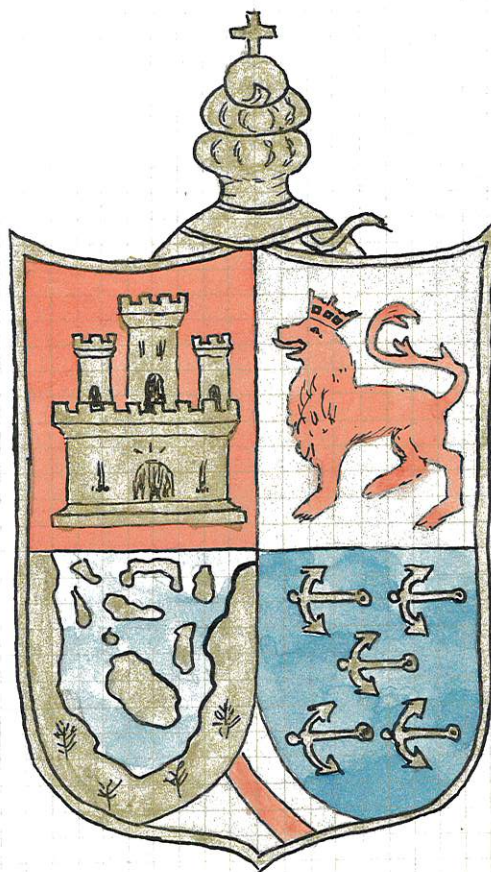


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CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

THE COAT OF ARMS OF COLUMBUS.



AT THE TIME OF HIS TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO BARCELONA FROM HIS FIRST VOYAGE COLUMBUS WAS MADE ADMIRAL OF THE OCEAN AND GOVERNOR GENERAL OF THE INDIES. TO FURTHER SHOW THEIR APPROBATION AND APPROVAL THEIR SPANISH MAJESTIES CAUSED A CREST TO BE EXECUTED FOR COLUMBUS UPON WHICH APPEARED THE ROYAL LION AND THE CASTLE WHICH IS ALSO SEEN IN THE COAT OF ARMS OF SPAIN. AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CREST THERE WERE DEPICTED A NUMBER OF SMALL ISLANDS, INDICATING HIS DISCOVERY OF NEW LANDS, AND FIVE ANCHORS, TYPIFYING HIS COMMAND OVER THE OCEAN. LATER ON HE WAS PERMITTED TO ADD TO THIS THE MOTTO:

"POR CASTILLA Y POR LEÓN
NUEVO MUNDO HALLO COLÓN"

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

THE SOURCE OF COLUMBUS' INSPIRATION.



A MAP OF THE WORLD AS TOSCANELLI CONCEIVED IT IN 1490. THE LOCATION OF THE VARIOUS CONTINENTS, AS WE KNOW THEM TO BE, IS SHOWN, FOR CONTRAST, IN THE BACKGROUND.



TOSCANELLI, THE FLORENTINE SCHOLAR AND MAP MAKER, WHOSE WRITINGS AND CHARTS SO INTRIGUED COLUMBUS THAT HE FINALLY PUT THE NEW THEORIES TO THE ACID TEST OF PRACTICE AND, BY SAILING STRAIGHT WEST, DISCOVERED A NEW WORLD.



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

COLUMBUS SECURES FINANCIAL SUPPORT.



COLUMBUS

IMBUED WITH THE GREAT IDEA OF DISCOVERING A WESTERN PASSAGE TO THE INDIES, VISITED GENOA ATTEMPTING TO RAISE FUNDS AMONG THE WEALTHY INHABITANTS OF HIS NATIVE CITY. UNSUCCESSFUL, HE TURNED TO KING JOAO II OF PORTUGAL WHO HAD BEEN THE PATRON OF OTHER NAVIGATORS, VASCO DE GAMA, ETC. FAILING TO INTEREST THE PORTUGUESE RULER HE TURNED TO SPAIN AND IS NEXT DISCOVERED



SOLICITING AID OF ISABELLA.

FOR SEVEN YEARS HE FOLLOWED THE SPANISH COURT IMPLORING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PROVE THE EXISTANCE OF A WESTWARD PASSAGE. FINALLY, DESPAIRING OF SUCCESS IN INTERESTING THE SPANISH MONARCHS, COLUMBUS, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS SON DIEGO, STARTED FOR FRANCE. EN ROUTE TO THE BORDER HE PAUSED FOR A TIME AT



LA RIBIDA.

