

# DISCOVERY FIVE HUNDRED

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"PUBLIC AWARENESS THROUGH LIVING HISTORY" is the theme of the International Columbian Quincentenary Alliance, Ltd. Through its newsletter, information center, lecture bureau, educational materials, educational travel and public events, the ICQA contributes to the public awareness of the life and times of Christopher Columbus and the 500th anniversary of his Atlantic crossings. Through an informal alliance of the local, national and international groups organized to celebrate the Quincentenary, the ICQA promotes a unified effort in the commemoration of this major historic event.

## IN THIS ISSUE

The first issue of *Discovery Five Hundred* appeared in May, 1986. Six years, eighteen issues and 160 pages of text later, this first issue of our final year has been the hardest ever to edit. So much material has been submitted and so much is happening, that we found it difficult to pick and choose. Lest indecision postpone this issue any further, we decided to produce a combined Spring-Summer issue.

We've published several "theme" issues in the past, the most popular having been the *Columbus Landfall* issue (Spring, 1990). If one special theme emerges from the contents of this issue it might be "The Ships" -- although we have included a great deal of non-ship material. Our readers should enjoy this article, because it not only gathers together all the information about past replicas, but brings you up-to-date on the many 1992 replicas.

We had the opportunity to view the "Seeds of Change" exhibit at the Smithsonian in Washington. We recommend it strongly to all our readers. However, in this issue we review a lesser known but equally interesting exhibit in Morristown, New Jersey entitled: *500 Years of Discovery: From Columbus to Space*.

Our article on the I.C.Q.A. *Columbus Impersonator Team* was included as evidence of the positive educational activity going on despite all the Columbus bashing.

Our tradition of reviewing books continues in this issue, although we were forced to limit ourselves to brief announcements because of the tremendous volume of printed material on Columbus being produced.

"In Defense of Columbus," the article about the court trial held in Oxnard, California earlier this month, will be well-received by our many Columbus fans. I.C.Q.A. played a part in this project by providing the student defenders with resources for their research. The results were greater than we had anticipated and we are happy to share some of them with you.

On the other side, we describe an anti-Columbus protest in New Orleans which we recently witnessed.

The Quincentenary year is moving rapidly to its climax. On January 1 the Tournament of Roses Parade was a fitting kickoff in the U.S. We eagerly anticipate the July 4th Parade of Tall Ships and an exciting Quincentenary Summer and Fall!

## COLUMBUS: COUNTDOWN 1992 LEADERSHIP AWARDS

On Thursday, June 18 at the Columbus Club, 8 East 69th Street, New York, as a part of its special year-long "countdown" program celebrating the Columbus Quincentenary, *Columbus: Countdown 1992* will honor seven outstanding personalities representing a variety of cultural and professional fields. "In paying tribute to these artists, educators, and community leaders," commented Dr. Anne Paolucci, President of *Columbus: Countdown 1992*, "we commemorate not only the kind of vision attributed to Columbus, but also the dream of all our immigrant populations, who sought a better life in a new land far from home."

The "Leadership Awards" will honor Franco Borrelli (Press Award), Senior Editor of *America Oggi* and an Adjunct Professor of Italian at Montclair State College; Anna Crisci-Santana (Community Leadership Award), Founder and President of SIAMO, an Italian American group that fosters Italian heritage and culture; Joseph Finelli (Fine Arts Award), sculptor, creator of busts of Philip Mazzei, Luigi Pirandello and Dante, and more recently a Columbus statue; Joseph S. King (Theater Arts Award), playwright, director, actor and critic; Joseph M. Laufer (Quincentenary Programs Award), Associate Dean at Burlington County College in New Jersey, and Editor and Publisher of *Discovery Five Hundred*, who has brought the Columbus story into the schools, through personal appearances; Paul Patane (Education Award), consultant for the Board of Education and for many years its representative at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and Frances M. Rello (Heritage Award), former principal of Henry Bruckner J.H.S. 101, and current board member of the Italian Heritage and Culture Committee and the National Italian American Foundation (New York).

"We are immensely pleased to be able to honor these talented and hardworking community representatives, who have given so much time and energy to promoting cultural values and artistic projects. Without their efforts and those of others like them, this country's multi-ethnic legacy could not survive," Dr. Paolucci said in announcing the names of the honorees. "Their tireless commitment to the Columbus quincentenary in particular is something for which we are all grateful."

# REPLICA MANIA: MORE THAN JUST THE SPANISH CARAVEL TOUR

by Joseph M. Laufer

It is well known that Columbus' *Santa Maria* was shipwrecked on Christmas Day, 1492, only 144 days after it departed from Palos, Spain on August 3. The *Nina* was used on two subsequent voyages in expeditions under the direction of Columbus, and by 1500 both the *Nina* and *Pinta* were out of commission. While some information about the *Nina* has come down to us, there are no actual blueprints for the reconstruction of these very famous ships.

We aren't going to limit our feature on the replicas of the *Nina*, *Pinta* and *Santa Maria* to the well-publicized Spain-sponsored tour of the caravels. Instead, we have a five-part story:

- I. A History of the Columbus Ship replicas;
- II. The Columbus Foundation's *NINA*;
- III. The Columbus Ohio *SANTA MARLA*;
- IV. An update on the Spain '92 Caravel tour;
- V. Other replicas?

## I. A History of Columbus Ship Replicas

The May/June 1992 issue of *Archaeology Magazine* contains an excellent article by Roger C. Smith entitled "Replicating The Ships of Columbus" (pages 38-41). It is a well-researched article which answers many questions about the replicas created in 1893 for the World's Columbian Exposition: how the replicas were created, how they were transported to Chicago, and what happened to them after the Fair. I strongly recommend the article to all Columbus aficionados. To answer the questions succinctly: an American journalist, William E. Curtis conceived the idea in 1891 to recreate Columbus' three ships. The Spanish government agreed to build the *Santa Maria* and the United States agreed to provide the *Nina* and *Pinta*. Typically, there were complications along the way, and the project almost failed. While Smith provides all the details, let us simply state that only the *Santa Maria* was truly seaworthy and made the Atlantic crossing on its own, while the *Nina* and *Pinta* had to be towed across the Atlantic. In May, 1893 the ships made it to Chicago via the St. Lawrence Seaway and were very popular attractions for visitors to the Fair.

Author Smith provides an interesting history of the post-fair careers of the ships. In 1918 the *Pinta* sank in Chicago and in 1919 the *Nina* caught fire and sank. The *Santa Maria II* attempted a tour which was to lead to the Panama Canal, but after being impounded by the Canadian Government, was returned to Chicago, was re-fitted in 1920 and continued as a tourist attraction in Chicago until a fire in 1951 led to its eventual demolition.

In 1929 a *Santa Maria III* was created for the Ibero-American Fair in Seville. It sank in 1945. *Santa Maria*

*IV* was built in 1951 for a film and ended up in Barcelona, where it is today in front of the Maritime Museum. It once showed up on a "Love Boat" show on television. There were two other *Santa Marias*: one which was displayed at the 1964 World's Fair and the other in Caracas, Venezuela in 1968. Finally, a *Santa Maria* was created for the 1976 Bicentennial. It caught fire and sank on the Mississippi in 1979.

## II. The Nina of the Columbus Foundation.

While a *Nina III* was created in Spain in 1962, the most recent *Nina* is worthy of special attention. The information we are about to share has been provided by the Columbus Foundation, curators of a replica of the *Nina*. As we mentioned in section I, earlier replicas were poorly built and often unseaworthy. In fact, the Spanish replica fleet, currently on tour in the United States, is based on 1964 designs of Senor Martinez-Hidalgo which are basically incorrect. In an attempt to solve design problems, the Spanish Navy, using Hidalgo's plans made paraffin models of these ship designs and conducted tests at their hydrodynamic testing channel in Madrid. Based on these results, a new underwater shape was developed in an effort to give these ships the characteristics for safe ocean passage. Marine engines were added to meet the demands placed on these ships by a touring schedule. Sea trials conducted by the Spanish Navy revealed that, under both sail and motor, these ships were unable to attain more than 3.5 knots. The ships have since been re-powered with larger engines and will be escorted (towed) between most ports during their tour in 1992-93. Despite these efforts, however, the Spanish fleet is still considered unstable and must be handled with the utmost care at sea.

In contrast, the original *Nina*, under Columbus' command survived hurricane force gales on February 14, 1493 on her return voyage, and was a very seaworthy vessel indeed.

Most people, when thinking of Christopher Columbus, consider the *Santa Maria*. It is important to note that the *Santa Maria*, commonly called a "Nao" by design, was in fact comparable to a freighter of our times. After the *Santa Maria* sank, Columbus transferred his command to the caravel *Nina*. It was this caravel that allowed exploration of the New World, and returned Columbus safely to Spain. The *Nina*, a great vessel of exploration, could be compared to the space shuttle of our time.

In fifteenth century Europe, a merchant needing a ship would approach a builder. After describing the cargo needs and desired sailing characteristics the builder would then begin construction using what is now described as the Mediterranean Moulding Technique. With the combined input of the crew of these ships, and

Captains of similar vessels, these ships gradually evolved into more efficient designs.

