

Christopher Columbus

This advert from 'The Graphic' 31 May 1919 illustrates the image we all have of Christopher Columbus sailing across the Atlantic towards the Americas.



COLUMBUS DISCOVERS MONTSERRAT.

FOUR hundred and twenty-six years ago Columbus sighted the little mountain island in the Indies and named it after the Spanish Monserrado. Yet in spite of a history that covered the Buccaneer days and includes five changes of ownership between English and French it is only in recent years that Monserrat has won fame. As the tropic island source of the finest Lime Fruit Juice everyone has now discovered Monserrat—the home of the Lime orchards.

"Monserrat" Lime Juice Cordial is prepared from the pure juice of the Lime, from cultivated Limes, and is much superior to the ordinary wild Lime Juice, the juice being imported from the Island of Monserrat direct to Liverpool, where our bottling factories are situated.

"Monserrat" Lime Juice Cordial is sweetened, but you can also obtain the "Monserrat" Pure Lime Fruit Juice in its original form. Both are sold by Grocers, Chemists, Hotels, etc., everywhere.



"MONTSERRAT" LIME JUICE CORDIAL & PURE LIME-FRUIT JUICE

Sole Consignees: EVANS SONS LESCHER & WEBB Ltd., 56, Hanover Street, Liverpool.

Columbus and The Pillars of Hercules

Columbus became famous when he ventured beyond the 'Pillars of Hercules', a mythological name given to the Rock of Gibraltar. In his time, that was the end of the known world. In 1492, Columbus persuaded King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain to sponsor his adventure, sailing across the Atlantic, and the rest is history.

Gibraltar issued these stamps on 1 November 2006 to commemorate Christopher Columbus's life.



SG 1191



SG 1192



SG 1193



SG 1194



MS 1195

Christopher Columbus Born in Genoa

Columbus was born in Cristoforo, Genoa, in 1451. Widely read in geography, astronomy and history, Columbus conceived the idea of a western sea passage to the East Indies, hoping to profit from the lucrative spice trade. Genoa was originally an independent maritime republic, but became a part of Italy in 1861. Italy marked the 500th anniversary of Columbus's first voyage to the Americas in 1992 with these 6 miniatures MS3177.



The First Crossing

Columbus left Castile in August 1492 with three ships. He made landfall in the Bahamas then explored the islands now known as Cuba and Haiti, returning to Castile in early 1493. Word of his voyage soon spread throughout Europe. The Republic of Cuba produced these stamps in 1936 commemorating Columbus but never issued them. Rare!



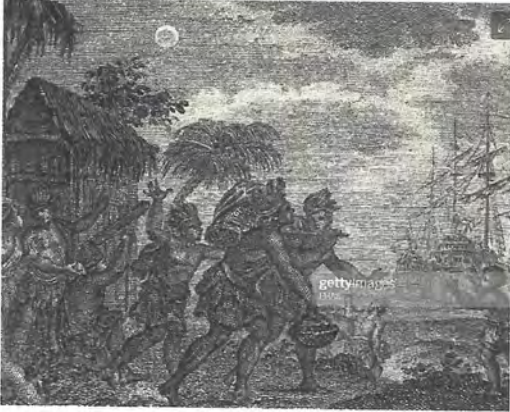
1493 - 17 Ships and 1500 Men

Columbus took 17 ships full of supplies on his next voyage, leaving Cadiz on 24 September 1493. He sailed with 1500 men (sailors, soldiers, priests, carpenters, stonemasons, metal workers & farmers) intending to establish colonies for Spain where he landed. He landed first on Dominica, then sailed on to Montserrat, Antigua, St Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla before establishing colonies in 'Hispaniola' (Haiti) and Cuba. Many of these countries have issued Columbus stamps; the 1973 Anguillan ones are the most attractive. SG 163-169. Also Antigua SG 270 & Montserrat SG 316.



1494 Columbus and 'Encomienda'

Columbus travelled on to Cuba and Jamaica in 1494, before returning to Hispaniola. Disease and famine had by then killed two-thirds of the Spanish settlers. Columbus implemented 'encomienda' a Spanish labour system that rewarded conquerors with the labours of conquered non Christian locals, enslaving the indigenous people. He executed rebelling Spaniards, using dismemberment or beheading as a punishment, and shipped 1,500 Arawaks to Spain as slaves (many died en route).



In Jamaica Columbus convinced the indigenous peoples he had powers by forecasting a Lunar Eclipse.

Regardless of these atrocities the British Empire issued stamps in 1919 and 1921 marking Jamaica's discovery by Columbus.



