome world. The next thing is to be vigilant and diligent, in all and for all, in the service of our Lord King [Ferdinand] and to strive to spare him from adversity.<sup>5</sup>

At first Columbus had a vain hope expressed in a letter to Diego on December 13: "Here people are saying with insistence that the queen had it written that I should be returned possession of the Indies."<sup>6</sup> He asked Diego to write him daily to keep him informed, and followed the above letter a week later with another insisting "it is necessary to find out whether the Queen, who is with God, said something about me in her will." But she had not.

### *Some Concerns of the Admiral*

Among Columbus's other concerns was that the Porras brothers, who had led the mutiny on Jamaica and were then let off Scott-free by Governor Ovando in Santo Domingo (because of their political influence at court, and in defiance of what Columbus saw as his prerogatives as Admiral of the Ocean Sea) might get to the crown first and poison the well. In addition, he wanted reimbursement for his out-of-pocket expense in chartering and provisioning the rescue ship that brought him and his men back. Further, his officers and crew had back pay coming. Before setting out in March, 1502 they had been given six months' pay in advance, but had been gone 32 months, and most had no money. Some got odd jobs, and others Columbus helped by hiring them himself. He wrote Diego and others of influence several times to press the Castilian treasurer on the matter, and encouraged a delegation from the crew to go to court bearing a strong letter from him, but years passed before they received their due.

Brother Bartholomew was suffering from gum- and toothache, but otherwise in good health--certainly better than Christopher. In December the Admiral sent him and Fernandez to help Diego look after his interests at court, since he couldn't go himself. He warned Diego in his letter of December 1

that kid brother Fernandez (who had himself become a page the same year as Diego, and was now returning to the same job and getting back pay for the time he was gone), had pretty much grown up, but, fresh from his adventures in the new world, might not fit in so easily at court any more: "Take great heed of your brother, he has good natural parts and is already growing out of his youth. Ten brothers would not be too many. I never found better friends, right and left, than my brothers."<sup>14</sup>

In addition to his two sons and Bartholomew, Columbus also had at court the faithful Diego Méndez, who had led the hazardous mission to seek rescue from Jamaica, and Juan de Coloma, who had handled the 1492 agreements (see below).<sup>15</sup>

Desperate to get to Segovia himself despite his ill health, Columbus made arrangements to borrow from the Seville cathedral a magnificent catafalque on wheels that had been used for the funeral of Cardinal Mendoza, but the plan to travel to Segovia in a hearse was not carried out because of the bad weather. Too sick to travel by horse, he subsequently sought and obtained a license from the king to make the journey by mule, which would be less demanding than by horseback.<sup>9</sup>

In May he was able to make the mule-trip to court, and was granted an audience with King Ferdinand. In August he presented a series of petitions to him. When the king proposed that a mutually acceptable arbiter be designated to deal with the claims, Columbus nominated his friend and supporter from his early days in Spain, the Dominican Diego de Deza, who had just taken office as Archbishop of Seville.<sup>10</sup> The King instantly agreed.

### **The Admiral's Claims**

Columbus had set forth his claims in his "Book of Privileges," which he had completed in 1501-2 while cooling his heels waiting for his fourth expedition to be approved. These claims related to offices and income.

As to the first, he claimed that the offices of Viceroy and Governor-General of the new world were his and his heirs by contract. By the beginning of 1505 it was clear he could not reassume those offices because of his health, so he sought them for Diego and his heirs.

As to the pecuniary matters, uppermost in his concerns was his repeated claim on his "eighth," "third," and "tenth." These referred, respectively to (1) an eighth of the profits from outgoing shipping ventures in which he had invested; (2) a third of the profits from all trade from the Indies; and (3) a tenth of all of the wealth extracted from the lands he had discovered.

Unfortunately, Archbishop Deza's judgment, in consultation with expert advisors, did not support these claims on the crown.

### ***The Judgment: Claims Regarding Titles and Offices***

Columbus did have a contract with the crown known as the Capitulation

of Santa Fé, signed by the rulers in that town in Granada on April 17, 1492. By it Columbus and his heirs were to be titled Admiral of the Ocean Sea. Further, he—but not necessarily his heirs—was to have for life the titles of Viceroy and Governor General of the islands and mainlands discovered on the forthcoming (first) voyage. As a contract, the Capitulation was subject to the laws of Castile, so where the interest of the state might require, its provisions could be suspended by the crown.<sup>7</sup>

In addition to that contract, there was also a “grant of titles,” not considered a contract, signed 13 days later on April 30, 1492 in the city of Granada. This granted the titles of Viceroy and Governor-General, as well as Admiral of the Ocean Sea, to his heirs as well. Then, a year later, on May 23, 1493 after his triumphant return from the discovery, the three titles were extended to apply to all of the area accorded to Spain by Pope Alexander VI’s line of demarcation specified on the 4th of that month.

One writer has summarized: “This was, then, the position. Colón [Columbus] was Admiral, Viceroy and Governor-General of the Indies by contract; his heirs would be Admirals by contract; but they could only be Viceroys and Governors-General by privilege.”<sup>8</sup> Thus the titles of Viceroy and Governor General had never been conferred contractually on Columbus and his heirs in perpetuity; nor was it reasonable to expect that the crown would permanently give away such key positions—especially to one who had proven so inept in those very posts. The title “Admiral of the Ocean Sea,” however, was a personal thing: it was his and his heirs’, and not even in question.

### ***The Judgment: Claims Regarding Income***

Regarding the pecuniary claims, the April 17 contract had given Columbus the right to invest an *eighth* of the cost of commercial ventures to the Indies, and take an eighth of the profit that resulted, but this was deemed a private matter to be settled between Columbus and his partners, to which the crown was not a party.<sup>9</sup>

The *third* referred to Columbus’s reasoning—by analogy—that as “Admiral of the Ocean Sea” he should have the same right of taxation that he had subsequently discovered had been granted to the Grand Admiral of Castile over commercial trade in the territory under his jurisdiction (which, in the latter case, was the area between Spain and the Canary Islands). Since nothing like that had been promised to Columbus along with his title of Admiral, that claim was not upheld.