A great deal of information on caravel construction and design, including such fundamental factors as the number of masts and rigging details, has been uncovered by recent discoveries of fifteenth century Spanish shipwrecks. The Molasses Reef Wreck and Red Bay Wreck, are two examples which were discovered on this side of the Atlantic. Continuous archival research of Spanish and Portuguese historical documents has led to the discovery of "*Libro de Armadas*," which indicates that the *Nina* may have been rigged as a four-master during her third voyage to the new world. The Columbus Foundation feels strongly that any attempt to reproduce the Columbus caravel should be inspired by honesty, so that this ship could be reproduced as accurately as possible, so it would become a vehicle for exploration and analysis of the Columbus voyages and a key to understanding this part of our past.

In 1991, over 5,000 miles from Spain, in a remote village in the province of Bahia, Brazil, history has been rewritten. For the first time in over four-hundred years, an exact replica of a Columbus era ship, the *Nina*, was built using design and construction techniques dating back to the fifteenth century.

The combination of fifteenth century building techniques, combined with the continued analysis of historical, ethnographic and recent archaeological records have ensured that this ship represents the latest thinking of the day. The *Nina* was built for the Columbus Foundation under the direction of an American, John Patrick Sarsfield.

John was an engineer and maritime historian who had conducted research into the caravel designs. He had examined Portuguese and Spanish documents and ship building treatises of the period, and he incorporated into the replica design the results of recent excavations of fifteenth and sixteenth century shipwrecks. John Sarsfield was able to convince the Columbus Foundation that the question of design should in fact be approached from a completely different angle than those pursued by Spain and Martinez-Hidalgo.

John had done extensive research into the ship building practices of the period. This led him to discover an archaic ship building process called Mediterranean Whole Moulding, a technique used by master ship builders during the fifteenth century. As a chemical engineer, John Sarsfield had traveled extensively and spent six years in Brazil on assignment. It was during this period of time, while traveling and exploring the many cities and villages dotting the coastline of Brazil, that John made the exciting discovery of an area where ship builders still employed this Mediterranean Moulding Technique. The technique had survived in this Portuguese-settled land, passed down from generations of ship builders.

John Sarsfield's own words best describe why he chose Bahia to construct our replica ship. The *Nina* replica will be as authentic a replica as can be built anywhere today. Most importantly, it is being built by master ship builders who still continue to use identical design and construction principles and methods as were used in Columbus' time. Although these methods do not involve the use of drawn plans as we know them today, they are fairly elaborate and quite sophisticated. Valenca is one of the only places in the world where this archaic ship building system thrives. Here also, there is ready access to the naturally curved timbers so vital for construction of an accurate replica using these period construction practices. This combination of a surviving fifteenth century naval architectural system along with existing networks to supply the types of traditional timbers fundamental for such construction, makes Brazil uniquely suited for building replica ships from the age of discovery.

All of the Brazilian hardwoods used in the construction of the ship were purchased from private individuals and were not of rain forest origin. These hardwoods are much stronger than those of Europe or America and any ship constructed with them can be expected to survive many years.

John Sarsfield personally supervised the construction of the *Nina* replica in Brazil until his tragic death in an automobile accident in July, 1990. The project could not have been accomplished without his efforts. His enthusiasm and vision kept the building crews going through difficult times, and his dedication and desire to see his theories develop from paper into reality made the *Nina* project possible. In June of 1990, John's work in Brazil was recognized by a group of marine archaeological researchers from a privately funded organization, Ships of Discovery, based in Dallas, Texas.

On December 18, 1991, the *Nina* departed Salvador, rigged as a four-master. It carried a crew of eleven and arrived in Puntarenas, Costa Rica on January 23rd. Between January 30th and March 28 she was used for the movie "1492," directed by Ridley Scott and being released by Paramount Studios on October 9, 1992. This voyage of 4,000 miles represents the first time that a discovery caravel replica has made a successful unescorted open ocean passage of this distance.

The replica ship, the *Nina*, will be used in quincentenary celebrations during 1992 and 1993. A mobile marine exhibit is being planned for the purpose of accompanying the *Nina* at each port city. Development of the exhibit is being undertaken by Dr. Donald Keith, a maritime archaeologist with Ships of Discovery. A tentative tour has been announced, to include participation in Tall Ship parades in San Juan, Puerto Rico, New York, Boston and San Francisco.

From May 25 through June 15, 1992 the *Nina* will be in San Juan, Puerto Rico. An East Coast tour is scheduled to begin at the time of the Tall Ships Parade

in New York during the July 4 weekend. The *Nina* will then proceed to Fishers Island, NY (July 7-8), Boston (July 10-14), Providence (July 15-21), New London (July 21-23), New Haven (July 23-26), Philadelphia (July 30-August 11), Baltimore (August 12-18), Annapolis (August 18-24), Washington, DC (August 26-September 21) and Norfolk (September 23-30).

During the Fall and Winter the *Nina* will tour the Gulf Coast, including the cities of Dallas, Galveston, and Houston, Texas; New Orleans; Mobile, Tampa, Sarasota and Key West, Florida. During the Winter and Spring of 1993 the *Nina* will tour Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Jacksonville, Savannah and Charleston. A Great Lakes Summer of 1993 will include Chicago, Detroit, Buffalo, Toronto and Montreal.

For more information about the *Nina*, contact Mr. Michael D. Macfarlane, Project Manager, Columbus Foundation, 458 Marmora Ave., Tampa, Florida 33606.

### III. The Columbus, Ohio Santa Maria.

(Material for this section was taken from information provided by the City of Columbus, Ohio and from an article in the Dayton Daily News by Benjamin Kline).

Gene D'Angelo heads Santa Maria, Inc., the non-profit organization which built the replica of the *Santa Maria* for the Scioto River in Columbus, Ohio. This is a \$1.5 million project, of which one million had been raised at the time of the christening of the ship on October 11, 1991. No public funds have been used for this project. According to the sponsoring organization, the Columbus *Santa Maria* is the world's most authentic, museum-quality representation of Christopher Columbus' flagship. Because it will not sail on the open sea, the ship did not require alteration to be fitted with a motor and propeller to conform to international maritime specifications, as does the other existing *Santa Maria* replica built in Spain. This *Santa Maria* is modeled after the Jose-Maria Martinez-Hidalgo plans, presented to the City of Columbus by the Kingdom of Spain in April, 1990.

Construction began in November, 1990 at the Scarano Boat Building Company in Albany, New York. In July, 1991, two halves of the ship were transported 750 miles via interstate highway to Columbus. The sails were made in Plattsburg, New York. The parts were placed in a public parking lot for final touches, and then the ship was lowered by crane into a specially prepared area of the Scioto River. A bubbler system was installed to keep the water circulating below. The ship was christened during Columbus '92 ceremonies on October 11, 1991.

The overall length of the *Santa Maria* is 98 feet. The height, from bottom of hull to top of mast is 89 feet. It weighs 170 tons. One of the centerpieces of Columbus, Ohio's AmeriFlora, which opened on Easter Monday, 1992, the *Santa Maria* will probably be the most visited and most photographed object of the exhibit. Until mid-

October, the *Santa Maria* will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, contact Columbus Santa Maria, Inc., 770 Twin Rivers Drive, P.O. Box 1010, Columbus, OH 43216 (614) 460-3725 or (800)-BUCKEYE.

### IV. Update on the Spain '92 Caravel tour.

The East Coast tour of the *Nina*, *Pinta* and *Santa Maria* is getting a great deal of press. The ships were received with a flair of publicity on Valentine's Day when they arrived in Miami. They went on to visit Corpus Christi, Galveston, and New Orleans. We caught up with them in New Orleans on April 5 and 6. The lines were long and the interest high, as has been the case in all of the cities they've visited to date. Thanks to the enthusiasm of local sponsoring committees, the public arrives in droves. On the down side, the sponsors have been somewhat displeased by the capriciousness of the Spain '92 coordinators. The schedule has changed several times. Folks have planned vacations only to be disappointed to learn that the ships were either already there or are due next week! Publicized dates for the arrival of the ships in Philadelphia have changed three times so far! The best advice we can give is to "check your local listing" before you head to port to see the caravels. *Discovery Five Hundred* published the dates provided by Spain '92 in the last issue. In the interim we have received two updated lists. Here is the latest schedule as provided by Spain '92:

Charleston, SC	May 10-17
Norfolk, VA	May 23-27
Baltimore, MD	May 29-June 8
Annapolis, MD	June 8-11
Philadelphia, PA	June 17-22
New York, NY	June 26-July 26
New London, CT	July 28-31
Boston, MA	August 3-13

The tentative West Coast itinerary includes San Francisco (Oct. 2-25), Santa Barbara (Oct. 30-Nov.1), Los Angeles (Nov. 6-29) and San Diego (Dec. 11-Jan. 3).