SG 83 Multi crown CA

P 14 Myrtle Green and blue



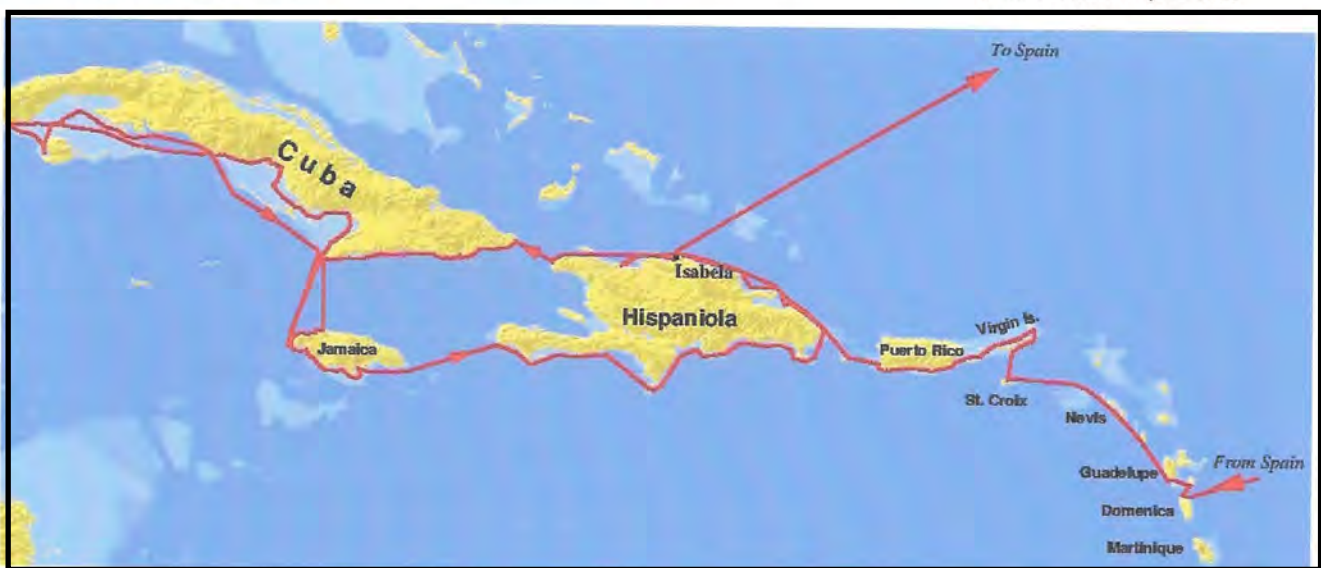
SG 99 Multi script CA

P 14 Myrtle Green and blue



SG 99a Multi script CA

P 14 Green and pale blue



1498 Columbus Lands on Trinidad

On 30 May 1498 Columbus left Sanlucar, Spain and sailed south to the Cape Verde Islands. On 31 July they sighted Trinidad.

On 22 December Trinidad's Governor Jenningham wrote to Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, asking that Trinidad might mark the 400th Anniversary of Christopher Columbus's Landing on 31 July 1498. The postage rate between all parts of the Empire was being reduced to 2d so a new stamp was anyway needed. The stamp was based on a stained glass window of the Landing that had been installed in the Red House (Trinidad's Government Office), in memory of Scott Bushe. Unfortunately the window was subsequently destroyed in a 1903 fire, following riots. Similarly the tribute to Scott Bushe was removed from the stamp's design—a shame because if featured Scott Bushe would have been the first person of mixed race to be accredited on a Trinidad stamp. The stamp was issued on 31 July 1898 SG 125.



Grenada

Columbus also sighted Grenada in 1498 and named it 'La Conception' in honour of the Virgin Mary. His passing presence was marked in many of the island's early postage stamps. The below stamps, dating from 1898, 1906 and 1908 to 1911 show the 'Santa Maria' at sea.



1898 SG 56 blue



1898 SG 56a aquamarine blue



1906 SG 77



1906 SG 78



1906 SG 79



1906 SG 80



1906 SG 80a
aquamarine



1908 SG 82



1908 SG 83



1908 to 1911 three SG 83s



1908 to 1911
SG 84



1908 to 1911
SG 85



1908 to 1911
SG 86



1908 to 1911
SG 87



1908 to 1911
SG 88

Allegations, Jail, a Fourth Voyage , Storms, & a Return to Spain

In 1499 accusations of the tyranny reached the Court of Spain and Francisco de Bobadilla was appointed to investigate. In early 1500 Columbus and his brother Diego were jailed for 6 weeks before King Ferdinand ordered their release. With much persuasion the King agreed to finance a fourth voyage.