Finally, the capitulations had promised a *tenth* of the revenues from the lands he would discover, but this was interpreted by the crown as a tenth of its own share (which was a fifth), which would make his share 2% rather than 10% of the gross returns. Columbus’s argument was rejected.

It was not as though Columbus was a pauper, or that he wanted all this money out of greed, or for his own comfort. He was in fact already a rich man for his times. He lived in reasonable comfort, not lacking for servants, for

example, and kept a box of gold by his side in Seville. Major sources of his well-being included: (1) the percentage of the gold being mined on Hispaniola; (2) gold he had brought from the ill-fated venture at Veragua in Panama on his last voyage, plus “a chest of specie” [Governor] Ovando had “handed over to Columbus to take home on his last voyage”;<sup>18</sup> and (3) there was that lone ship carrying his gold that had made it through the disastrous hurricane of 1502 off Hispaniola that he had seen coming and vainly warned Governor Ovando about, and which had cost 19 other ships, a fortune in gold belonging to the crown and others, and 500 lives. His wealth has been estimated at roughly \$4 million in 1990 dollars,<sup>19</sup> or about \$5,750,000 today, with a continuing income stream. As for personal gain, the evidence is that he still planned to use the income he sought to finance recovery of the holy places in the Mideast.

At one point, the King suggested giving Columbus a valuable estate in Castile (one noted as the venue of the exploits of the Cid Campeador), carrying income from rents that would provide richly for Columbus and his heirs in exchange for renunciation of his claims. But that meant the loss of his “Admiral of the Ocean Sea” title (not otherwise in question)—and this was something Columbus would never do for the sake of great income.

### **Nearing the End—and a Last Hope**

At Segovia on August 25, not long after his last recorded exchange with the King, he wrote in his own hand a codicil to his will.

“He took the opportunity to honour some outstanding obligations of conscience—to creditors, to Beatriz Enríquez, mother of his son Fernando, and to the memory of his father and mother and his wife, for whom, together with his own soul and those of all the faithful departed,’ masses were to be endowed by his son Diego ‘when he shall have sufficient income from his said entail and inheritance,’ preferably in Hispaniola, ‘which God gave me by a miracle’.”<sup>20</sup>

The last conviction was also expressed and elaborated in the following passage, stressing the crown’s obligation for what he had given them: “I served the King and Queen, our Lord and Lady in the Indies—I say served, but it rather seems that by God’s will I gave them to them, as a chattel of my own, I may say, because I had to importune their Highnesses about them, for they were unknown and the way to find them was hidden to all who were asked about them.”<sup>21</sup>

Time was running out. One hope remained as the year drew to a close: that he might obtain some satisfaction from Isabella’s heir, the mad Doña Juana, who, with her husband was due to arrive in Spain in January, 1506.

*—Edward M. Sullivan*

## Notes

1. Columbus's dealings were with the crown of Castile, though Ferdinand was also King of Aragon and of Sicily in his own right. In 1506, Philip, his wife incompetent, would succeed to the throne of Castile, but then die a month later, his successor being their infant son, Charles I of Spain, who would become the Holy Roman emperor Charles V.
2. See the Chronology earlier in this booklet for details on that fourth voyage. A new book was just published this year describing that most interesting of expeditions in detail: Martin Dugard, *The Last Voyage of Columbus: Being the Epic Tale of the Great Captain's Fourth Expedition, Including Accounts of Swordfight, Mutiny, Shipwreck, Gold, War, Hurricane, and Discovery* (all of which those who read the articles in our program books for 2003 and 2004 will be familiar with). Dugard's book was published by Little, Brown and Company, New York, 2005. In its account of 1504 our 2004 program book on page 27 erroneously reported Columbus returned on November 19, whereas it was on November 7, 19 days before the death of the Queen, which the Chronology in the front of last year's book had correct.
3. Diego is not to be confused with Columbus's youngest brother of the same name, who participated in the second and third expeditions, during the latter filling in for Columbus as governor of Santo Domingo while the Admiral was away from the city, and who, with the Admiral and Bartholomew, had been arrested and sent back to Spain in 1500. He later became a priest.
4. Salvador de Madariaga, *Christopher Columbus* (New York: Macmillan), 1940 (republished 1978), p. 394.
5. As quoted by Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, *Columbus* (New York: Oxford University Press), 1991, p. 177f. Words in brackets supplied by the present author.
6. The letter is quoted in Gianni Granzotto, *Christopher Columbus* (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987), p. 268f, which dates it as November 21, and Madariaga, p. 395, who gives a December 13 date, which seems more probable.
7. As quoted in de Madariaga, p. 145. Another concern at this time was Gonzalo Camacho, second only to the Porras brothers as a troublemaker and mutineer on Jamaica. He not only spread slander in Seville about Columbus, but also produced a forged will naming himself as sole heir of Captain Pedro de Terros, who lost his life on that island, despite the fact that the captain had a family and had left a real will. Sworn warrants by Columbus against him on both matters sent him to a church for asylum, where he had to spend the Christmas holidays to avoid arrest, as the Admiral described to Diego with some humor. See Samuel Eliot Morison, *Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, vol. 2 (New York: Time, 1962), p. 646.
8. A letter to Diego of February 25 was carried by Amerigo Vespucci, just back from South America and summoned to court to discuss navigation matters, and about whom the Admiral wrote Diego: "He is a very honorable man and always desirous of pleasing me and is determined to do everything possible for me. See what he can do to profit me there and try to have him do it." (Morison, p. 648.) We now know that a newsletter published at that time contained a falsely predated account of Vespucci's voyage to South America in 1599, which would cause him in 1507 to be credited with discovering the continent that Columbus himself had discovered in 1498—and the new world being named America rather than Columbia.
9. Such a permission was necessary because the Andalusian horse breeders, like modern lobbyists, had obtained a law that people could not travel by muleback. He wrote Diego on December 21 to seek a license for him, so he could leave some time after January, and Diego was able to obtain a royal license on February 23, 2006. based on the Admiral's ill health and old age, "the only favor King Ferdinand ever showed to Columbus," in the somewhat harsh judgment of his most famous American biographer (Morison, p. 647). Cf.

Fernandez-Armesto, p. 179, which has a somewhat more favorable view of Columbus's treatment by the King.