If you plan to visit the ships while they are in port at one of the cities listed above, be prepared for long lines and relatively short "on board" visits, with little or no guidance from tourguides. Philadelphia is planning to provide some historical background for visitors before they board the ships with the help of the I.C.Q.A. and *Discovery Five Hundred*. Spain '92 has cornered the souvenir market at most of the sites, although in New Orleans, the Louisiana Quincentenary Commission had a tent with rather tasteful souvenirs. Spain '92 tents hawk flags, coins, postcards, buttons and, of course, T-shirts. In New Orleans, we discovered a Columbus Teddy Bear in one of the souvenir carts.

Most visitors don't have the opportunity to see the ships at full sail, as they spend most of their visit in port,

sails down. The most dramatic moment, however, is the arrival in port under full sail. Because of the faulty construction of the ships, the weather has to be almost ideal for this "show" to take place. Parked a short distance away is the Spanish Navy ship which brings the ships in tow from port to port.

Many newspapers across the country carried a dramatic Associated Press photo of the three ships at full sail with the space shuttle Endeavour in the background about to be launched as the caravels made their way from Fort Lauderdale to St. Augustine on May 6. The timing and contrast couldn't have been more appropriate for a magic quincentennial moment.

Despite the flaws in the overall coordination of the caravel tour, it still remains the best quincentennial show in town.

## V. Other Replicas?

At one point in the mid 80's, there were plans to build about ten replicas of Columbus' ships. According to our sources, as described in this article, Spain '92 has 3 ships, the Columbus Foundation has a *Nina*, and Columbus, Ohio has a *Santa Maria*, for a grand total of 5. There is, however, one more: a *Santa Maria* which was constructed in Barcelona, Spain, and paid for by Japanese contributors (\$12 million). The replica has already crossed the Atlantic (1991), arriving at San Salvador to place an identical bronze plaque at each of the two alleged landfall locations on the island. It then sailed through the Panama Canal, with its final destination being Kobe, a port on Osaka Bay, where she is now a floating museum. Since Columbus thought he was headed for Cipango (Japan), it was only fitting that this voyage was made and Japan finally reached by the *Santa Maria*.

### Summary of Caravel replicas:

Santa Maria I (1492)  
Santa Maria II (1892) Chicago  
Santa Maria III (1929) Seville  
Santa Maria IV (1945) Currently in Barcelona  
Santa Maria V (1964) New York World's Fair  
Santa Maria VI (1968) Caracas, Venezuela  
Santa Maria VII (1976) U.S. Bicentennial (NY)  
Santa Maria VIII (1989) Spain '92  
Santa Maria IX (1991) Japan  
Santa Maria X (1991) Columbus, Ohio

Pinta I (1492)  
Pinta II (1892) Chicago  
Pinta III (1989) Spain '92

Nina I (1492)  
Nina II (1892) Chicago  
Nina III (1962) San Sebastian, Spain  
Nina IV (1989) Spain '92  
Nina V (1991) Columbus Foundation

## AUTHOR RESPONDS TO NCSS

*Paul Chapman, author of Discovering Columbus, (1992: ISAC Press, The Rankin, 1204 Broadway, Columbus GA 31902. Hardback; 265 pages. \$19.95. ) sent the following response to the statement of the National Council for the Social Studies which we published in our last issue. (Mr. Chapman's book is an admiring navigator's positive study of Columbus and his motives).*

As to the points that "Educators should ensure," let us take these in the same sequence as presented.

1. "Columbus did not discover a new world..." Words should not be read out of context. Columbus did indeed discover in the context of European knowledge at that time.

"...and, thus, initiate American history." We could and should acknowledge that native Americans had oral traditions which included history -- in much the same manner as the Bible. But to the extent that history is the written record Columbus did initiate the recording of American history.

2. "The America of 1492 was not a wilderness...(it included) centers of dense populations." Not where Columbus landed or in any of the many ports he anchored. His men had to travel 35 miles inland at one place to find a village of more than one thousand homes. On the mainland explorers frequently traveled the pathways for days without encountering a soul. Read, for example, John Lawson's *A New Voyage to Carolina*.

This paragraph also discusses various aspects of the natives' culture. Cannibalism, encountered by Columbus with the Caniba Indians (from whom we get the word cannibal), is not mentioned.

3. "The Atlantic slave trade...soon extended to the Americas." Slavery was already here. On Columbus' initial contact on his second voyage he rescued natives who were being held as slaves by other native tribes.

4. "The encounters of Native Americans, Africans, and Europeans following 1492 are not stories of vigorous white actors confronting passive red and black spectators and victims." Agreed.

5. "As a result of forces emanating from 1492, Native Americans suffered catastrophic mortality rates. By far the greatest contributors to this devastation were diseases brought by the explorers..." The statement deplores by name diseases brought by the white man but ignores diseases transmitted by the natives -- the earlier immigrants. Syphilis is nowhere mentioned. Diseases know no racial boundaries. The contact which was bound to come would bring the intermixture of diseases, whenever it was made -- 1492 is not peculiar in this sense.

The NCSS is to be commended on its objective, "Provide students with basic, accurate knowledge about Columbus's voyages, their historical setting, and unfolding effects." However, its stated position is factually imbalanced, and erroneous.

## 500 YEARS OF DISCOVERY: FROM COLUMBUS TO SPACE

One of the most refreshing aspects of the Columbus Quincentenary has been the ability of dedicated and creative individuals to almost independently develop educational projects worthy of the 500th anniversary being commemorated. These achievements have been especially worthy of commendation because they have been attained despite almost insurmountable odds. "Columbus bashing" has taken its toll on the available financial and moral support necessary for public exhibits and events. One example of an outstanding quincentenary project is the exhibition called "500 YEARS OF DISCOVERY: FROM COLUMBUS TO SPACE" at the Morris Museum in Morristown, New Jersey being held from April 22 through October 19, 1992. While located in a small, affluent community in North-central New Jersey, it has all the trappings of a national exhibition, and should be considered a worthy stop-off point for anyone looking for Quincentenary events.

In a nutshell, the exhibition compares and contrasts Columbus' Enterprise of the Indies with the exploration of Space. As simple as this sounds, to execute the project was a massive undertaking which illustrates the creative skills of the curators, Mary K. Dykstra and Juliann Gaydos. Ms. Dykstra was responsible for the Columbus aspect of the exhibit, while Ms. Gaydos had responsibility for the Space segment. It is obvious that they work very well together, because the parallels and contrasts are executed dramatically.

The exhibit occupies a hallway and three rooms of the museum. The theme is established in the hallway where on the left one encounters the history of the Columbus adventure through a series of outstanding classical graphics, and on the right the history of space exploration is laid out similarly. It is worth quoting verbatim the introductory thematic essay:

*"Discovery is a moment in time when one must pause in wonder and amazement. It is Columbus looking at a land he has never seen or an astronaut gazing at a world he has always known. These events have changed human history in ways that are both wondrous and disturbing.*

*This exhibit emphasizes discovery as a privilege. It tells of the personalities, dreams, and tools necessary to make great journeys. Tragically, many lives were lost in the name of "progress" when this privilege was abused.*

*Therefore, this exhibition is also a reminder of the sacredness of all life. It is a symbol of what people can do when they build upon the knowledge of the past. It offers both an invitation and a challenge:*

*Come my friends, 'tis not too late to seek a newer world... to sail beyond the sunset till I die... to strive, to seek, to find and not to yield. Alfred Lord Tennyson.*

Departing the hall describing the history of Columbus and of Space exploration, the visitor moves into a diorama room. To the right is a life-size Columbus, in

appropriate period garb, on the beach in San Salvador. To the left is a lunar landing craft with an astronaut in full space suit standing on the moon. Both dioramas are beautifully and realistically executed, and are of a quality equal to Smithsonian exhibits in Washington, DC.

Moving to the next room, the visitor is shown wall charts describing wind currents both from space and as known to Columbus in 1492. In the center of the room is a lunar module ascent engine. On one side of the room is a completely rebuilt section of the deck of the *Nina*, with an operational rudder and a binnacle used by the helmsman. This is a "please touch" exhibit, with children being invited to climb aboard and operate the rudder. On the opposite side of the room is a life-size replica of the *Friendship 7* space capsule. Here again, children are invited to climb aboard and experience the reality of cramped quarters, back down and legs up.

My favorite room was the next one, providing a variety of comparison/contrast exhibits. There's a NASA display of the foods eaten by the astronauts in space, contrasted with a display of foods eaten aboard Columbus' ships, including hard-tack, chick peas, black eyed peas, lentils, salt pork, cheese, black olives, olive oil, vinegar and wine. An excellent wall chart illustrates the exchange of foods between the old world and the new world. Very detailed models of the *Nina*, *Pinta* and *Santa Maria* created especially for the exhibit by Ted Lowy are contrasted with exact models of the space shuttle, rockets and space modules. Space instruments are contrasted with an exhibit of instruments used by Columbus: the quadrant, ampoletta (sand glass), and compass. Incidentally, the quadrant on loan to the museum belongs to Doug Peck, the solo sailor who retraced the voyage of Columbus in 1986. He used this crude model to show how it was actually of very little help to Columbus in his navigation.