HERE HE MET THE PRIEST IN CHARGE, FATHER JUAN PEREZ, WHO ALSO HAPPENED TO BE THE EX FATHER CONFESSOR TO THE SPANISH QUEEN. COMPLETELY WON OVER BY COLUMBUS' EVIDENT SINCERITY AND BELIEF IN THE FEASIBILITY OF HIS PLANS, FATHER PEREZ WROTE TO QUEEN ISABELLA, WITH THE RESULT THAT COLUMBUS WAS RECALLED TO THE SPANISH COURT AND GIVEN A FAVORABLE HEARING. THE STORY GOES THAT



QUEEN ISABELLA PLEDGED HER JEWELS TO FINANCE THE EXPEDITION. BE THAT AS IT MAY, IT IS NEVER-THE-LESS TRUE THAT SHE GAVE COLUMBUS THE SUM OF 1340 342 MARAVEDIS (APPROXIMATELY \$8000.00) TO EQUIP THE EXPEDITION.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS THE EQUIPMENT FOR THE FIRST VOYAGE.



VINCENTE



COLUMBUS - THE PINZONS

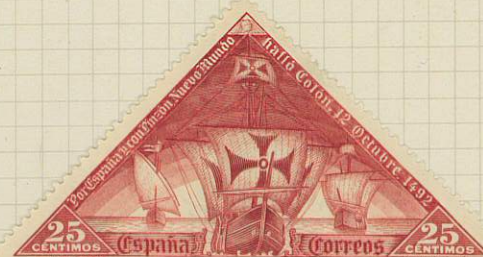


MARTIN

WERE THE MEN IN COMMAND OF THE THREE VESSELS WHICH COMPRISED THE FIRST EXPEDITION. COLUMBUS, OF COURSE, WAS IN CHARGE OF THE FLAG SHIP, THE SANTA MARIA, WITH A GROSS DISPLACEMENT OF 120 TONS. MARTIN PINZON COMMANDED THE PINTA (100 TONS), AND HIS BROTHER VINCENTE THE NINA (80 TONS). 127 PERSONS WERE ENLISTED FOR THE VOYAGE IN ADDITION TO THE THREE COMMANDERS.



FORE VIEW



THE TINY FLEET.



AFT VIEW

DURING THE EVENING OF AUGUST SECOND THE ENTIRE CREW WENT TO CONFESSION. A CROWD BEGAN TO GATHER ON THE SEA WALL OPPOSITE THE POINT WHERE THE SHIPS WERE AT ANCHOR. COLUMBUS SAID GOOD BYE TO HIS SON DIEGO LEAVING HIM IN CARE OF FATHER PEREZ. THEY ENTERED THE BOATS WHICH WERE TO TAKE THE MEN TO THE SHIPS. WHEN THE LAST BOAT BEARING COLUMBUS AND THE PINZONS LEFT



FATHER PEREZ PRONOUNCED A BLESSING ON THE EXPEDITION. VERY EARLY THE NEXT MORNING THE FLEET LEFT THE HARBOR. THE GREAT ADVENTURE HAD BEGUN.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

THE FIRST VOYAGE



THE SHIPS WERE DELAYED BY MISHAPS EN ROUTE TO THE CANARY ISLANDS AND WERE DETAINED IN GOMERA, A PORTUGUESE PORT, FOR THREE WEEKS REPAIRING THE DAMAGE. ON SEPTEMBER SIXTH THEY SAILED AWAY WESTWARD LEAVING BEHIND THEM THE LAST OUTPOST OF THE THEN KNOWN WORLD.



TWO DAYS WAS THE LONGEST TIME ANY OF THE VOYAGERS HAD HAD EVER BEEN OUT OF SIGHT OF LAND BEFORE AND COLUMBUS AND HIS TWO CAPTAINS FACED INCREASING DIFFICULTIES IN ALLAYING THE FEARS AND MISGIVINGS OF THE CREW. COLUMBUS KEPT TWO LOGS OF THE VOYAGE. A TRUE RECORD FOR HIS OWN INFORMATION, AND A FALSE LOG TO PREVENT THE SAILORS FROM REALIZING HOW FAR THEY HAD GONE. AS TIME WENT ON COLUMBUS, HIMSELF, SPENT HOURS LOCKED IN HIS CABIN TO BE FREE FROM THE URGENT PLEAS OF THE CREW THAT THEY TURN BACK BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE.