10 Columbus had earlier sent son Diego an unsealed report on his fourth voyage prepared for Pope Julius II, new in office, instructing his son to show it to Archbishop Deza.

11. The Admiral title had nothing to do with the navy, but "meant admiralty jurisdiction in the regions discovered, over all crimes committed or disputes engendered at sea." Samuel Eliot Morison, *Journals and other Documents in the Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus* (New York, The Heritage Press), 1963, p. 28f.

12. de Madariaga, p. 399.

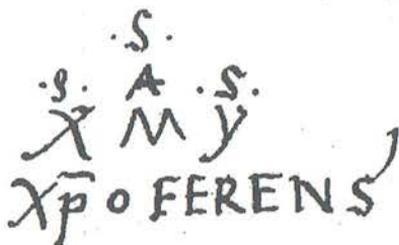
13. Morison, *Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, p.641, suggests that "...it is probable that Columbus had sent out provisions and Spanish goods as speculation, and Bobadilla or Ovando [successive governors at Santo Domingo] had impounded the receipts." He gives in full on pages 27-36 of *Journals and other Documents* both the April 17 contract and other royal documents issued in connection with the first voyage.

14. Morison, *Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, p. 644. He also reports that King Ferdinand in 1505 had "sent word to [Governor Ovando in Santo Domingo] to sell the movables of the Admiral in Hispaniola, and a secret order was issued to the effect that any proceeds of this sale, or other property of the Admiral sent over to Spain, should be impounded by the royal treasury to pay Columbus's debts. These last documents fairly stink of the Porras brothers and their dishonorable connections with treasurer Morales of Castile."

15. Kirkpatrick Sale, *The Conquest of Paradise* (New York, Knopf, 1992), p.382.

16. Fernandez-Armesto p.182.

17. Fernandez-Armesto p.182.



Signature of Columbus:

"Christoferens,"

or "Christbearer"

## A Cry from Jamaica

### The Prayer of Columbus

*In this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the first publication of Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass, we publish a poem from that book, and a 1996 introductory article that for lack of space had to be cut from last year's program booklet dealing with the Columbus's stay on Jamaica. It was that stay that provided the inspiration for Whitman's well-known poem with the above title. As for Columbus, some of the feelings he himself expressed about his personal situation can be found in the "Lettera Rarissima," from him to the sovereigns, carried by Diego Mèndez on his daring mission to Santo Domingo from Jamaica to get help for the stranded Columbus:*

Until now, I have always taken pity on my fellow man; today, may Heaven have mercy on me, may the earth cry for me, as I wait for death alone, sick and racked with pain. I am so far away from the Holy Sacraments that if my soul should here leave my body, not even God would remember it. Those who love charity, truth and justice, let them cry for me now. (As quoted in Gianni Granzotto in "Christopher Columbus," U. of Oklahoma Press, 1987, pp.255-56.)

*The following article appeared nine years ago in our 1996 program booklet.*

Last year on June 6, 1995, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority unveiled in the entrance to the Archives-Navy Memorial Metro station a large wall sculpture that among other things honors the memory and faith of Columbus. Titled "Ocean Piece," it was donated by the Lisbon Subway system, the first permanent art donated to Metro by a foreign country. Ambassador of Portugal Fernando Andresen Guimaraes and the President of the Board of Metropolitan de Lisboa E.P., Jose Consiglieri Pedroso made the presentation. Sculptor Jorge Martins, also at the unveiling, is one of Portugal's leading sculptors. Portuguese sculpture can also be found in subway systems in Brussels, Tokyo and Sao Paulo, and is being installed in major cities in a number of other countries as well.

Symbolizing the ocean connecting Portugal and the United States, the huge wall piece is executed in gray-green Verde Viana, quarried in South Portugal, with a flowing horizontal bulge suggesting an ocean wave. The two cultures are represented by two poems: Walt Whitman's "Prayer of Columbus" engraved and gilded on the left (west) end and "Occident" by Fernando Pessoa on the east end of the wave.

Since only a small portion of the Whitman poem is reproduced in the artwork, we give below the complete text, along with the poet's own scene-setting note. The beautiful poem-indeed, prayer-is said to reflect Whitman's own desire to communicate with God: "I shouldn't wonder if I have unconsciously put a sort of autobiographical dash in it," he is reported to have said. He also gave considerable thought and reflection to it, reworking it twenty times.

As for the faith and piety of Columbus which the poem celebrates, an excellent source of information will be found in the *Libro de las profecias* ("The Book of Prophecies"), Columbus's own notes and reflections on biblical

passages supporting his understanding of his own vocation as the “Christ-bearer” (“Christopher”) chosen and fitted by God for a special mission in the expansion and renewal of Christendom. (Throughout every period of his life his writings and book notations consistently show that he saw himself as missionary and crusader.) The material for the Book of Prophecies was collected and organized and the notes dictated by Columbus over several months at a monastery near Seville, where he was awaiting an audience with the monarchs to clear himself from the charges that had brought him back in chains in November, 1500 after his third voyage. The work was intended to be the means by which he explained himself to the king and queen, and appears to have been written between September 13, 1501 and March 23, 1502. (However, notes were added later, such as relating to the lunar eclipse on February 29, 1504, while he was marooned on Jamaica, the setting for Whitman’s poem. Apparently there was also an earlier, smaller version of the work dating to 1481.)

He called it a “Notebook of authorities, statements, opinions and prophecies on the subject of the recovery of God’s holy city and mountain of Zion, and on the discovery and evangelization of the islands of the Indies and of all other peoples and nations.” It was his intention, never realized, to use this notebook to prepare an apocalyptic poem to present to their majesties. (The title *Libro de las profecias* is the abbreviated name librarians and scholars have adopted. An en face edition, containing the original text—almost entirely Latin—and the first complete English translation, with an excellent introduction and commentary by the translators, Delno C. West and August Kling, was published by the University Presses of Florida as part of their Quincentennial Series in 1991.)