The Morris Museum is open daily, Monday through Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. There will be a special Family Day held on September 19 at which time presentations will be made by Columbus-expert Joe Laufer and former astronaut Terry Hart. The exhibition closes on October 19, 1992. *The Morris Museum is located at Six Normandy Heights Road, Morristown, New Jersey 07960. For further information, call (201) 538-0454.*

## LAS CASAS BOOK FOR CHILDREN

**Bartolome de las Casas, Champion of Indian Rights. Dr. Fred Stopsyky. 1992: Lowell, Mass. Discovery Enterprises. 52 pages. Paperback. \$4.95** Excellent overview of the life of las Casas. Recommended for Grades 5-9. Lively dialogue and vivid descriptions. A helpful vehicle for teaching about the treatment of the Indians from a contemporary observer who, in effect, admired Columbus. The best part of the book is the summary of the debate between Sepulveda and las Casas concerning acceptable ways to convert the Indians (8 pages). Provides insight into contemporary thinking about Indians. *Order through ICQA. Include \$2.50 postage.*

# ANATOMY OF A PROTEST

By Joseph M. Laufer

Newspapers have reported protests surrounding Quincentenary events in various parts of the country. One of the earliest surrounded the opening of the "First Encounters" exhibit in Gainesville, Florida in 1990. Then, much was made of the "welcome" given the caravels, *Nina*, *Pinta* and *Santa Maria* on Valentine's Day, 1992 in Miami by Native Americans. We had the opportunity to witness first hand an organized protest during the visit of the caravels to New Orleans on April 5 and 6, 1992. Members of Pax Christi New Orleans coordinated a peaceful and tasteful protest on the bluff overlooking the docked caravels at the height of the public viewing on Sunday afternoon, April 5.

Theirs wasn't the only protest, however. A Native American dressed in full feather headdress picketed the site with a sign which read: "RAPE, POISON, POLLUTION: GO BACK."

The Pax Christi group, in addition to handing out literature, conducted a dramatic prayer service. About a dozen people gathered with signs and paraphernalia and a "boom box" public address system. The theme of the "service" was "Remember, Repent and Renew". It was not an original dramatization, but was taken from a printed booklet designed by Tom Cordaro and Margaret Wehrer. It included excerpts from "Mestizo Identity and the Missioner's Task" by Sister Melinda Roper, MM and a statement from the United Church of Canada General Council. The closing prayer came from a quincentenary worship resource published by the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice.

The service did not attract large numbers of on-lookers, but the hundreds of people lined up to board the *Pinta* and *Santa Maria* couldn't help but hear the message. Several dozen people stopped to witness the entire ceremony, which took about 30 minutes, while others wandered by and mumbled their disagreement with the protesters, bordering more on ridicule than understanding.

After an opening song, the First Narrator quoted Gustavo Gutierrez, a Peruvian theologian, who said: "We must have the courage to read the facts from the other side of history.... In fact, only historical honesty can free us from prejudices, narrowness and ignorance which make our past a burdensome mortgage.... The quincentenary must not become an invitation to put back the historical clock. Our approach to the past must be motivated not by nostalgia but by hope; not by a fixation upon former painful and traumatic occurrences, but because of present suffering and the conviction that only a people which has a memory can transform the situation it is in and build a different world."

The second narrator stated: "We take time now, to remember the past. Not in chronic remorse, but in an attitude of repentance. We look at the past as a means of coming to terms with the 500 year legacy of sin which still

impairs our vision and keeps us prisoners of fear, hatred, ignorance and intolerance."

The role of narrator rotated first to one who spoke for "The Silenced Voices of Latin America", listing the statistics of what was termed "genocide and ethnocide". Meanwhile, an actor wearing a label across his chest portrayed a "conquistador" who mimed beating down a person who was on the ground in a prone position. References were made to the replacement of a culture and customs with other customs and cultures which were imposed upon their original spirituality. At the conclusion of this first narration and visualization, all participants marched in a circle chanting: "We will remember, we will repent, we will renew". This chant was to be repeated at five different intervals in the ceremony.

Other visualizations included "soldiers" pushing a third person back and forth from each other, individuals with chains around their wrists and bodies, and the invasion of personal space by outsiders. The narration was not limited to lamentations about the early conquistadores, but referred to the abuse of power by governments and the defenselessness and vulnerability of indigenous peoples even today. One of the voices of the people laments that: "They never took into account our thought, our culture and our history.... The aspiration of the indigenous peoples of our America is that the 500th anniversary mark the end of 500 years of oppression and discrimination, and the beginning of a process of constructing conditions for the real historical encounter of two cultures, based on equality, mutual respect, peace and cooperation for independent development."

The second phase of the program dealt with the "Silenced Voices from North America". References were made to broken promises, "manifest destiny", and the uprooting of civilizations, and a basic lack of understanding. The assembled participants repeated: "We will remember, we will repent, we will renew".

The final prayer of the service is worth quoting in its entirety:

*God our Creator, You are the source of all forgiveness, reconciliation and peace. During this year's commemoration of the fifth centenary of the Coming of the Gospel to the Americas, we ask for your gifts of forgiveness, reconciliation and peace for all the peoples of this land.*

*Give us strength and courage. Help us to work for true and deep reconciliation between races, people and nations so that our ancestors of these past five centuries will be glad and that their spirits will find eternal peace and joy in you. Help us to know that we are all relatives.*

*Help us in our struggle for spiritual freedom. Help us to know that it is only in our Lord Jesus Christ that we find the full answer to our prayers...*

Ironically, just as the service ended, three New Orleans police officers approached the group to inform them that the use of the boom box public address system was prohibited in this location. Not to worry -- the service had ended peacefully. There was no disruption of

the main event, as hundreds of people continued to file aboard the "invading" ships, most of them ignoring the service and its message.

In addition to the service, a one page flyer bearing the headline: "Christopher Columbus: The Unofficial History" and one entitled: "Discover Columbus' Legacy: 500 Years of European- American Conquest and Oppression". The latter leaflet encouraged the support of Native American treaty rights and entreated readers to join the struggle against racism. Unfortunately, the "unofficial history" is rife with error and innuendo, and serves to do exactly the opposite of what the prayer service was meant to do, namely, renew and heal. By separating the Columbus story from the context of history, the crimes and mistakes of humanity are heaped upon one representative of the period, namely, Christopher Columbus, whose individual motivation is grossly distorted.

The Quincentenary is certainly an opportunity to focus on the sins of the past with a view to future progress in the spirit of George Santayana's reminder that "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." The event in New Orleans came close to being an "ideal" protest: peaceful, meaningful and historically accurate, with the exception of some of the biased and inaccurate literature which was distributed.

*Anyone wishing to receive copies of the material discussed in this piece may request same from the ICQA by including a small donation towards their reproduction and mailing costs.*

## MANN BOOK AND COIN AVAILABLE THROUGH I.C.Q.A.

In the Fall/Winter issue of *Discovery Five Hundred* we introduced Panamanian John Mann's unusual interpretation of the mysterious signature of Christopher Columbus (the so-called "Geometric" interpretation). Mr. Mann has asked the I.C.Q.A. to be the American distributor of his booklet. The 46-page illustrated booklet **For God's Eyes Only: The Secret Pact of Christopher Columbus** sells for \$8.00. In addition, Mr. Mann has created a bronze coin which both commemorates the Columbus Quincentenary and illustrates the mysterious signature of Columbus. This, too, is available from the I.C.Q.A. for \$8.00. Include normal postage fees.

## 50 STATES: COLUMBUS LEGACY

Ethel Patterson of Manasses, Virginia has put together a montage of word pictures (poems) depicting all 50 states in a book she titled *Santa Maria's Legacy: A New World* (1991: Self published. 93 pages. \$8.00 + \$2.50 postage. Order through ICQA). Seventeen writers have braided the history and geography of the fifty states with personalities, beginning with Christopher Columbus and his flagship *Santa Maria*, Ponce de Leon, Cortes, Coronado, Father Serra and Sutter. The book is divided into sections, starting with the Western States, then the Eastern States, and finally the Midwest States.

## CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Adler, David A. *A Picture Book of Christopher Columbus*. New York: Holiday House, 1991. 32 pages. \$14.95.

Colorful pictures; limited text.

Finkelstein, Norman H. *The Other 1492: Jewish Settlement in the New World*. New York: Beech Tree Books, 1989. 100 pages. \$4.95.

Foreman, Michael. *The Boy Who Sailed With Columbus*. New York: Arcade Publishing (Little, Brown), 1991. 71 pages. \$16.95.

A novel approach to the Columbus story. Leif, a 12-year old orphan Viking living at the monastery of La Rabida gets to go with Columbus to the New World. As fate would have it, he was at the tiller on Christmas Eve when the *Santa Maria* sinks. He remains at La Navidad and eventually identifies with the Indians. Later in life he is faced with a monumental choice: life as a "European" or life as an Indian.

Levinson, Nancy Smiler. *Christopher Columbus: Voyager to the Unknown*. New York: Dutton Lodestar Books, 1990. 118 pages. \$16.95.