ON THE AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER ELEVENTH COLUMBUS SIGHTED MOVING LIGHTS AND ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER TWELVETH COLUMBUS LANDED ON AN ISLAND IN THE NEW WORLD.



THE NATIVES CALLED THIS ISLAND GUANAHANI. COLUMBUS CHRISTENED IT SAN SALVADOR. IT IS KNOWN AS WATTLINGS ISLAND, ONE OF THE BAHAMAS.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS.

THE FIRST VOYAGE



1492 - 1493



GREAT NAVIGATOR THOUGH HE WAS, COLUMBUS' GENIUS DID NOT EXTEND INTO THE FIELD OF ORGANIZATION. DISSENTION AND JEALOUSY WHICH HE WAS UNABLE TO CONTROL, BROKE OUT AMONG THE CREW.



AT LAST LEAVING A GARRISON OF THIRTY-SEVEN MEN TO MAINTAIN THE FORT, WHICH THE ADVENTURERS HAD BUILT, HE RETURNED TO SPAIN TAKING WITH HIM TEN NATIVES, AS LIVING PROOF OF HIS DISCOVERY.



PRESENTING NATIVES

ANNOUNCING DISCOVERIES.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

SECOND VOYAGE.



1493 - 1496



CAPTILIZING HIS POSITION AS A PRIME FAVORITE AT THE ROYAL COURT COLUMBUS HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN ORGANIZING A SECOND EXPEDITION. ON SEPT. 25 1493 HE SAILED WITH A FLEET OF 17 SHIPS MANNED BY A CREW OF ABOUT 1500 MEN. ON NOVEMBER 27, 1493, AFTER SIGHTING VARIOUS ISLANDS THEY ARRIVED AT LA NAVIDAD. TO THEIR CONSTERNATION THEY FOUND THE FORTRESS IN RUINS AND ALL THE COLONISTS DEAD. ON THIS VOYAGE COLUMBUS REMAINED IN THE NEW LAND FOR OVER TWO YEARS. ON THIS WEDNESDAY APRIL 20 1496 THEY LEFT LA NAVIDAD AND AFTER A PROSPEROUS VOYAGE THEY ARRIVED AT CADIZ ON JULY 11 1496.

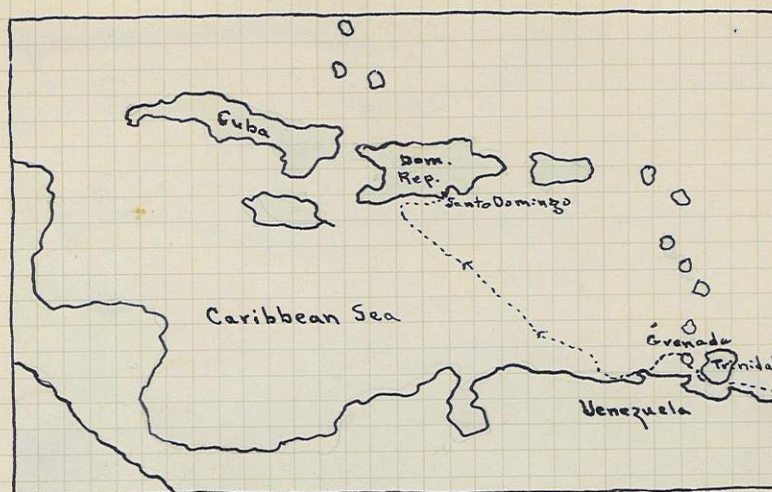


COLUMBUS EXPECTED A VERY UNPLEASANT RECEPTION THIS TIME AT THE SPANISH COURT, AS A RESULT OF POLITICS PLAYED BY A NUMBER OF COURT FAVORITES. HOWEVER, THE KING AND QUEEN WERE VERY GRACIOUS AND COLUMBUS HAD VISIONS OF BEING ABLE TO HEAD STILL ANOTHER EXPEDITION. IN FACT KING FERDINAND GRANTED THE SUM OF EIGHTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$80,000.00) FOR THAT VERY PURPOSE BUT IT SO HAPPENED THIS MONEY WAS NEEDED ELSEWHERE AND IT WAS NEARLY TWO YEARS LATER THAT THE THIRD VOYAGE WAS READY.