— Edward M. Sullivan

## PRAYER OF COLUMBUS.

*By Walt Whitman*

It was near the close of his indomitable and pious life—on his last voyage when nearly 70 years of age—that Columbus, to save his two remaining ships from foundering in the Caribbean Sea in a terrible storm, had to run them ashore on the Island of Jamaica—here, laid up for a long and miserable year—1503—he was taken very sick, had several relapses, his men revolted and death seem’d daily imminent; though he was eventually rescued, and sent home to Spain to die, unrecognized, neglected and in want.....It is only ask’d, as preparation and atmosphere for the following lines, that the bare authentic facts be recall’d and realized, and nothing contributed by the fancy. See, the Antillean Island, with its florid skies and rich foliage and scenery, the waves beating the solitary sands, and the hulls of the ships in the distance. See, the figure of the great Admiral, walking the beach, as a stage, in this sublimest tragedy—or what tragedy, what poem, so piteous and majestic as the real scene?—and hear him uttering—as his mystical and religious soul surely utter’d, the ideas following—perhaps, in their equivalents, the very words.

A batter'd, wreck'd old man,  
Thrown on this savage shore, far, far from home,

Pent by the sea and dark rebellious brows, twelve dreary months,  
Sore, stiff with many toils, sicken'd and nigh to death,  
I take my way along the island's edge,  
Venting a heavy heart.

I am too full of woe!  
Haply I may not live another day;  
I cannot rest O God, I cannot eat or drink or sleep,  
Till I put forth myself, my prayer, once more to Thee,  
Breathe, bathe myself once more in Thee, commune with Thee,  
Report myself once more to Thee.

Thou knowest my years entire, my life,  
My long and crowded life of active work, not adoration merely;  
Thou knowest the prayers and vigils of my youth,  
Thou knowest my manhood's solemn and visionary meditations,  
Thou knowest how before I commenced I devoted all to come to Thee,  
Thou knowest I have in age ratified all those vows and strictly kept them,  
In shackles, prison'd, in disgrace, repining not,  
Accepting all from Thee, as duty come from Thee.

All my emprises have been fill'd with Thee,  
My speculations, plans, begun and carried on in thoughts of Thee,  
Sailing the deep or journeying the land for Thee;  
Intentions, purports, aspirations mine, leaving results to Thee.

O I am sure they really came from Thee,  
The urge, the ardor, the unconquerable will,  
The potent, felt, interior command, stronger than words,  
A message from the Heavens whispering to me even in sleep,  
These sped me on.

By me and these the work so far accomplish'd,  
By me earth's elder cloy'd and stifled lands uncloy'd, unloos'd,  
By me the hemispheres rounded and tied, the unknown to the known.

The end I know not, it is all in Thee,  
Or small or great I know not—haply what broad fields, what lands,  
Haply the brutish measureless human undergrowth I know,  
Transplanted there may rise to stature, knowledge worthy Thee,  
Haply the words I know may there indeed be turn'd to reaping-tools,  
Haply the lifeless cross I know, Europe's dead cross, may bud and blossom there.

One effort more, my altar this bleak sand;  
That Thou O God my life hast lighted,  
With ray of light, steady, ineffable, vouchsafed of Thee.

Light rare untellable, lighting the very light,  
Beyond all signs, descriptions, languages  
For that O God, be it my latest word, here on my knees,  
Old, poor, and paralyzed, I think Thee.

My terminus near,  
The clouds already closing in upon me,  
The voyage balk'd, the course disputed, lost,  
I yield my ships to Thee.

My hands, my limbs grow nerveless,  
My brain feels rack'd bewilderd,  
Let the old timbers part, I will not part,  
I will cling fast to Thee, O God, though the waves buffet me,  
Thee, Thee at least I know.

Is it the prophet's thought I speak, or am I raving?  
What do I know of life? what of myself?  
I know not even my own work past or present,  
Dim ever-shifting guesses of it spread before me,  
Of newer better worlds, their mighty parturition,  
Mocking, perplexing me.

And these things I see suddenly, what mean they?  
As if some miracle, some hand divine unseal'd my eyes,  
Shadowy vast shapes smile through the air and sky,  
And on the distant waves and countless ships,  
And anthems in new tongues I hear saluting me.

Whitman died in 1892, the quadricentennial year of the discovery, when the nation was much caught up in giving attention to Columbus. His last complete poem, written on his deathbed and published posthumously was:

### A THOUGHT ON COLUMBUS.

The mystery of mysteries, the crude and hurried ceaseless flame, spontaneous,  
bearing on itself.  
The bubble and the huge, round, concrete orb!  
A breath of Deity, as thence the bulging universe unfolding!  
The many issuing cycles from their precedent minute!  
The eras of the soul incepting in an hour,  
Haply the widest, farthest evolutions of the world and man.

Thousands and thousands of miles hence, and now four centuries back,  
A mortal impulse thrilling its brain cell,  
Reck'd or unreck'd, the birth can no longer be postpon'd:  
A phantom of the moment, mystic, stalking, sudden,  
Only a silent thought, yet toppling down of more than walls of Brass or stone.  
(A flutter at the darkness' edge as if old Time's and Space's secret near revealing.)

A thought! a definite thought works out in shape. Four hundred years roll on.  
The rapid cumulus—trade, navigation, war, peace, democracy, roll on;  
The restless armies and the fleets of time following their leader—the old camps of  
ages pitch'd in newer, larger areas,  
The tangl'd, long-deferr'd eclairsissement of human life and, hopes boldly begins  
untying,  
As here to-day up-grows the Western World.

---

(An added word yet to my song, far Discoverer, as ne'er before sent back to son of  
earth—

If still thou hearest, hear me,  
Voicing as now—lands, races, arts, bravas to thee,  
O'er the long backward path to thee—one vast consensus, north, south, east, west,  
Soul plaudits! acclamation! reverent echoes!  
One manifold, huge memory to thee! oceans and lands!  
The modern world to thee and thought of thee.

The text of the two poems is taken from Sculley Bradley, Harold W. Blodgett, Arthur Golden, and William White, eds., *Walt Whitman: Leaves of Grass, A textual Variorum of the Printed Poems, vol. 3: Poems, 1870-1891*, New York University Press, 1980, pp. 661-664, and 764-765.