Highly regarded, well-researched and well-illustrated book for young people (grades 5-9). Does not shy away from the controversy over Columbus and deals head on with the poor treatment of the Indians. Incorporates recent research and avoids the myths. Includes chronology, Columbus' crew list and the *Santa Fe Captiulations*.

Maestro, Betsy and Giulio. *The Discovery of the Americas*. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1991. 48 pages. \$14.95.

Provides insights into pre-Columbian life in the Americas. While it emphasizes the Columbian encounter, it delves further into the Age of Discovery.

Sis, Peter. *Follow the Dream: The Story of Christopher Columbus*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1991. 32 pages. \$15.00.

Unique artwork by someone who knows how to communicate visually with young people.

West, Delno C. and Jean M. *Christopher Columbus: The Great Adventure And How We Know About It*. New York: Atheneum, 1991. 136 pages. \$15.95.

A well-organized narrative, interspersed with "boxes" of information that will satisfy the curiosity of young readers. Highly recommended as classroom resource.

Yolen, Jane. *Encounter*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992. 32 pages. \$14.95.

Yue, Charlotte and David. *Christopher Columbus: How He Did It*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1992. 136 pages. Hardback \$13.95.

As the name implies, this book deals with the motives, the clues, the means and the maps. Deals with the basic scientific aspects that young people want to know about. Highly recommended. A great resource for classroom projects for the quincentenary.



## IN DEFENSE OF COLUMBUS

By Joseph M. Laufer

On May 6, 1992 in Oxnard, California, a quincentennial event took place which is worthy of note. Professor/Attorney Edward T. Buckle experienced the results of a semester-long assignment to his Evidence Class at Oxnard College. A public trial was held "In the court of Public Domain". It was Case # 10-12-1492, The Indigenous People of Mesoamerica, Plaintiff vs. Christopher Columbus, Defendant. Columbus was on trial for a variety of crimes: trespass to land, negligence and battery. Professors and students were involved in the Trial Court case. Briefs were filed, and a packed courtroom witnessed the trial. The project included an appeals process, and the Court of Appeals followed the regular case on that May evening in Oxnard, California. We are particularly interested in the work of Priscilla Levy and Betty Powers, Amicus Curiae on behalf of the defendant. Attorney (professor) Buckle's letter reads: "Comes now, Priscilla Levy, Betty Powers, and Bernadine Fasching as friends of the court, filing briefs on behalf of Defendant Christopher Columbus. Having argued this matter in the Court of Public Domain at Oxnard, California, and intending to bring to this honorable tribunal additional information which will assist the court in arriving at a just and equitable conclusion, we respectfully submit the attached Amicus Briefs.

Priscilla Levy's brief consists of 35 pages of text and 4 pages of Bibliography. Betty Powers' brief consists of 20 pages of text and 3 pages of Bibliography. The quality of the work is indicative of the enormous amount of time the students put into the research, and also reflects the kind of inspiration Professor Buckle gave to his students. This kind of activity could be considered trivial unless handled properly. The Oxnard College trial was far from trivial. It is a fine example of how the Columbus Quincentenary is a catalyst for scholarly research and insights into history. More importantly, the merit of this trial is that it was far from one-sided.

While Christopher Columbus was found guilty on all counts by the Trial Court, the Court of Appeals, thanks to the work of Levy and Powers in particular, overruled the Trial Court's verdict on trespass to land and negligence, while sustaining the Trial Court's verdict on battery. In the correct parlance of the law, this action has the effect of "sending back" their decision to the Trial Court for consideration.

The extensive research conducted by Ms. Powers and Ms. Levy, in particular, serves as a compendium of pro-Columbus material. The cover of their respective briefs reads simply: "To plaintiff, the Indigenous People of Mesoamerica and their attorney of record: Notice is hereby given that on May 6, 1992, at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in Department LA 6 of this court, located at Oxnard, California. Defendant Christopher Columbus will and does generally deny each and every allegation set forth in the complaint, in-

cluding but not limiting itself to the crime of rape, slavery, genocide and ecocide."

We invite our readers who may be interested in the full text of the briefs to write for them (ordering information is provided at the end of this article). It is our intention here to quote several poignant statements of the "Friends" of Columbus. First, Ms. Levy:

"There is no denial that Columbus led the way for the European conquest of the New World, but should he be judged by a different set of rules than that which history has afforded those that came before him and those who came after? With conquest comes cruelty, but which group of people can say that they were not guilty of similar occurrences? Is the European conquest any different than that of the rise of Islam, the Norman conquest of Britain, and the widespread American Indian tradition of raiding, depopulating and appropriating neighboring lands?"

Concerning Columbus' spiritual motivation, Ms. Levy provides convincing evidence: "Antonio de Marchena (Franciscan at La Rabida)...would become of supreme importance to Columbus's career and to his mission. Marchena's apocalyptic agenda and that of Europe which was taken very seriously included that, based on biblical prophecy and the corruption of the whole of Christendom, the world would end in 150 years--by the year 1650. This group of Observantines (Franciscans) hoped to recover Jerusalem's holy places from the Muslims, and these tenets became the ruling motives in the life and writings of Columbus."

"One may understand more fully Columbus's attitude towards slavery when realizing its commonality among nations during that period....Slavery was a customary practice of those times, sanctioned by its ruling monarchs and the Catholic Church. Would it, therefore, be reasonable for Columbus to question these acts as cruel or unusual treatment?... The exploitation of innocent peoples whose lands were seen as increasingly desirable is viewed by many now as a 'black and white' issue, leaving no room for any gray areas. But in all fairness one must also consider the circumstances surrounding those acts."

"To blame Columbus while he was governor of Hispaniola for the travesties of [the conquistadores] is to place an unreasonable and unrealistic burden of liability on a single human being whose goals and dreams were focused on navigation and discovery of uncharted waters and lands. Wickedness and greed controlled some of his men, but savagery was the exception, not the norm. By 15th century standards punishment was harsh, cutting off a hand, ear or nose or even being hanged for getting caught stealing gold. But Columbus treated the Indians with the same methods imposed on his own men. He also did not have a law-enforcement agency to rely on to police the Spanish and protect the Tainos. What governor today would have control of his constituents without laws and police to enforce them? In looking back 500

years such punishment is repulsive, but one cannot apply a moral code that was not in place then."

"For whatever Columbus's fault lies with his association or indifference to slavery and rape, its impact upon the Indians is miniscule compared to the slavery, endemic warfare, torture and human sacrifice the Indians imposed upon each other. The popular concept now is to blame Columbus for opening up the New World to the white man and destroying the great Indian civilizations of Mesoamerica and North America."

"The history of ancient cultures which flourished and disappeared for thousands of years is an integral part of the story of mankind. Granted the white man had more advanced weaponry than the Indians, but wars and savagery were prominent in their heritage as well. To equate them as a passive, naive and helpless people is to ignore the development and effectiveness of their intelligence, power and sophistication."

"Genocide, in its proper sense, is the 'intentional' systematic eradication of a race of people. One has only to look at the execution of the intentionally attempted genocide of the Jewish race, gypsies, and other minorities during World War II in Nazi Germany to bring into question the accuracy of this charge against Columbus. Those who choose to accuse him of the crime of genocide cannot compare the quest for exploration, discovery, and even conquest with the 'intentional elimination' of a race of people."

These few quotes are but a sampling of the 35 page brief, and three pages of documentation containing 53 separate references. In the brief, Levy dwells in depth on the Indian culture at the time of the encounter, on accusations of rape and ecocide against Columbus, and adroitly shows how singling out Columbus alone for guilt is both unfair and unjust.

In her 20-page brief, Betty Powers quotes Columbus: "I cannot think of Haiti and the other islands without weeping. I used to think they would be models of perfection for your highness' kingdom, now they are dying strangled by the greed of wicked men." She states that "Our civilization was built on intrusion. This intrusive habit has remained with us."

"The real question is, what eventually grew on this bloodied soil? The answer is, the great modern civilizations of the Americas -- a new world of individual rights, an ever-expanding circle of liberty and, twice in this century, a savior of the world from totalitarian barbarism."

Quoting Charles Krauthammer, Powers asks: "Is it Eurocentric to believe the life of liberty is superior to the life of the beehive? That belief does not justify the cruelty of the conquest. But it does allow us to say that after 500 years the Columbian legacy has created a civilization that we ought not in all humble piety and cultural relativism, declare to be no better or worse than that of the Incas. It turned out better. Infinitely better, and mankind is better. Reason enough to honor and bless 1492."

Powers makes a very interesting point at the end of her brief. "By trying Christopher Columbus today, are we not abusing what we know as a constitutional right? We fought long and hard to develop basic rights. One of those rights is a trial by a jury of our peers. Can we honestly say we in 1992 can judge a man who lived in 1492? Christopher Columbus is not here to confront his accusers, to tell his side of the story."

We commend Professor Buckle for inspiring his Oxford College students to produce such quality work. Because there is so much Columbus bashing going on, we have asked the students for permission to make available their briefs for those who may wish to read them in their entirety. There are over 60 pages of material, and as a non-profit agency dependent on public funds to maintain our services, we will gladly make the briefs available to anyone sending a \$10.00 donation to our organization.

