

DISCOVERY FIVE HUNDRED

1492 — NEWSLETTER OF THE — 1992
INTERNATIONAL • COLUMBIAN • QUINCENTENARY • ALLIANCE • LTD
BOX 1492 • COLUMBUS • NEW JERSEY • 08022

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 4

OCTOBER, 1989

"PUBLIC AWARENESS THROUGH LIVING HISTORY" is the theme of the International Columbian Quincentenary Alliance, Ltd. Through its newsletter, information center, lecture bureau, educational materials, educational travel and public events, the ICQA contributes to the public awareness of the life and times of Christopher Columbus and the 500th anniversary of his Atlantic crossings. Through an informal alliance of the local, national and international groups organized to celebrate the Quincentenary, the ICQA promotes a unified effort in the commemoration of this major historic event.

THREE YEARS AND COUNTING: AN UPDATE ON THE COLUMBUS QUINCENTENARY

While October 12, 1992 is just three years away, Quincentenary fever is already sweeping the world, with an annual swell of interest around Columbus Day each year. The Quincentenary festivities will be well underway in less than two years, with kickoff events scheduled for August and October, 1991. The Fifth Centenary of the Discovery of America will be a unique commemoration on several levels. First of all, it is the first major international celebration, involving many nations with a common interest in the man, Columbus, and the events: the encounter of Europe with the New World, the opening of the "Ocean Sea" to trade and sea travel, the discovery of new lands and the migration of peoples to a New World.

Secondly, it is a multi-event celebration. We are not celebrating one event or one date in history. Rather, there are multiple moments of commemoration, inspiration and motivation in connection with key events of the Jubilee. For instance, the departure of Columbus from Palos, Spain on August 3, 1492 will be a special moment of commemoration. Again, on September 9, 1492, the 33-day sea voyage begins -- each day being a special occasion for commemoration and celebration. On October 12 we celebrate the landfall -- the focal point of the entire commemoration; on March 15, 1993 we celebrate Columbus' return to Palos and on April 27, his triumphal entry into Barcelona and his reception by the King and Queen. Even after these events, we will celebrate the subsequent discovery of new lands on the successive three voyages of Columbus, right up until the anniversary of his death, May 20, 2005. The opportunity for re-learning history and its many lessons through the celebration of the Quincentenary of Christopher Columbus is unprecedented.

EXPO '92
SEVILLA

In addition to there being multiple events, there are also multiple foci of the celebration. People ask where the Quincentenary will take place. Unlike the centenary of the Statue of Liberty, the Columbian Quincentenary has a variety of points of celebration. Among the major international events are the two International Columbian Expositions: Expo '92 Seville and Expo '92 Genoa. Plans are well underway for each of these expos, the larger and most publicized being the one in Seville, Spain. Already, 86 nations are lined up as exhibitors with major pavillions under construction. Companies such as Fuji Film, IBM, Rank Xerox, Fujitsu and Siemens have committed sponsorship monies to the Expo, which will open in April and close in October, 1992.

Just about the time the Expo in Seville is winding down, attention will re-focus on Spain with the opening of the Summer Olympics in Barcelona, the town that royally received Columbus upon his return from his epic voyage of discovery. 1992 is the year of Spain's entry into the European Common market, and the year that the Common Market begins its process of removing trade barriers between member countries. The timing for Spain couldn't be better!

Genoa, Italy, wanting to make sure that it gets its share of the attention and tourist trade, has put together a more modest exposition, but one which will attract both attention and visitors. This expo is more a project of the Ligurian region of Italy than of the country itself, and is less international than Expo '92, Seville. Italy is taking advantage of the Quincentenary to re-vitalize the port of Genoa and to upgrade the historical region so influential in the early life of Columbus. The area is also the depository of many of the valuable documents in the early life of Columbus.

Unlike 1892-93, when Chicago, Illinois was the focal point of the 400th Anniversary of the Discovery of America with the famous Chicago World Columbian Exposition, there will be no "World's Fair" in the U.S. Original plans for a twin event in conjunction with Seville fell through when the Chicago financing failed to materialize. Instead, one of the United States' major Quincentenary events will take place in Columbus, Ohio.



AmeriFlora '92

AmeriFlora '92 is an International Floral and Garden Festival. Countries from around the world will share their horticultural and cultural traditions in Columbus, Ohio's vast network of parkland -- a model of urban green space dating back to the early eighteen hundreds. The entire downtown area of Columbus will be transformed for this, America's first international garden festival. Visitors will explore the cultures of the Old and New Worlds as reflected in the horticultural expressions of the international participants, and they will discover the horticultural diversity of the United States as they walk through the regional gardens ranging from the stark landscapes of the southwest to the lush tropical gardens of the southeast. AmeriFlora will encompass Columbus' Franklin, Wolf and Academy Parks. AmeriFlora will commence April 3, 1992 with a spectacular 17 day indoor International Floral Exposition under the theme "Quintessence". The event will use the "open space" concept to create innovative "play areas" for the many visitors who attend. AmeriFlora '92 will close on Columbus Day, 1992.

THREE YEARS...AN UPDATE. (Continued from page 1.)