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### **A Different Expression of Columbus's Faith**

In 2004 the Catholic Church observed the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, meaning that she was not stained by original sin. Seven years before that proclamation, the American Catholic bishops in 1847 had dedicated the country to her under that title. That is why the nation's largest Catholic church, here in Washington, is the *National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception*, to which the Knights of Columbus have always been close.

What seems to be little known is that devotion to Mary's Immaculate Conception was first carried to the New World by none other than Columbus himself, who probably got it from Franciscans, who had fostered this particular devotion for many years. Columbus had a close relationship with Franciscans and may well have been a lay Franciscan. He wore the habit, and may indeed have been buried in it.

See how he named the first islands he discovered in the New World, as he told it in a letter to his friend Luis Santangel: "To the first island which I found I gave the name 'San Salvador,' in remembrance of the Divine Majesty, Who had marvelously bestowed all this; the Indians call it 'Guanahani.' To the second, I gave the name the island of 'Santa Maria de Concepción,' to the third, 'Fernandina,' to the fourth, 'Isabela,' to the fifth island, 'Juana,' and so each received from me a new name."

## Columbus Memorials Around the World

Our program book for 2000 introduced the outstanding web site on Columbus memorials around the world by Professor Peter van der Krogt of the Faculty of Geographical Science of Utrecht University, Netherlands. Started on April 10, 1999, as of September 3, 2000 it gave information on 188 memorials-- "monuments erected all over the world with a relation to Christopher Columbus, his companions and their early voyages to America." Included are statues, sculptures, plaquettes [decorated tablets], and exterior frescoes. By August 9<sup>th</sup> of this year, there were 446 listed.

Each memorial is on a separate page and briefly described with history, name of artist, year of emplacement and, in most cases, a photo--often taken by Professor van der Krogt himself in his travels. Tables list the memorials both in chronological order of emplacement and alphabetically by location.

The USA has more memorials than any other country (42% of the total), followed by Spain (15%) and Italy (13%), these three countries together accounting for nearly three-fourths (71%) of the total. Two-thirds (67%) are in the western hemisphere--the New World. A third (33%) are in Europe, about a seventh (15%) in Latin America, about a tenth (9%) in the West Indies, and 1% (4 memorials) have been identified in Asia, including the Philippines. Washington, D. C. has the largest number in the U.S. The oldest *monument* in the world is in Baltimore (erected in 1792, the tercentenary anniversary year), although a couple of frescoes in Italy are considerably older.

***Interest in Columbus is alive and well!*** By March of 2004 there had been over 100,000 visitors to the site in its five years of existence and by August 9 of this year, there have been over 122,000. Figures reported as of September 24, 2003 show that in 2002 there were *five times as many visits on Columbus Day* as there had been only two years earlier. ("Columbus Day" as used here refers to the day observed by the U.S., whether or not it falls on October 12.) The number peaks on Columbus Day each year, with more visits in the days immediately *following* Columbus Day than preceding it. During the week surrounding Columbus Day, the average number of visits doubled from 2000 to 2001 and nearly doubled again from 2001 to 2002.

This web site is well worth a visit. In addition to the lists of memorials, it also lists places named after Columbus, and gives other fascinating material and links to other Columbus-related sites. The address is: <http://columbus.vanderkrogt.net/>. Our own NCCA web site (in its section on "Columbus the Man") provides more information about it, and Columbus memorials and interior art, like paintings, in DC not included on his site.. The address of our site is: <http://columbuscelebration.org/>.

—Edward M. Sullivan

*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 groups in grades 9 through 12.

**TOPIC**

2005-2006 topic is

*"The Santa Maria to the New World and the Apollo Mission: Christopher  
Columbus and the Astronauts"*

**PRIZE**

The prize for the national winner is \$1,200, paid transportation to Washington, D.C. with 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 9, 2006), 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

Martha Ann Hartgoz, National Vice Chairman,

Christopher Columbus Essay Contest, American History Committee, NSDAR

605Pecan Grove Road, Austin, TX 78704 \* Phone (512) 447-3881

or Office of the Historian General, NSDAR

1776 D Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006-5303 \* Phone (202) 879-3256

## “Christopher Columbus – Imperfect Hero”

By: **Irtefa Anwara Bibte-Farid**

*Albemarle High School, Grade 10, Charlottesville, Virginia*

*Sponsored by Jack Jouett Chapter, NSDAR*

History is not merely the knowledge of past actions. But also of their effects on the course of events. While the actions themselves remain unchangeable for eternity, their interpretations change with each passing age. Every generation views history in the light of its own experience, drawing conclusions based on its own morals and understanding. The case of Christobal Colon, the discoverer of the New World, offers a perfect example.

Christopher Columbus has been a figure of controversy since October 12, 1492, to the present day. Glorified and criticized in his life, forgotten in his death, venerated in the nineteenth century, and condemned in recent history, Columbus's reputation has traveled stormy seas throughout the centuries. By examining the different facades of Christopher Columbus, one can see the best and worst of humanity in this single man. Through his intuition, seamanship, and clear genius, Columbus won a place in the pantheon of the greats. But through his arrogance, greed, and mistreatment of the native Americans, he tainted his lasting legacy.

It is easy to note that once in America, Columbus acted according to the customs of the time. Getting there, however, was the triumph of his talents. It was known at the time that the world was round, and that Greenland was not Ultima Thule; there was more land to the west. It was also known that seeds, wood carvings, even bodies got blown to the Atlantic islands from the west. Columbus merely synthesized the old data to formulate a new idea; the East can be reached by traveling west.

Having perfected his plan, Columbus procured the support necessary to fund his enterprise through perseverance and charisma. Although a foreigner and an unknown sailor, he persuaded the Spanish monarchs, not only to fund his undertakings, but also to share the profits reaped by his discovery. Sailors knew the world to be round, but he was the first one to venture west based on the knowledge. For safety, he had to rely on himself. An excellent sailor, his quick wit on the high seas saved his ships and his crew many times.

During his fourth voyage, while off the coast of Santo Domingo, Columbus learned of Thirty Spanish ships ready to depart with a large cargo of gold. He notified them of a big storm brewing, but they ignored his warning due to the clear skies. However, they faced the full force of the storm in the open seas. Most of the fleet was lost, but Columbus saved all his ships. He proved himself as good a leader on land. While shipwrecked at Santa Gloria, desperation led many men to rebel against him. Those loyal to him suffered

terrible hardships and illnesses. Although unable to stand up by himself, Columbus visited the ill men to console them, to bring them hope, and even to nurse them himself. Even under the most trying conditions, he gained the respect of his followers and proved himself a capable leader.