## ADULT BOOKS

**The William and Mary Quarterly.** *Columbian Encounters.* April, 1992 397 pages. \$7.50 (Box 220, Williamsburg, VA 23187)

A special Quincentenary issue dedicated to Columbian themes: Taking Possession; Recent Columbus Scholarship; Indian Population statistics, etc. Excellent!

**Viola, Herman J. and Carolyn Margolis, Ed.** *Seeds of Change: A Quincentennial Commemoration.* Washington and London: Smithsonian Institution, 1991. 278 pages.

Based on the exhibit of the same name, this beautifully illustrated book traces Old and New World exchanges of sugar, maize, potatoes, wine, horses, and other common plants and animals as well as disease, over the course of five hundred years. The seeds--introduced sometimes deliberately, sometimes unintentionally, by Christopher Columbus and those who followed him--took root across the globe, unleashing radical forces of cultural, biological, and environmental change.

**Wilford, John Noble.** *The Mysterious History of Columbus.* New York: Knopf, 1991. 318 pages. \$24.00

Wilford attacks the many myths surrounding Columbus on a higher level than most other treatises. Not just another biography of the Admiral!

## STAMPS ISSUED

Six souvenir sheets depicting reproductions of the 1893 Columbians, the nation's first commemoratives, were issued on May 22 at the opening of the World Columbian Stamp Expo in Chicago. There are 16 Columbians, from 1 cent to \$5, with each depicting a scene in the life of Christopher Columbus related to his visit to the New World. Three stamps each will appear on five sheets and the \$5 alone on the sixth sheet. The sheets will be sold only in complete sets for \$16.34. First day collectors can purchase souvenir sheets from the Philatelic Sales Division, Box 449997, Kansas City, MO 64144-9997.

## COLUMBUS STILL MAKING WAVES IN 1992

Despite all the Columbus bashing going on this year, Christopher Columbus, a.k.a. Joe Laufer, Larry Bell and Bob Billbrough, is making waves wherever he goes. The headlines may read "Columbus Go Home", but the dream that Joe Laufer had in 1986 to create a national team of I.C.Q.A. endorsed Columbuses has materialized. Joe is booked solidly through November. He has personally trained and outfitted Larry Bell of Spearfish, South Dakota and Bob Billbrough of Willingboro, New Jersey with his historically accurate, politically correct and visually stimulating interactive school assembly and lecture program. These two Laufer "clones" are booking rapidly and there is talk of creating a few more "associates." Here's an overview of current and future activity:

### Columbus #1 - Joe Laufer.

He's the original Columbus researcher and impersonator. He considers himself first and foremost a teacher; then a professional speaker; then an actor. He felt from the beginning that the "official" 1992 Columbus should have done his "homework." Thus, Joe traveled to Spain, Italy, San Salvador, Santo Domingo, and Puerto Rico during the past seven years to learn first-hand what he had read about in just about every published book on Columbus. He feels that the true impersonator of Columbus should be able to enter fully into the character and be able to answer just about every question that could be put to him about his life and personality. When schools "book" a Columbus assembly, they should be assured that the students will be exposed to the true facts and a balanced treatment of the controversial discoverer. An actor learning the lines of a prepared script is not the same as a teacher or historian portraying a historic character.

Laufer considers his program a revival of the old Chautauqua programs that flourished before World War II. Troupes of college professors and students toured remote sections of the country bringing cultural and historical programs to the residents who otherwise would not be exposed to the arts. Scholars would actually portray historical characters, bringing them to life before audiences in the hills of Appalachia and other rural areas of the country.

Because of the demand for his program, Laufer felt justified in turning to two other teachers, Larry Bell and

Bob Billbrough. Although they didn't have the opportunities Laufer had to tour most of the places connected with the life of Columbus, they have this in common with Laufer: they are teachers and history buffs and they also share a penchant for acting. Also, they were willing to view videos of his programs, share his first hand knowledge, and agreed to replicate his programs in their entirety. He personally provided them with props and interactive materials for the assemblies. He says that they are as close to being clones as is humanly and scientifically possible!

On March 28, 1992, Laufer, as Columbus, addressed 2,500 college honor students at the Phi Theta Kappa convention in Washington, DC. Laufer was a keynoter, chosen to introduce the 1992-93 Honors Topic: "The Dynamics of Discovery." His message was simple yet urgent: "I resent being judged by the rule book of 1992, when I faithfully followed the rule book of 1492" stated Columbus. "In 1492 the rule book urged us to explore, discover, conquer and exploit. In 1992, your rule book reads: explore, discover, learn from one another, grow and prosper together. I commend you for your progress; forgive me for my 500 year old ignorance!"



Columbus (Joe Laufer) addresses 2,500 college honor students at Washington, D.C. convention.

Laufer/Columbus goes on to state that he also resents being personally blamed for everything that befell the Indians at the hands of the conquistadores. He explains that on the second and subsequent voyages, there were three classes of people caught up in the age of exploration: the **explorers** (sailors), "I am proud to be numbered among them!"; the **conquistadores** (soldiers), most of them crude, cruel and brutal Andalucians; and the **colonizers**, who were more adventurers than serious builders of a new civilization -- many of whom failed to respect the environment and the natives.

In his message to the elite Community College group, Columbus outlined the "dynamics" of his discovery: curiosity, audacity, patience, persistence and determination. "The bottom line of my success was that I wasn't limited by the horizon, as so many before and after me have been".

Is there cause for celebration in 1992? Certainly! "Celebrate what we have become, and don't repeat the mistakes of the past," proclaims Columbus. The Phi Theta Kappans were encouraged to use the 1992-93 Honors Topic in their respective colleges and communities to raise the awareness and sensitivity of the public to the real issues of the Columbus Quincentenary and to be motivated by the underlying motivation of Columbus: "Don't be limited by the horizon!"

On April 6, 1992, Laufer was in New Orleans, where he participated with Columbus expert, Delno West, and noted children's author, Nancy Smiler Levinson, in a session of the National Convention of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development on the subject of "Approaches to Teaching the Columbian Quincentenary." Laufer appeared at the Museum of Scientific Discovery in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on May 18 for a legislative convocation conducted by the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. He will also work with the Philadelphia Visitor's and Convention Bureau and Columbus 500 during the visit to Philadelphia of the Columbus Caravels from June 17 through June 21.

#### Summer-Fall Schedule

In addition to dozens of school assemblies and lectures in the tri-state area of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, Laufer is scheduled to make these other national appearances as Christopher Columbus:

- Sept. 15-16 Waterbury, Connecticut
- Sept. 17 Binghamton, New York
- Sept. 19 Morristown, New Jersey
- Sept. 25 Baltimore, Maryland
- Sept. 26 Allentown, Pennsylvania
- Oct. 3-4 Columbus, Wisconsin
- Oct. 5-6 Rockford, Illinois
- Oct. 7 Rockville, Maryland
- Oct. 8 Manchester, Connecticut
- Oct. 9 Tunxis, Connecticut
- Nov. 2 Lanett, Alabama
- Nov. 12 Greenwich, Connecticut
- Nov. 16 Gloversville, New York
- Nov. 21 Ocean City, Maryland

#### Columbus #2 - Larry Bell.

Larry Bell had already been portraying Christopher Columbus when he connected with Joe Laufer. A musician/teacher, Bell majored in Speech in college, with a Theatre Arts emphasis. He taught High School in both California and Wyoming. He first portrayed Columbus in a trade show, where he was engaged to attract clients to a geographical/toy booth. This led to



Larry Bell, a.k.a. Christopher Columbus, sitting on top of his world.

school assembly requests and ultimately to his being endorsed as an I.C.Q.A. Columbus, after having studied Joe Laufer's video tapes and adopting Laufer's interactive "Columbus crew assembly program," wherein 90 students are invited to portray members of Columbus' crew as the assembly program unfolds.

On January 24, 1992, Larry was the "Official" Columbus at the World Columbian Stamp Expo in Chicago when the Columbus commemorative stamp was first issued. Here, in the presence of Governor Edgar of Illinois, Charles Berg, President of the World Columbian Stamp Expo and Gordon Morison, a relative of Samuel Eliot Morison, Bell/Columbus delivered greetings on behalf of their Royal Highnesses Ferdinand and Isabella, referring to their conquest over the Moors just 500 years earlier in the month of January. Describing his moment of discovery as portrayed on the stamp which occasioned the event, Bell/Columbus said "It would be remiss of me to totally ignore the fact that some of your present day revisionist historians are actively trying to discredit me and in so doing are in danger of writing just as subjective a history as that which they are attempting to revise..."

He continued: "...it is my hope that the attention garnered by this Quincentenary will help construct a bridge of understanding as well as open an avenue where the interchange of opinions may effectively begin the reconciliation so badly needed since that day in October when history witnessed the collision of two very different worlds."

He concluded: "And so...I greet you in the name of my sovereigns. I compliment you on your official stamp ...and I congratulate you for recognizing this 500th anniversary... for you, my friends, are to be commended for standing steadfast in your realization that the observance of this Quincentenary, whether viewed from sea OR

shore, is a most excellent opportunity to communicate, evaluate and educate."

