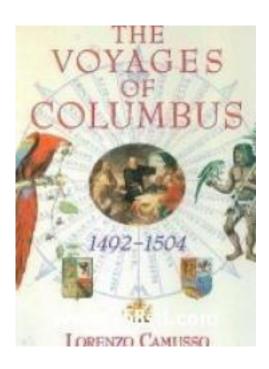
The Voyages of Columbus 1492-1504



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\"nflF(I)flluy t llmpca~l ~otbl
br > speculatiuu about my~lcrious l~olnan wrli(i¼ŒtN [n ll1((lJc i¾Œi]
br > lands and taraway places Unlesi¼Œ the prey1 lg
br > lnthel5fllcenturyi¼Œ there attthority~asA st)lie Inhi~sbr > was not always a clear opinionii¼Œ which was shared h.~sbr > separation between literary Roman writers such as
br > inrage and geographical fact. Seneca and Plinyii¼Œ the earth s
br > In the vast uncharted oceans land surface was extreinely
br > that surrounded the known vastii¼Œ and only a narrow sea
br > land masses - Europeii¼Œ Africaii¼Œ separated Europe and Asia.
br > Asia - maybe there really But the Aristotelian view
br > were fearsome whirlpoolsii¼Œ was directly challenged at the
br > and giant sea monstersii¼Œ and
br > magnetic reefs that could pull Ancient scholars knew that tile
br > iron nails out of ships hullsii¼Œ world was roundii¼Œ and so did 15th-
br > To

be sure, many century Europeans. The r belief
 superstitions and myths from was confi)med by classical

earlier ages had already been writings, and also by experience
 discredited. Educated As can be seen from this 15th
 Europeans knew that the centtny drawingi¼Œ Colt rebus
 contemporaries had observed that

world was roundi¼Œ and they objects \"sink\"over the horizon as

were aware that Portuguese n result of the cunil/4Œ ature of the br > voyagers to the African earth.
 tropics had seen many people beginning of the 15 th
 and lush vegetation in the century. Renaissance
 Torrid Zone which ancient scholars rediscovered the
 writers had described as writings of Ptolemyi¼Œ the
 uninhabitable. Greek astronomer and
 Stilli¼Œ most of the earth s geographer who lived in the
br > geographyii¼Œ and even the 2nd century A.O. His treatise

 br > precise outlines of Europe on geography was translated
 itselfi¼Œ was a mystery in the into Latini¼Œ the universal
 15th century. Most \"experts\" language of the time, and his
based their view of the world ideas - and the ideas of his
br > on the opinions of Greek and Arab sources - became
br > widely known. According to
br > 15th-ceotury Portuguese sailors Ptolemyii¼Œ the earth s surface
 expanded the horizons of the < br > koown worldi¼Œ buť the Ocean was was equally divided between

between

br > still a great mystery. Many people land and wateri¼Œ and his

believed that monstrous creaturesi¼Œ followers believed that a vasti¼Œ

like the one pictured belowi¼Œ hu ked impassable ocean extended
 in its uncharted depthsi¼Œ westwards from Europe to
 the Far East.
 Columbus questioned the
 teachings of Ptolemy. He
 believed the ocean could be
 crossed. But neither hei¼Œ nor

heither hei¼Œ nor

Aristotlei¼Œ nor Ptolemy

br > guessed a huge undiscovered

br > continent lay between

-\"~...~ 4%z ~c-.~:...;c:~ii¼Œ ~ ~:!i.:!~i!i~.:~\" Europe and the Orient.

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