The list of maritime events scheduled for 1992 is impressive. There are private as well as organized "cross Atlantic" re-enactments planned. The major event is the **Grand Columbus Regatta**, comprising of a flotilla of European vessels which will sail from Genoa and Lisbon to Cadiz, Spain, from there to San Juan, Puerto Rico, and on to the east coast of the United States in June, 1992. The regatta's climactic event will be a parade of sail in the presence of the President of the United States and other heads of state on July 4, 1992. There will be a similar event on the West Coast, featuring ships from Central and South America and the nations of the Pacific, and including visits by ships to ports in California, Hawaii, and the Pacific Northwest, on Columbus weekend, October 11-12, 1992.

There will be at least two historically accurate "re-enactments" of the Columbus crossing of the Atlantic in the *Nina*, *Pinta* and *Santa Maria*, beginning on August 3 in Palos, proceeding to the Canary Islands, and then, in September, on to San Salvador in the Bahamas, with landfall taking place on October 12, 1992.

America 500, an organization associated with the World Cruising Association based in England has planned the **America 500 Race** for late Fall, 1992. This race will follow the route of Columbus, landing in Puerto Rico in November, 1992.

An obvious focal point for the U.S. Celebration will be the District of Columbia, named after Columbus. Visitors to Washington, D.C. are greeted by an impressive statue of Columbus as they emerge from Union Station. The most prominent Columbus monument in D.C. is the famous "Columbus Door" at the entrance to the nations Capitol, which depicts, in bronze, eight scenes in the life of Christopher Columbus. Formal ceremonies are planned in conjunction with the ceremonial opening and closing of this door by the President of the United States to call attention to the Quincentenary celebration, along with weekly events throughout 1992 when individual congressional delegations will be invited to participate.

Planning for the Quincentenary is taking place on many levels. There are several international commissions, and most countries have established national Quincentenary Commissions. In the United States, there are at least 26 State Quincentenary Commissions in place, with the remaining expected to be established during the next twelve months (see listing elsewhere in this issue). There are 69 places in the United States named in some way after Columbus (about 25 of them called "Columbia", the traditional feminine version of a place name). Many have established commissions to coordinate celebrations for 1992. Columbus, Indiana, Columbus, Ohio, Columbus, Wisconsin, Columbus, New Jersey and Columbus, Georgia have taken the lead in organizing for the Quincentenary. For instance, Columbus, New Jersey has picked up on the AmeriFlora theme and intends to make the town the floral showplace of New Jersey in 1992.

Colleges and Universities have established Quincentenary Commissions, the most notable being Ohio State, UCLA, the University of Wisconsin and Millersville University in Pennsylvania. The latter has established a computerized data bank of Columbus information. In addition, scholarly re-

search has been encouraged around the Columbus theme and a variety of conferences, exhibits and translations are taking place.

In 1892, school children around the U.S. were united at noon on October 12 in the simultaneous recitation, for the first time, of the Pledge of Allegiance. As the nation celebrates the 100th anniversary of this Pledge to the Flag, which was written to commemorate the fourth centenary of the Discovery of America by Columbus, elementary and secondary school children will repeat the national simultaneous recitation of the Pledge in 1992 and be involved in a variety of curriculum projects being planned by national, state and local education associations.

New statues have been commissioned for a number of cities, similar to a spate of Columbus statue erecting which took place in 1892. The famous statue of Columbus at Columbus Circle in New York City will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Columbus Day in 1992. And among the most unusual events underway, a Spanish artist by the name of Miralda has been staging a series of mega artistic events around the theme of the Nuptials of the Statue of Liberty and the Statue of Columbus in Barcelona, Spain. A series of events have already taken place, such as the display of the Liberty Engagement dress in New

York City in 1986, the Liberty Petticoat in Miami, Florida in 1988 and the bridal bouquet (a decorated tree!) in Barcelona last year. The Bridal Dress will be unveiled in Paris, and a variety of marital symbols will be included in U.S. events such as the Mummies Parade in Philadelphia on January 1, 1990, and the Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans. **The Honeymoon Miralda Project**, as it is called, is a serious attempt to celebrate the multi-cultural underpinnings of the Quincentenary by a series of public artistic events which will capture the attention of the public.

In the world of the Visual Arts, several paintings and sculptures have been commissioned and in the Performing Arts, there are two new plays about Columbus in production, an Opera, a Symphony and a modern musical. The Smithsonian and PBS are involved in a national television series called "The Buried Mirror". Some of the national Quincentenary Commissions have funded restoration projects in Latin America in conjunction with the Quincentenary, and major efforts involving historical research and the translation of historic documents have already begun.

Given that twenty million U.S. Italians, 21 million U.S. Hispanics and 1,500,000 Knights of Columbus in the U.S. have a vested interest in Christopher Columbus, is there any doubt that October 12, 1992 will not pass unnoticed? In addition to the official governmental and municipal Quincentenary Commissions already mentioned, there are already about 15 "special interest" Quincentenary groups and ten special publications dealing exclusively with the Quincentenary. Most Latin American countries have already issued their Quincentenary commemorative postage stamps and several have minted commemorative coins. Three years before the event, there is so much happening that it is easy to predict that the potential for celebration and international involvement will be unprecedented in world history. Hail, Columbus! Hail, 1992!