On April 20th, Bell, as Columbus, spent two days in Warroad, Minnesota, where he conducted school assemblies and delivered a major address to the public through the local library/museum.

As has been indicated, the I.C.Q.A. Columbus message is balanced and positive. Bell's Columbus delivers this message loud and clear. While there are still dates available in the Fall for booking Larry Bell as Columbus, it is anticipated that his schedule, like Laufer's, will be complete before the summer ends.

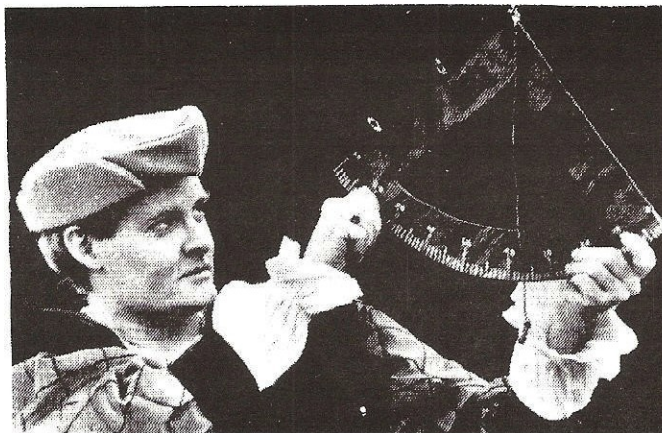
### Columbus #3, Bob Billbrough.

An actor/teacher, Bob has portrayed other historical characters throughout his career, including Mark Twain and Edgar Allen Poe. Bob has been associated with the Theatre at Burlington County College, where Joe Laufer is employed, for many years, as a student, an actor in the college's Foundation Theater and as a professor. Nominated for an Emmy for his work on the popular Philadelphia Television program, "Saturday Night Dead," Bob also appeared on TV as Tobias Lear in the miniseries "George Washington II," and Junior Mitgang in "The Silence at Bethany" on PBS American Playhouse.

When Laufer was unable to keep an engagement as Columbus a little over a year ago, he contacted Bob to see if he might fill in for him. Bob studied Joe's tapes and made several visits to his Columbus Museum for briefing sessions on the life and times of Columbus. Bob's first school assembly went very well, and the folks who booked Laufer didn't know the difference once Bob began the program.

During the Summer of 1991, Laufer was approached by a group of newspapers in Bucks County, Pennsylvania for assistance in editing a special Columbus supplement for their Newspapers in Education program. In addition, the newspaper group was interested in offering free assembly programs featuring Christopher Columbus to all of the schools in their coverage area. Laufer, himself, was already overbooked, and suggested that the I.C.Q.A. might provide one of its "other" Columbuses -- namely, Bob Billbrough. Since the beginning of March, 1992, Bob has conducted over 40 assemblies on Thursdays and Fridays each week. By the time school is out in June, he will have addressed over 5000 students. During July he will conduct 16 programs at Bucks County Libraries for summer reading program groups. He is booked for assembly programs every Thursday and Friday in September and October, 1992. We are currently taking bookings for Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays for Bob throughout the Fall.

A newspaper report about one of Billbrough's appearances quotes his answer to a student's comment that he thought Christopher Columbus was dead: "The report of my death has been greatly exaggerated," Columbus



Bob (Columbus) Billbrough demonstrates the use of the quadrant.

said, adding, "I am as true as you want me to be." He ends his assembly holding up a picture of the Earth taken by the Apollo 17 crew. He said the Earth looks better from a distance than up close, where there is pollution and poverty. He asked the students if they could make the next 500 years better. "It's going to be up to you to clean up the planet and make life better."

To rephrase one of Bob Billbrough's lines (with due credit and apologies to Mark Twain), "The report of the death of the Columbus Quincentenary has been greatly exaggerated!" Let the schedules of these three very busy I.C.Q.A. Columbuses serve as testimony to the widespread interest in the Quincentenary, and especially in the person of Christopher Columbus. Their messages are popular, educational, entertaining and challenging.

## NAVAL SALUTE TO COLUMBUS

### A Quincentenary Toile De Jouy honors Columbus

A toile is a light weight cotton or linen, soft with natural finish, printed on a white or creamy background. Earlier toile de Jouys depicted the history of France, its arts and sciences and its customs. Others were struck for historical personages and events and are preserved in museums.

The distinguished house of Christopher Hyland has been commissioned to create a toile de Jouy as A Naval Salute to Admiral Columbus and His Audacious Voyage. The engravings represented in the artwork are by Theodore de Bry from his masterwork *Grands et Petite voyages* published between 1590 and 1634. Advisors for this project include Norman Fiering of the John Carter Brown Library and Andrew Mellon of the New York Public Library. Professor Joyce Storey of the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science provided advice regarding design and fabric. Upon its completion, this toile de Jouy will be presented to the U.S. Naval Institute in New York Harbor during the Tall Ships Parade on July 4. The commemorative piece will be used for presentations at the discretion of the U.S. Naval Institute and for display or use in the rooms of its new headquarters, the Zachary Fisher Building. A prototype of this Naval Toile De Jouy is on display at the ICQA Columbus Museum in Vincentown, New Jersey.

## COLUMBUS AND CHESS

Washington Irving missed one! A member of the U.S. Chess Federation in New Windsor, New York sent us a copy of a section of Edward Lasker's *The Adventure of Chess* (1959 edition) in which the author relates a chess incident in the life of King Ferdinand of Spain which had a direct impact on the discovery of America. The details of this story are contained in two letters which form a part of the manuscript collection preserved in the archives of Cordova, Spain. Lasker claims to have discovered the letters in French translation in a magazine devoted exclusively to chess. According to the author, if what the letters say is true, Columbus might never have set out for our continent had it not been for the fact that winning an apparently lost game of chess put King Ferdinand of Spain in such a good mood that he acceded to a request dictated by Columbus's vanity.

The writer of the letters, Hernando del Pulgar, apparently was not the famous Spanish author of that name who wrote the Chronicle of Ferdinand and Isabella, but a namesake who was a distinguished warrior and who took part in the siege of Granada that freed all Spain from Moslem rule. The letters are dated from the celebrated camp Santa Fe, before Granada, and addressed to an intimate friend who must have been a learned doctor.

The first letter, dated February 2nd, 1492 simply serves as a mini-biography of Columbus. The second letter, dated February 4th, 1492 describes the game of chess in which Ferdinand had engaged.

This writer immediately became suspicious of the authenticity of the letters upon reading the first one, which is simply a repetition of the trite "myths" about Columbus. Some excerpts:

If I mistake not, you must have seen, during your last visit at court, a certain Cristoval Colon, a Genoese; if not, you have of course heard of him.... Some look upon him as a downright madman, and very few grant him any genius at all. He pretends the earth is round, and that necessarily there must exist, beyond the ocean, a world to act as counterpoise to the world we inhabit; .... he still asserts that by steering west a vessel must sail completely round the world, and reach the eastern shores of Asia and the golden-roofed city of Cipango, described by Marco Polo.

He came here whilst we were campaigning against the Moors in Granada, submitted his project to the sovereigns, but met with no encouragement. Their answer was that the expenses of the war had drained the public treasury. After the taking of Granada, this Colon renewed his petition, and was referred to a council of learned doctors and theologians, who assembled lately at Salamanca for the purpose of considering his extraordinary proposals. Before these he defended his opinions; but the doctors have decided that the earth is not round, and that a belief in antipodes is heresy.

Our good Queen Isabella, however, who has no great pretensions to physical, or geometrical lore, seems to care very little for the decisions of her grave counselors. Her opinion is that the conquest of

the golden Cipango will afford riches enough to rescue the Holy Sepulcher from the power of the infidels, and that, at any rate, the attempt is worth making. Indeed, she has been expressly heard to say... that if funds were wanting...she would...pledge her private jewels to raise the necessary sum....But another difficulty has arisen. The Genoese will not take charge of the expedition unless he be created Admiral and Viceroy over the countries he may discover. This title has been refused him; and tomorrow, it is said, he takes his departure on his return to Palos de Moguer. It is thought that his intention is to offer his services to some other sovereign.

The second letter, the one which deals directly with the game of Chess, is much longer and would appeal to Chess players, because it details a particular chess move. Columbus isn't directly involved in the game of chess, but the basic idea is that because King Ferdinand won a particularly important match, he was in a good mood and entertained the request of Columbus much more positively. In other words, it was good timing for Columbus. Some excerpts:

...The King's fondness for the game of chess, as you know, is very great, and like all earnest players, he attaches the greatest importance to the winning of a game, never forgiving himself for losing one....