Christopher Columbus symbolizes the creative genius of the Renaissance for many, the ignorance of the medieval times for others. The accounts of his life by contemporary chroniclers offer no assistance in revealing the man behind the myriad myths. While Hernando glorified his father's accomplishments, Bartolome de Las Casas portrayed Columbus as the instigator of the American Holocaust—the deliberate destruction of the native people. Nevertheless, the same qualities molded him into each role. The stubbornness, perseverance, and ambition that allowed Columbus to make his dream a reality also forced him to defend his idea against all odds. They required him to keep searching for gold, and when that failed, find other means to advance the Spanish economy as he had promised. The slave trade sprang from his refusal to admit his mistake, the most influential one in history.

After 512 years of controversy, it is time we learn to separate the different aspects of Christopher Columbus. No amount of interpreting can wipe away his cruelties, and none can erase his achievements. Only by accepting his humanity can we give him the proper respect due to him without idolizing his character. He does not deserve to be canonized, but neither should he be condemned. “[T]he elements [were] So mixed in him that Nature might stand up/ and say to all the world. ‘This was a man!’” (Shakespeare 5.5.73-75). Christopher Columbus was not perfect, but he was a hero: a courageous leader who could deal with monarchs as equals, and one who could suffer to ease the suffering of his followers.

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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 170,000 members with nearly 3,000 chapters located in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Australia, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain, 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 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 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 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 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 am-4:00 pm and Saturday 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

\* \* \*

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' 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 Columbian Exposition which was held in Chicago in 1893 in commemoration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Columbus' 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*. At the time of the Columbus quinquennial celebration in 1992, the DAR formed a special 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", and over 3,000 DAR members purchased a special DAR Columbus Quinquennial pin. Through fundraising efforts, the DAR raised over \$4,000 that was contributed to the Columbus Chapel in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania. At the DAR headquarters a small exhibit was mounted in honor of Columbus. Four years after the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Columbus' 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 essay contest focusing on Christopher Columbus. The DAR administers this contest, which is now open to students in grades 9-12. 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.



## Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation

The Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation is pleased to participate in the 2005 dedication of the Columbus Memorial. As a Federal government agency, the Foundation encourages and promotes new discoveries in the visionary spirit of Christopher Columbus.

The Foundation sponsors *Frontiers of Discovery—Work in Progress* and *Discover the Future* programs that recognize “cutting edge” innovations of both American adults and youth, and also honors teachers.

The *Work in Progress* program presents two \$25,000 *Frank Annunzio Awards* for new innovations in the fields of *Alternative Energy Sources* and *Science/Technology*.

*Discover the Future* sponsors three programs. The *Christopher Columbus Awards* encourage 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 to preserve their innovations. The *Freida J. Riley Teacher Award* honors a teacher who works with a disability yet inspires students.

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.

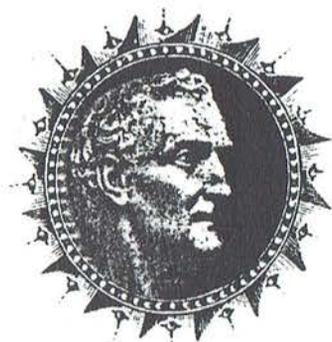
In Jefferson, the band found its most visionary advocate and friend. An accomplished musician himself, Jefferson recognized the unique relationship between the band and the Chief Executive by giving the Marine Band the title, “The President’s Own”.

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.”



*We proudly celebrate and recognize the historical achievements of the great navigator and explorer*

**CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS**

*who began the events which have given this world the greatest democracy ever known...*

**THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA!**

*Dr. and Mrs. David Curfman*



# CIVIC CEREMONY

Sponsored by  
NATIONAL COLUMBUS CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION

in cooperation with the  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL MALL & MEMORIAL PARKS

**Monday - October 10, 2005**  
COLUMBUS PLAZA -- UNION STATION

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

“The President’s Own”

**United States Marine Band**

First Lieutenant Michelle A. Rakers, 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  
SK Vincent J. Reilly, portraying Christopher Columbus

**NATIONAL ANTHEMS** United States of America

Italy

Spain

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Maj. Gen. James M. Roberts. Senior aide  
*to the Commanding General during the invasion of Omaha Beach,  
June 6, 1944.*

**INVOCATION:** The Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin,,  
*Chaplain, U. S. House of Representatives*

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

**WELCOME:** Dr. David R. Curfman, *President, NCCA*  
Mr. Stephen C. Lorengetti, *Assistant Superintendent,  
National Mall & Memorial Parks, 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**  
**Miss Irtefa Anwara Binte-Farid, Charlottesville, Virginia**  
**TITLE “CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS—IMPERFECT HERO”**

**CONTEST SPONSORED JOINTLY BY**

**The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution**  
**Mrs. Presley Merritt Wagoner, *President General***  
**The National Italian American Foundation**  
**Mr. John B. Salamone, *Executive Director***

**MUSIC INTERLUDE: "Columbia, the Gem Ocean"**

David T. Shaw

GySgt Kevin L, Benneer, Baritone



**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  
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Knights of Columbus Insurance Agency  
The Constantino Brumidi Society  
United States - Mexico Chamber of Commerce  
Hispanic Cultural Association of Maryland  
The Jamestown Society  
Society of Mayflower Descendants  
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District of Columbia Branch  
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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”**

Samuel A. Ward

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.

