

Four Voyages to the New World

(Edited & intro by John Fagg & R. Major) by Christopher Columbus (1493-1503)

He was born in 1451 in Genoa, Italy and died in 1506 in Spain.

1484 presented his plan (to sail west to the Far East) to the king of Portugal

1485-82 presented his plan to the king & queen of Spain (Ferdinand & Isabella)

1492 rec'd a definite no from the queen, but she changed her mind

Voyage #1

3Aug92 Nina, Pinta & Santa Maria with 90 men set sail from Palos, Spain

He found islands, looked for harbors, rivers and talked with natives

He took some natives from 1st island to help talk with other islands

He found natives build canoes to hold 78 men to go to other islands

They built a fort in Espana (Santo Domingo) & left 40 men to settle there

Feb93 he wrote a report to the world of his achievement (he thought he made it to India)

He was appointed Viceroy & Admiral of the Indies

Voyage #2

25Sep93 he left Cadiz, Spain with 17 ships & 1200 men to establish a permanent settlement

When he went back to Espana he found all of his men died & or were massacred

He discovered Jamaica, Dominica, Lesser Antilles, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico & Haiti

They found gold in rivers & streams, and always promoted this back home

Next time he would bring cows, sheep; & more meds, wine, raisins, honey, almonds & rice

11Jan94 returned to Spain having failed to create a profitable & orderly colony

Voyage #3

30May98 a small fleet & crew of convicts left Spain

Aug 1500 Bobadilla became self proclaimed governor of San Domingo & sent Columbus home in chains & stole his wealth and hid the gold from Spain.

Voyage #4

9May02 he left Spain

88-day storm with his brother & 13-yr old son

7Nov04 a hurricane ship wrecked them in Jamaica & sent a canoe to Espana

7Jul03 he sent the queen a letter to save him & bring him home

He returned to Spain in poor health & defeated

He was wealthy, but discredited since he did not find his way to the Far East.