...Yesterday during the noontide heat, instead of indulging in his usual siesta, bidding us follow him to the Queen's apartment, he challenged Fonseca, one of his daily victims, to a Game of Chess.... The Count de Tendilla, Ponce de Leon and Gonsalvo of Cordova were present.... Suddenly...a page announced His Excellency the Archbishop of Toledo (Cardinal Mendoza of Spain)...After the holy prelate had made his obeisance to the King, he approached the Queen, and respectfully inquired what it had been her pleasure to decide finally with regard to the Genoese, Cristoval Colon. At the same time he announced that the latter, sad and disappointed, had taken leave of his friends, and was on his way to the Convent of La Rabida, at Palos de Moguer."

The letter continues to recount a discussion between the Cardinal and the Queen's aide, Beatrix Galindez, wherein the latter condemns Columbus for demanding dignities and titles. She becomes loud and disturbs the Royal Chess players. The distraction gave Fonseca a psychological advantage over King Ferdinand. He even commented that he felt the earth was square, like a chess board. The Queen then took advantage of the distraction and approached King Ferdinand with these words:

"My Lord...shall we not accord this intrepid man the title he demands? There can be no risk, I think, in granting it to him for the countries he promises to discover. Let him point the way to a new world, and any dignity we may confer will be more than merited. Should his project prove a dream, what then? His title, having no basis to rest upon, will become an empty name."

The King promised to think about it, and Fonseca seized the moment to gain the upper hand in the game. The game began to get away from Ferdinand. The letter writer describes the situation clearly and notes that the King isn't in as critical a situation as he imagines. The Queen approaches him to keep him from moving too quickly, lest he miss his opportunity. Ferdinand catches her drift and withholds action and then notices his oppor-

tunity. He makes the right move and wins the game. At this opportune moment the Queen says:

"Think you, my Lord...there can be wrong in granting this title to the Genoese?" The king responds: "After all, little harm can come from appointing him Admiral of the new seas to be navigated."

Hardly had the royal sanction escaped the King's lips when the Queen beckoned a page: "Isidro," said she, "to horse instantly. Cristoval Colon is on the road to Palos de Moguer; he cannot have journeyed much farther than the bridge of Pinos. Make all speed, overtake him, and tell him we create him Admiral of the Ocean-sea."

And now, dear Doctor, may we not repeat what Antonio de Lebrixa has so often said to us, "The most trifling causes very frequently exercise a wonderful influence over the greatest events." If Cristoval Colon discover a new world, as indeed I trust he may, will it not come from the pushing of a Pawn at the proper time?

*Editorial comment: A worthy enterprise for Quincentenary researchers is to find out just how myths and stories like this one originate and spread. Despite my extensive reading, I had never seen this story anywhere until it was sent to me by a member of the U.S. Chess Federation. Lasker claims to have first read the story in a French Chess magazine. It would have appeared between 1836 and 1850. There was a flurry of research on Columbus in the early 1800s (Washington Irving wrote his book on Columbus in 1828). There appears to be a connection, because of the wording of the stories. How many more stories are out there, like this one? How many people continue to believe the myths? JML.*

## COLUMBUS, U.S.A.

### QUINCENTENARY ACTIVITIES IN TOWNS NAMED FOR COLUMBUS

#### Columbus, Georgia

Bradley Memorial Library and the Muscogee County Day School District are sponsoring an ongoing Columbus Quincentenary exhibit in the library throughout 1992.

#### Columbus, Kansas

The Columbus, Kansas Telephone Directory has adopted a Columbus Quincentenary theme. On the cover is the Emanuel Leutze masterpiece, "The Departure of Columbus from Palos in 1492". Historic information is also included in the directory. Persons born on October 12 are invited to a "quincentennial" birthday party on that date as they "Help America Discover Columbus."

#### Columbus, Mississippi

The "Christopher Columbus" musical was featured during the April Spring Pilgrimage to antebellum homes. On June 13, "Christopher Columbus" and crew will land on the beach of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, "discovering" the annual Columbus, MS Water Festival.

#### Columbus, New Jersey

On June 13, Columbus, NJ will host the 50' by 100' Mount Rushmore Flag. Weighing 300 lbs, it takes 100 ton test ropes to fly it, a bar weighing 1.5 tons to hold it, and 400 people to fold it. Commissioned by the National Park Service, the flag is on a continuous national tour. The annual Field Day Parade will feature Joe Laufer as Christopher Columbus.

#### Columbus, Ohio

AmeriFlora was launched on April 20 with a spectacular 17 day indoor International Floral Exposition. The theme of this event was "Quintessence" -- something in its most pure form. Spinning off this inaugural event, the downtown network of parkland is the setting for a summer-long display of the horticultural diversity of the United States. The *Santa Maria* replica on the Scioto River attracts thousands and the October Columbus Day Parade and Miss Columbus U.S.A. pageant (with competitors from dozens of towns named after Columbus) will take on special meaning this year.

#### Columbus, Texas

Columbus, TX is the official 1992 Quincentennial Town of Texas (just don't tell Corpus Christi!). From May 8-17 the oldest continuously occupied town in Texas celebrated the Quincentenary. On May 9 they held a parade wherein everyone named Christopher was honored, including Christopher Lee of Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, a descendant of the Columbus family.

#### Columbus, Wisconsin

Dan Amato's Columbus Museum is the focal point of many Columbus Quincentenary activities. In addition, the town will use Quincentenary themes for their Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Columbus Day holidays this year. On October 3 and 4, I.C.Q.A.s Joe Luafer will portray Christopher Columbus at a variety of events in the city. Through the generosity of the Knights of Columbus, schools in Columbus and throughout the State of Wisconsin have been provided with quincentenary educational activity guides and calendars.

### PENNSYLVANIA CELEBRATES COLUMBUS

#### BOALSBURG

The Christopher Columbus Family Chapel and Museum are open for tours from May through October. The collection has a rare portrait of Luis Colon, Christopher Columbus' "playboy" grandson.

#### NORRISTOWN

The "Hello Columbus 1992" committee hopes to complete the Columbus monument in Elmwood Park which was begun over sixty years ago by Italian immigrants.

#### PHILADELPHIA

"Neighbors in the New World" continues through the Summer in Philadelphia. Luciano Pavarotti will be the Grand Marshall of the October Columbus Day Parade.

## SPECIAL THANKS

It was with great reluctance that we mailed our special appeal to our friends at the beginning of this Columbian year. We are pleased to announce that the response was more than gratifying. The fact that we have been able to produce this issue of *Discovery Five Hundred* is testimony to the generosity and the response of our readers. Unfortunately, we are not yet completely out of the woods and will continue to struggle to keep the message going throughout 1992. We are unable to provide complimentary copies of the newsletter to the Media and special interest groups as we had in the past.

We are happy to report that our Museum continues to thrive in Vincentown, New Jersey. Thanks to volunteers from the local Historical Society, who adopted the museum as their Quincentenary project, we are open to the public every Saturday. Recent student tours have confirmed our belief that our efforts are bearing great fruit.

Calls to our headquarters for Quincentenary information are on the increase, and thanks to Burlington County College in Pemberton, New Jersey, we are able to continue to provide information on Quincentenary activities.

We continue to look for sponsors who will underwrite the cost of our Student and Teacher Activity Guides for the schools. In some areas, such as the State of Wisconsin, the Knights of Columbus have generously purchased these guides for the schools. Incidentally, these guides, co-written by Joseph Laufer and Linda Rourke, have recently been selected by a national Curriculum Publishing Association as among the top 100 curriculum products created in 1991.

We are grateful, therefore, to those of you who saw fit to send donations ranging from \$1.00 to \$250.00. A special thanks to the Corpus Christi, Texas Quincentenary Commission who literally passed the hat at one of their meetings and came up with \$51.00 for our cause.

## QUINCENTENARY WINE

Mario Piccini, President of the Piccini Winery, announces the special release of Piccini Chianti commemorating the 500th anniversary of Columbus' Discovery of America. The wine, which is currently being introduced nationally to the U.S. market by Classic Imports, Ltd., will feature a special commemorative label officially endorsed by the International Columbian Quincentenary Alliance. The Piccini Winery has been involved in grape growing and wine making in Chianti since 1892 and is known as one of the region's best producers. For information about this special Columbus Quincentenary wine, contact Mr. Albert Pecora at Classic Imports, Washington, D.C. 800-638-7720.

## GRAND REGATTA COLUMBUS 92

The world's largest and most extensive nautical commemoration of the first voyage of Christopher Columbus to the New World is the GRAND REGATTA COLUMBUS 92 - QUINCENTENARY. The Regatta is organized by delegates from Spain, Italy, Portugal, the United States, Great Britain, and Puerto Rico. The route of the Regatta will bring the Tall Ships of all nations on July 4, 1992 to New York Harbor and on July 11, 1992 to Boston Harbor. On May 3, 1992 the regatta departed from Cadiz, Spain, as reported on national television throughout the United States. It is estimated that the ships will arrive in San Juan, Puerto Rico on June 10 and then depart for New York on June 14, with estimated time of arrival in New York Harbor being July 3, in time for the Tall Ships Parade.

## IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sorrow that we announce the death of a well-known authority on Christopher Columbus, Dr. Peter Sammartino of New Jersey. Dr. Sammartino was the author of several books on Columbus and was a member of the New Jersey Columbus Quincentennial Commission.

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