

THE

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COLUMBUS DAY - 12 OCTOBER

It seems odd, but long after October 12th, the day we now celebrate as Columbus Day, Columbus insisted that San Salvador, the Island in the Bahamas where he and his men first came ashore, was part of Asia. This oceanaut of his age had no notion of his true achievement. He had discovered a new world.

Three little woden ships; ridiculously frail and unseaworthy by today's standards. Their total crews numbered less than 100 men, good sailors all, but some of them in their hearts must have remembered the old theory that the world was flat. A lot of people still believed it.

Not Christopher Columbus. He knew where he was headed, by sailing 2,400 miles west he'd reach a group of Islands near Japan. A new, short sea route to Asia would be opened.

Think of the obstacles he surmounted to pursue his dream. Today our astronauts and the army of scientists engaged in Project Mercury and Project Gemini and Project Apollo are backed by the resources of a great nation. They're cheered on every step of the way.

What did the oceanaut have in 1492? Precious little and he wouldn't have had that if Isabella of Spain hadn't listened to her royal treasurer. It was the best investment any queen ever made.