On 9 May 1502 Columbus left Cadiz on his flagship 'Santa Maria' and three other vessels. Having crossed the Atlantic Columbus was forced to take shelter from a hurricane at the mouth of the RIO Jania River. He sailed on to central America and spent 2 months exploring Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica seeking a route through to the Indian Ocean. Unable to travel further Columbus and his fleet were on 25 June 1503 beached and stranded on Jamaica. They were rescued on 28 June 1504 and finally returned to Spain on 7 November.

Ill health plagued Columbus thereafter and he died on 20 May 1506 aged 54 at Valladolid Castle. His grave is in Seville Cathedral, Spain.



Spain issued a set of 15 stamps on 29 September 1930 showing the 'Santa Maria'



The Americas

The Columbian Issue, also known as the Columbians, is a set of 16 postage stamps to commemorate the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago during 1893. The finely engraved stamps were the first commemorative stamps issued by the United States, depicting various events during the career of Christopher Columbus and are much valued by collectors. Entitled 'Columbus In Sight of Land', the 1c lowest value in the set was based on a painting by William Henry Powell and was one of several to be engraved by Alfred Jones. This stamp was used primarily to pay postage on third-class mail. Because images in the series were not based on the works of a single artist Columbus's appearance changes dramatically (as it does across other stamps too). In the 1c he is clean shaven, but in the 2c he sports a full beard. John Vanderlyn's painting 'The Landing of Columbus' was originally commissioned by American Congress and also used on \$5 Banknotes and the 15c stamp in the 1869 Pictorial Issue. The 15c is the most common stamp of the Columbian Issue, in part because it paid the first class rate for domestic mail. More than a billion copies were printed.

However the most collectible variety of the set occurs on the 4c value. The normal colour of this stamp is ultramarine. A very small number were printed erroneously using a darker shade that more closely resembles the blue of the 1c stamp. At least two errors sheets/200 stamps were printed and significantly fewer are thought to have survived. The '4c blue is considered a rarity selling for thousands of dollars...so is the stamp below a rarity...or just mucky?

The voyages of Columbus were a turning point in human history, marking the beginning of globalisation and the accompanying demographic, commercial, economic, social and political changes. Even Britain has recognised his contribution in the below postage stamp



SG 235



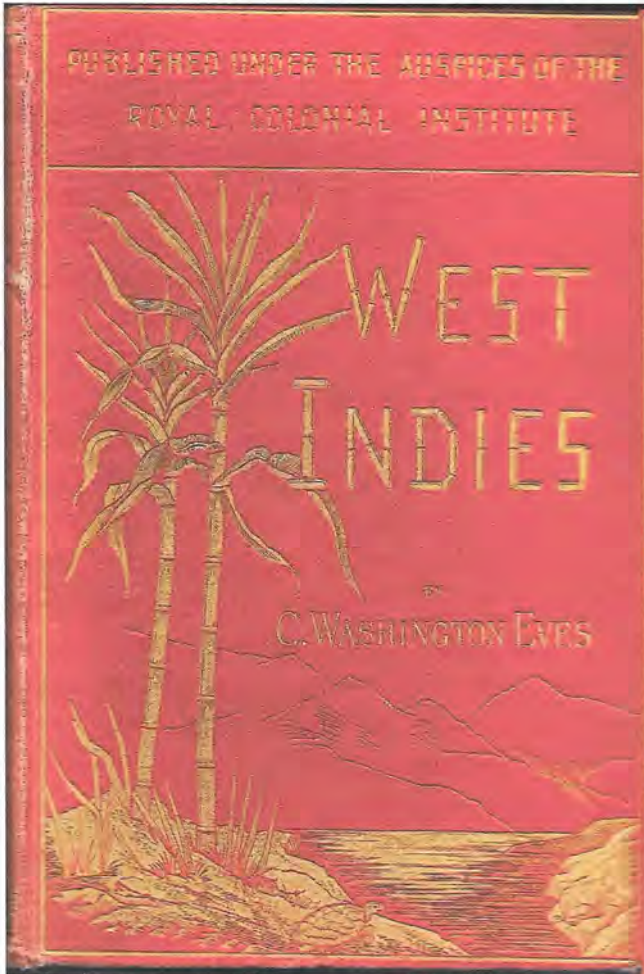
SG 235



SG 235



Inspiring and Intriguing, all these Years later



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS.

In this 1889 'Royal Colonial Institute' Book 'West Indies' it states:

'(his) name has come to mean the embodiment of all the most energetic and stirring influences of his time. He was a visionary with a definite object.' At that time it was also said:

'His name has been coupled with scenes of cruelty to native races.... and he may have been bigoted and superstitious...he had the faults of his time combined with the excellences of one more advanced'.

Today, even though the world is aware of the terrible atrocities of Columbus and his crew, the world is also in awe of his achievements, The below stamps were produced by the USA in 1992 (SG 2655 a- d) marking the 500th Anniversary of his discovery of America.