(Refrain)

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.
- ◆ *Col. CHARLES H. GALLINA*, Vice Supreme Master, Calvert Province; *JAMES P. McCUSKER*, Master, Virginia District; and *JOSEPH E MURTHA.*, Master, Archdiocese of Washington District, and *CHARLES H. SMALLWOOD, District Marshal*, for providing the Fourth Degree Color Corps of the Knights of Columbus.
- ◆ *THOMAS L. GROPPPEL, Director of Ceremonies and Special Events* and *SgtMaj BOD SURRATT* Military District of Washington for the U. S. Joint Military Service Honor Guard and planning arrangements for the United States Marine Band.
- ◆ The National Park Service for preparing the site and for their support: *RICHARD E. MERRYMAN*, Chief of Park Programs, *RANGER ROBBIN M. OWEN*, Permits Officer, *SEAN J. KENNEALY*, Chief of Maintenance, *MATHEW R. NEWMAN*, Supervisor of Special Events, 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. PRESLEY MERRITT WAGONER*, President General; *MRS. CINDY SEGRAVES PHILLIPS*, Historian General, and *MS. MARTHA H. HARTZOG*, 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.
- ◆ *TERRY J. ADAMS*, National Park Service, and *RAYMOND S. HONDA*, Knights of Columbus, for providing photographic services. and *THOMAS E. GRUNST* for archival videography.
- ◆ *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 Galion, Ohio and a neurosurgeon in private practice in Washington, D.C. is serving his eleventh 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).

◆ *FIRST LIEUTENANT MICHELLE A. RAKERS*, assistant director of the "President's Own" the United States Marine Band is a native of Breese, Illinois. After receiving he bachelor's degree in music management from the University of Evansville in Indiana in 1990 she pursued graduate studies at Northwestern Univeristy in Evanston, Illinois in trumpet performance earning a master's degree. Her trumpet instructors at the above universities included James Bursen, Vincent Cichowicz and Chris Gakker from the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado. First Lt. Rakers performed with both the Midland Kalamazoo Symphonies and the Evansville Philharmonic in Indiana. She joined the United States Marine Band in May, 1998 and was appointed assistant director in July, 2004. First Lt. Raker is currently pursuing a master's degree in conducting at the Catholic University in America, Washington, D. C. where she is studying with Kate Tamarkin. She is the first woman to achieve the status as a director in the history of the Marine Band.

◆ *IRTEFA ANWARA BINTE-FARID*, the ninth annual winner of the national Christopher Columbus essay contest was born in Bangladesh on November 19, 1988. She is the daughter of Drs. Farid Uddin and Mosfike Yessim, both physicians, emigrating to the United States in November, 2001. She is considered a permanent resident of this country. From he earliest years she has enjoyed reading stories about history and later began writing her own stories for which she has won numerous awards. This summer she was chosen, one of twenty-one students to attain this prestigious honor, to attend a special program sponsored by Stanford University in California. As she is beginning her studies in eleventh grade at Albermarle High School, Charlottesville, Virginia she has maintained high scholastic honors. Her favorite studies are history and chemistry and she has set as a goal to continue the family tradition by becoming a physician. She is serving as co-president of a diversity club titled CARE (Creating Awareness Regarding Equity). Irtafa is one of three children in her family having one brother and sister.

## 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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This statue of  
Christopher Columbus  
is erected in the  
courtyard of  
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By the parishioners under the  
spirited leadership of its pastor  
Fr. Cesare Donizon  
generously aided by the principal  
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An inscription on a bronze plate  
beneath the statue reads as  
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### **CRISTOFORO COLOMBO**

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 an historic encounter between the European world and the Americas. A timing point in Western Civilization, this event paved the way for the spreading the Gospel and the establishment of a society anchored on the principles of Christian love and holiness. 1492-1992

# God Bless America

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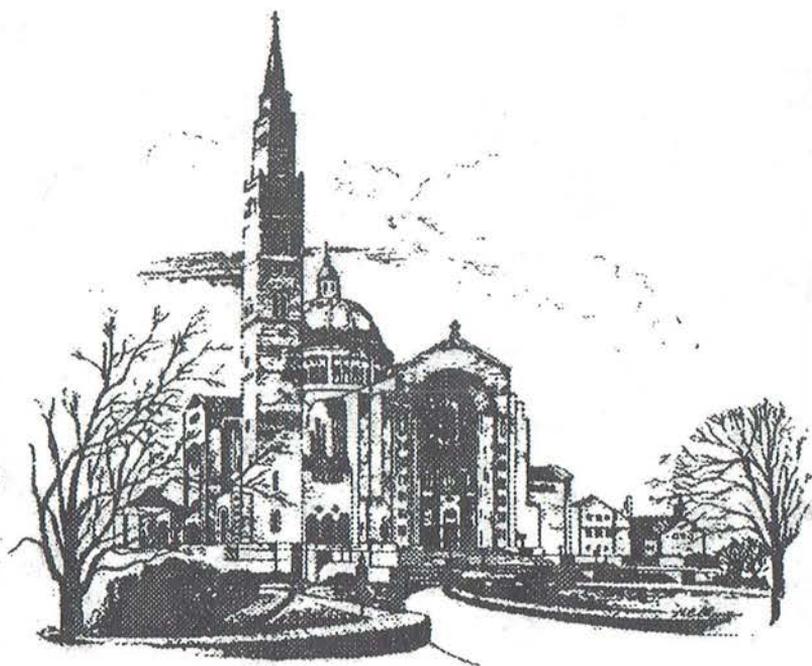
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**COLUMBUS DAY OCTOBER 10, 2005  
THE NEW WORLD SALUTES COLUMBUS ON THE 513<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY  
LEONARD AND NORA DURSO**

---



**Best Wishes  
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**Order Sons of Italy in America**

**The officers and members of the  
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of the discovery of the New World  
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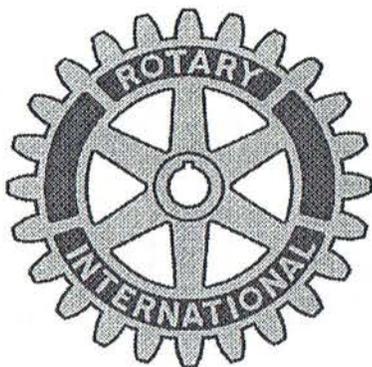
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**The Bladensburg Rotary Club  
salutes the  
94<sup>rd</sup> Columbus Day  
Celebration!**

---

**We salute the work of the  
*National Columbus  
Celebration Association*  
in continuing to recognize  
the Great Discoverer.**

*Best Wishes For A Most Successful  
Columbus Day Celebration*

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Navigator, Explorer and  
Evangelizer!

