

1957 Oct 12

For Columbus Day Dinner, Dartmouth, N.S., Oct 12, ~~1957~~ 1957 (565 years) .

This very evening, it is 565 ^{years} ~~days~~ since that great knight, Christopher Columbus discovered the American Continent.

I wonder if 500 years from now will we, from our high places in heaven, see people taking off in their space ships from Dartmouth, on Oct 4, for a ~~dinner on the~~ Satellite Day dinner on the moon ?

Certain it is, that until last week, Columbus' discovery was the most spectacular ~~and most far~~ of geographical discoveries, and most far-reaching in its effects.

Before Columbus crossed the Atlantic, it was the barrier of barriers- mysterious, boundless, impassable.

It took the imagination of Columbus to conceive the Ocean as a highway and his daring to sail into the unknown, just to test a dream.

He pushed his prows into the setting sun, and came upon the Indies of the West.

From the moment that Columbus set the Cross on the island of Guan-a-han-i, and christened it San Salvador (Holy Saviour), Christian Civilization was on its way to embrace all the shores of the Ocean Sea.

~~Columbus~~ The only navigating instruments which Columbus had were a compass (whose variation he did not understand), a quadrant (whose angles he could ^{seldom} ~~not~~ read because of the rolling sea), and an hour glass (of which the innacuracy was proverbial). He did not expect to see land until he happened upon China or Japan.

But he believee himself called by God and protected by His Father in Heaven. It was his mission to bring home the wealth of the Indies, in order that Spain might be able to equip a Crusade to rescue the Holy Land and Jerusalem from the infidel Turk.

Not all the dreams of Columbus ~~were~~ came true. But nothing, not even the failures of his later years, can tarnish the splendour of his first act of faith nor reduce the measure of the triumph with which it was rewarded.

It was Spain that reaped the first glory, and rightly so. For it was the great Catholic Queen that had the courage to back Columbus. But the secular benefit of the achievement has been shared by all the maritime countries of Europe, and by the newly discovered continent, and, perhaps, most of all, by ourselves.

The benefit to us was brought by Cabot, ~~who~~ a fellow townsman of Columbus, who, in some ways, ~~more~~ surpassed him.¹

Too often is it overlooked that Columbus and Cabot were born in Genoa about one year apart. It is probably that they went to school together. Certainly, they both went to Venice about the same time. Possibly together.

Their ways parted when ~~the~~ the State of Venice decreed that all ~~Venice was the great port of those days. Ships sailed from it for~~ who sailed in their ships should be citizen of the State. Cabot took ~~Asiatic routes and did trade with those who came in caravans from~~ out citizenship papers, and Columbus went back to Genoa, and sailed ~~China.~~

the western medditerean. It was shipwreck that landed him in Portugal ~~among all sailors there was talk of the possibility of sailing west~~ from where he went to Spain.

~~The talk was promoted by astronomers~~

Meanwhile the talk among all sailors was the possibility of sailing west China. The talk was promoted by astronomers. It was written about in one great book; IMAGO MUNDI by Pierre d'Ailly

1. Williamson, J. H. The Voyages of the Cabots, London 1929.

As early as 1410, Pierre d'Ailly had aired the theory.

This d'Ailly was born in France, studied at the University of Paris.

Became principle of the College of Navarre, became a priest was appointed

Bishop of Le Puy, the Bishop of Cambrai, and in 1411 was named Cardinal.

He was named Cardinal the year after he published a learned, and still

famous book, called Imago ~~Mundi~~ Mundi, the Image of the World. It was

partly ~~was~~ a book for astronomers and partly for geographers, it

was widely read by navigators. It was, of course, at first circulated

in manuscript. Then came the invention of printing. In ~~in~~ 1483,

Cardinal d'Ailly's book was printed. Cabot read it and Columbus read

it. Columbus's copy became his ordinary bedside reading. He took it

on his voyages, he wrote notes in the margin. ~~His copy with it is found~~

His well-thumbed copy, with hundreds of notes, is preserved in ~~the~~

~~at~~ Seville.

Cabot did a bit of thinking. He thought that if one sailed from

a northern latitude, the way round the earth should be shorter. So,

in 1484, he moved, with his family to England, - with the express purpose

of sailing west from there. In England, he could not get anyone to back

him.

Columbus was not vitally interested until, while he was in Lisbon,

a man came to him with a chart which he had received from an astronomer,

Toscanelli in Florence showing how one could sail to China from Portugal,

- which was farthest west of the mainland of Europe.