2nd
Voyage
1493-1496

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

THIRD VOYAGE



1498



ON MAY 30, 1498 THE THIRD EXPEDITION OF COLUMBUS LEFT THE HARBOR OF SAN LUCAR DE BARRAMEDA. HIS FLAGSHIP, A NEWER AND LARGER SHIP CALLED 'LA CONCEPCION', WAS ACCOMPANIED BY FIVE OTHER SHIPS. ON THIS VOYAGE HE DISCOVERED THE ISLAND OF TRINIDAD AND CAUGHT HIS FIRST SIGHT OF THE AMERICAN MAINLAND IN WHAT IS NOW A PART OF VENEZUELA. COLUMBUS NEVER KNEW HE HAD DISCOVERED A NEW CONTINENT. HE THOUGHT IT WAS AN ISLAND.

DURING THE TWO YEARS COLUMBUS HAD SPENT IN SPAIN HIS BROTHER BARTOLOME, WHO HAD BEEN LEFT AS GOVERNOR OF THE NEW LANDS, HAD HAD MUCH TO CONTEND WITH. RELATIONS, AMONG THE SPAINARDS THEMSELVES, AND BETWEEN THE SPANISH AND THE NATIVES, WERE STRAINED AND WHEN COLUMBUS ARRIVED AT THE ISLAND ON AUG. 30, 1498 THE BREAKING POINT WAS NEARLY REACHED. HIS EFFORTS TO MAKE AN END TO THE CONTINUOUS ROUND OF MUTINIES AND QUARRELS PROVED FUTILE, AND THE SHIPS WHICH RETURNED TO SPAIN BORE TIDINGS OF THE UNSETTLED STATE OF AFFAIRS TO SPANISH ROYALTY AT MADRID.

ON MARCH 2, 1499 FERDINAND GAVE A POWER-OF-ATTORNEY TO FRANCISCO DE BOBODILLA WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO INSTITUTE AN INQUIRY INTO AFFAIRS AT ESPANOLA.

COLUMBUS WAS NOT ON HAND WHEN BOBODILLA ARRIVED. WHEN HE RETURNED TO THE CITY HE WAS IMMEDIATELY SEIZED AND CHAINED, BROUGHT TO THE FORT AND COMPELLED TO EXHIBIT HIS DISGRACE.

LATER THE ADMIRAL WAS RECALLED TO SPAIN. IT WAS THUS COLUMBUS ENDED HIS THIRD VOYAGE AND DISGRACE WAS THE THANKS HE RECEIVED FROM THE ROYAL HOUSE FOR WHICH HE HAD DONE SO MUCH. HE REACHED CADIZ ON NOVEMBER 20, 1500.



3rd
Voyage
1498 -

Returned from
S. Domingo in
chain -

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

COLUMBUS RESTORED TO HONOR.



THE RETURN OF COLUMBUS IN CHAINS STIRRED UP A STORM OF INDIGNATION THROUGHOUT ALL SPAIN. KING FERDINAND SHOWED HIMSELF HIGHLY INDIGNANT. QUEEN ISABELLA WAS FURIOUS. SHE IMMEDIATELY ANNOUNCED THAT BOBODILLA HAD ACTED BEYOND AND OUTSIDE THE SANCTION AND POWERS GRANTED HIM BY THE KING. SHE ALSO EMPHATICALLY ASSURED COLUMBUS OF HER INNOCENCE AND GRANTED HIM A SUM OF MONEY TO ALEVIATE HIS HURT. ON DECEMBER 17 HE WAS GIVEN A HEARING AT GRENADA. AS A RESULT OF THAT HEARING COLUMBUS WAS RESTORED TO FAVOR.



IT SO HAPPENED THAT JUST AT THIS TIME EUROPE WAS IN THE MIDST OF ITS VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY. VASCO DE GAMA HAD SAILED AROUND AFRICA TO INDIA. THE ITALIAN GEOVANNI CABATTO (KNOWN NOW AS CABOT) AND HIS SON SEBASTIANO, IN THE SERVICE OF THE ENGLISH KING HENRY VII, HAD REACHED NEW FOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR. VINCENTE PINZON HAD BEEN TO BRAZIL, AS HAD BEEN ALVERS CABRAL.