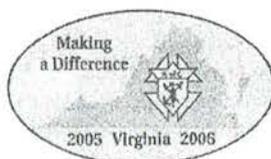
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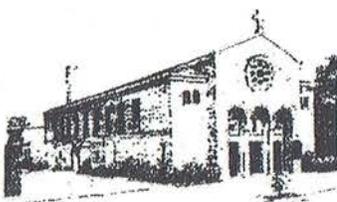
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# *Knights of Columbus*



*St. Anthony Council #417*

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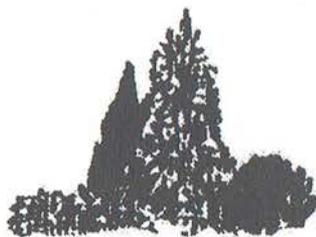
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National Center for Urban and Ethnic Affairs  
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA  
WASHINGTON D C

The National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs, a department of The Catholic University of America, salutes the National Columbus Celebration Association for its continuing work in annually bringing to the minds and hearts of all Americans the contributions of Christopher Columbus, the Discoverer and evangelizer to the American Dream.

Further, we encourage all of our members to attend the ceremonies comprising the celebration at the Columbus Plaza in front of Union Station, Washington, D.C. on the Columbus Holiday each year. These ceremonies date back to 1912.

Coincidentally, we offer membership to all those who are eligible. For further information please telephone 202-319-5128 at the Catholic University of America.

*Dr. John Kroumkowski*

President

ITALIAN-AMERICAN CLUB  
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA  
WASHINGTON D.C.

Greetings All,

The celebration of this Columbus Day, October, 10, 2005, brings to mind the many celebrations that have gone before it. There is a tremendous outpouring of effort by individuals and organizations to honor the great and noble Christopher Columbus and his discoveries, and it is well worth the effort.

It is fitting that we pause once a year to recall the beginnings of the Americas. Columbus was the forerunner of Italian immigration. Italian-Americans are the offspring.

For many years, I have toiled to bring attention to the many contributions of Italian-Americans to our American society. My years with NATIONAL ITALIAN-AMERICAN FOUNDATION (NIAF) and other associations will so attest. It has been a labor of love! It is a zeal that I hope to pass on. Along with others, I have chosen to be an advocate for the Italian-American Club at the Catholic University of America. What better way could I have chosen to pass on the legacy of Columbus and those who came after him?

It is my fond hope that Columbus and Italian Clubs on the campuses of our universities and colleges will flourish and that all will plan to celebrate each Columbus holiday in a special way. For our local clubs there is no better way to do so then to attend the splendid annual ceremonies at the Columbus Monument in the nation's capital on Columbus Day. I hope to see you there, if not this year, for the years that follow.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Alfred Rotondaro*

Director Emeritus, NIAF

Recipient of the NCCA *Distinguished Service Medal*

I heartily agree with the above comments

*John C. Moore*

NCCA Founding Chairman Emeritus



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*for a Most Successful  
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Chancellor, Nelson M. Morais  
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Treasurer, Thomas M. Strike  
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Warden, Patrick A. Burke  
Inside Guard, Fred Rosario  
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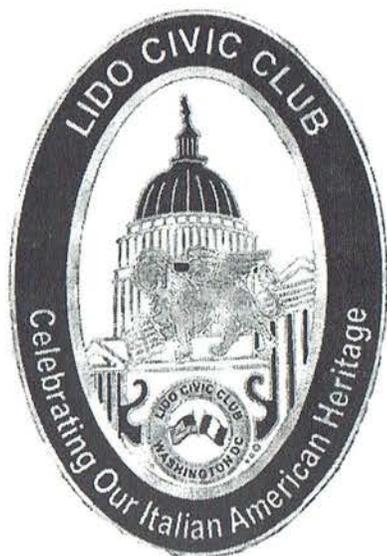
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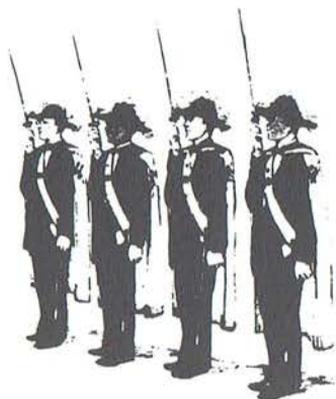
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93<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
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THE COLUMBUS MEMORIAL



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**The Patriot Arm of the Knights of Columbus**



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Congratulates the  
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We, the officers and members of Washington Council  
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**94<sup>th</sup> Annual Columbus Day Ceremony**

Rev. Monsignor Joaquin Bazan – Chaplain  
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**Name**.....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.

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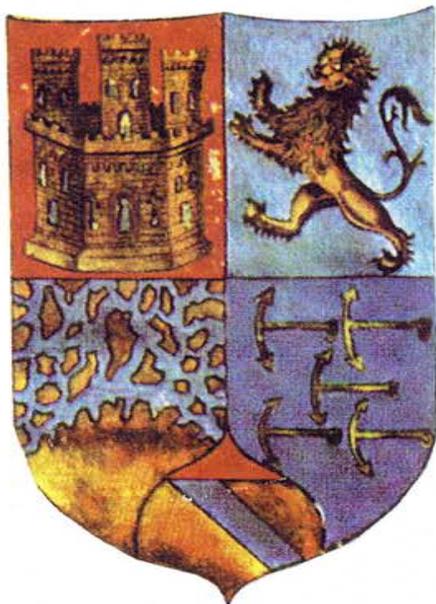
The National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the heritage of Americans of Italian descent, the nation's fifth largest ethnic group.

The NIAF funds scholarships and grants; supports a variety of youth programs; researches Italian American history and culture; promotes a positive image of Italian Americans and works towards ending negative and stereotypical portrayals in the media; encourages the teaching of Italian language in U.S. schools; and promotes closer economic, political and cultural ties with Italy.

Please visit our website, [www.niaf.org](http://www.niaf.org), to learn more about the National Italian American Foundation.

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*The coat-of-arms granted Columbus by Ferdinand and Isabelle. The lion and castle are taken from the royal coat-of-arms; the islands and the anchors refer to Columbus' discoveries and ability as a navigator.*