Eventually Columbus got the backing of Queen Isabella and sailed

from Spain.

Christopher Columbus (cristofero Colombo) (1451- 1506)
Commissioned by Queen Isabella April 1492; set sail from Palos
Aug 3, 1492; from Canary Isles Sept 6 (left Old World).
Oct 12, 1492 landed on the island which he called San Salvador.
At Lisbon March 4th; at Palos 15th March at Palos. (7 months after
he had left it) (Santa Maria on which Columbus set out, lost off
Hispanola; he returned in ~~Pinta~~ Nina).

John Cabot (Giovanni Caboto) (1450-98) b.in Genoa one year before Columbus. Full of the idea of finding away to open a sea-route to China by sailing west across the Atlantic, he went to England in 1484. He could find no ~~xxxx~~ one to finance his project.

Not until the news of Columbus' success came to England did he succeed in finding a backer. In March 1496 he was commissioned to try his adventure.

He sailed from Bristol 2nd May 1497; on Sat. June 24, he sighted Saint John's Newfoundland. (52 days at sea); explored Cape Breton; was back in Bristol on 6th August. (His ship: Mathew) (43 days) (Total: 95 days).

Farewell $59^{\circ} 50' N$

Goose Bay $53^{\circ} 15' N$

Cape Bauld $51^{\circ} 54' N$

Bristol $51^{\circ} 27' N$

Land's End $49^{\circ} 15'$

Saint John's $47^{\circ} 34'$

Sydney $46^{\circ} 10'$

Cabot's discovery was vital, not only because he discovered Canada, but it was he who inaugurated in England the passion for sailing westwards. It was on his discovery that was founded Britain's supremacy of the seas, on which was built the British Empire, now disintegrating.

It was the Russians who first launched a satellite. What we want now is a ~~like~~ Cabot to wrench from them supremacy. History is a great teacher. It teaches that it is not the country which wins the first battle that wins the war. Just the same as it is not the team that wins the first game that wins the series.

In five hundred years from now, Khrushchev will be forgotten, and the Church will still be sailing its placid way, with Our Saviour the helm, and through space.

But, if it is to be so, we have to do our part. Catholic young men must go on to University and into science.

~~At International Scientific meetings, it is~~

The day is past when individual men, like Cabot and Columbus, can change the world. Effort has to be on an International scale.

An example of how things are done in these our days is the International Geophysical Year.

As early as 1950 ~~there were~~ scientists were regretting our lack of knowledge about our own earth. The trouble was traced to want of simultaneous observations in all parts of the earth. For instance, it was of ~~little~~ ^{little} to have a record from a South Pole expedition that on a certain day southern lights were seen, when we had no records in the north for the same day (perhaps because it was cloudy at our northern stations that day). It was suggested that if we could have a geophysical year. As the cooperation, which it would require would need the cooperation of many scientific associations in different fields, the matter eventually was brought to the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU). This Council appointed a special committee to proceed with plans. The Committee asked the cooperation of ~~four international~~ ~~Unions, other~~ the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and three International Unions: those of ~~Geophysics, Astronomy~~ (Geophysics, Astronomy and Scientific Radio.) (IUGG, ~~and~~ IUA, and IUSR). These unions, having estimated expenses, sought government support. Forty-six nations immediately promised support. Since then 18 other nations have jumped on the band wagon, and today (Oct 12, 1957) there are 64 nations supporting the project.

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Columbus: 12 Oct 1492 (565 years ago)

The Atlantic ocean, mysterious as the mesosphere to-day.
Columbus dared to sail into the unknown to test a dream.
His instruments: a compass, a quadrant and an hour glass.
He brought Christianity across the Ocean.

He called the island which he discovered: San Salvador.
He brought glory to Spain.

Cabot, sail from Bristol, found a shorter route, and the British capitalized
on Columbus' pioneering. British supremacy of the seas, and the British Empire,
were built on Columbus' and Cabot's ventures.

Maybe the Russians in setting the satellite aloft have sown a seed of which
we may reap the benefit.

The first satellite was launched on Oct 4. Maybe in 565 years, ~~we~~ from our
high places in heaven, we may look down on Hartmouth and see men taking off
in their space ships for a Satellite Day dinner on the moon.

Is-kust-vest-ven-nyi Sput-nik Zem-li.