ALL THIS, COUPLED WITH FERDINAND'S DESIRE TO EXTEND AND ENRICH HIS KINGDOM, STRENGTHENED THE FORCE OF COLUMBUS' ASSERTION THAT FURTHER VOYAGES WERE NECESSARY.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS.

FOURTH VOYAGE



1502-1504.



MAY 9 1502 FOUR CARAVELS PITIFULLY SMALL AND DILAPIDATED, SAILED OUT OF CADIZ HARBOR WITH COLUMBUS IN COMMAND. ON THIS VOYAGE COLUMBUS DISCOVERED MARTINIQUE AND ST. LUCIA AND FINALLY REACHED THE CONTINENT AT WHAT IS NOW HONDURAS. FROM THERE THEY WENT TO COSTA RICA, CONTINUOUSLY SEARCHING FOR GOLD. THEY LATER WENT TO THE CAYMAN ISLANDS AND EN ROUTE TO ESPANOLA THEY DROPPED ANCHOR AT PUERTO BUEN ON THE NORTH COAST OF JAMICA WHERE THEIR SHIPS IRREPARABLY DAMAGED BY A SUCCESSION OF STORMS BECAME TOTALLY UNSEAWORTHY. HERE THE LITTLE EXPEDITION FACED A LIVING DEATH STRANDED ON A STRANGE ISLAND WITH SCARCELY ONE CHANCE IN A THOUSAND OF BEING RESCUED. IN THIS EMERGENCY DIEGO MENDEZ DE SEGURA AND BATOLOME DE FRESCO VOLUNTEERED TO ATTEMPT THE APPARENTLY IMPOSSIBLE TRIP FROM JAMICA TO ESPANOLA IN A CANOE WHICH THEY OBTAINED FROM THE NATIVES. DUE TO THE DILATORY TACTICS OF OVONDO THE SPANISH GOVERNOR IT WAS MORE THAN EIGHT MONTHS BEFORE HELP WAS SENT TO THE CASTAWAYS. IT WAS NOT UNTIL JUNE, 1504 THAT THE SURVIVORS EMBARKED ON THEIR WAY BACK TO CIVILIZATION, LANDING AT SAN LUCAR DE BARRAMEDA ON NOVEMBER 7, 1504.

THUS, INGLORIOUSLY, ENDED THE LAST EXPEDITION OF COLUMBUS.



4th

voyage

1502-1504

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

FINIS.



BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH QUEEN ISABELLA, UPON ALL COLUMBUS' HOPES RESTED, DIED. HE WENT TO SEVILLE WHERE HE BUSIED HIMSELF GETTING HIS AFFAIRS IN ORDER. IN MAY, 1505 HE VAINLY JOURNEYED TO SEGOVIA TO PLEAD WITH THE KING FOR SOME RECOGNITION OF HIS RIGHTS AND THOSE OF HIS SON. THENCE, HE RETIRED TO VALLADOLID WHERE, NOT YET SIXTY YEARS OLD, HE DIED MAY 20, 1506. HIS BODY WAS LAID IN THE CARTHUSIAN MONASTERY OF SANTA MARIA DE LAS CUEVAS OF SEVILLE BUT IN 1542 IT WAS REMOVED, WITH THAT OF HIS SON, DIEGO, TO THE CATHEDRAL AT SAN DOMINGO, HISPANIOLA, (HAITI).

WHEN THAT ISLAND WAS CEDED TO THE FRENCH, IN 1795, A TRANSFER WAS MADE TO THE CATHEDRAL OF HAVANA AND AT LAST, AFTER SPAIN'S LOSS OF CUBA IN 1898, THE BONES OF FATHER AND SON WERE RETURNED TO SEVILLE AND PLACED IN A CATHEDRAL THERE.

MEMORIALS



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

PORTRAITS





No. 01170279

4/7/2008



Professional Stamp Experts

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Expert Committee

We have examined the enclosed item submitted to PSE, of which an image is shown below, and are of the opinion that:

Cat #	Issue	Denom.	Color
US#230	1893	1c	Deep blue

GRADE: F 70, Mint OGnh

"it is genuine unused, o.g., never hinged."







EXPOSICION
MUNDIAL DE
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DE AMERICA



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