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Spain: Columbus

En Columbus Circle, en la ciudad de Nueva York, un obelisco de granito sostiene una estatua en mármol de Cristóbal Colón. Tres proas de barco en bronce, representando las de sus tres carabelas, adornan el obelisco. Ante el pedestal, una figura alada estudia un globo terráqueo. El abierto espacio que hay junto al monumento sirve de lugar apropiado para que diversos oradores expongan sus diversos asuntos. El Circle da una agradable impresión de espacio, con la extensión del Central Park ~~exten~~ abierto al norte y este.

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Each year tribute is paid to the memory of Christopher Columbus, whose epoch-making voyage 450 years ago led to development of the New World. "Columbus Day" is observed October 12, allegedly the day Columbus landed at Watling Island (christened by him San Salvador) in the Bahamas.

Columbus Day is a legal holiday in more than two thirds of the United States. Celebrations -- parades, picnics, wreath-laying ceremonies -- honor the man who sought the wealth of the Indies but found, instead, an entire new world. In Latin America October 12 is observed as "Día de la Raza" or "Day of the Race". Special attention is called to the great race and language union of Latin America and her mother country, Spain, from whence the renowned seafarer, his voyage sponsored by Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand, sailed in 1492.

Although Columbus twice mentioned in his will that he was a native of Genoa, Italy, a dozen places claim the honor of his birth, and several offer plausible evidence in support. His parentage is uncertain, and his age the subject of serious dispute. In the English-speaking world he is known as Christopher Columbus, an anglicized form of Cristoforo Colombo (Italian) and Cristobal Colon (Spanish).

The effigy of the "Admiral of the Indies" has been carved and painted countless times. In the United States alone there are 39 statues and monuments to his memory. There are six in Spain and seven in Italy. ⁵²⁻⁸⁸⁸¹ United construction at Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic, is the General Memorial House, which has been called the largest memorial since the pyramids to be dedicated to one man.

Columbus did not live to realize the significance of his discovery. Praise songs on the subject were written in France as long ago as the French Revolution. It was said that the hopes of mankind for the future of the western world rested in the two or three million colonists scattered along the coast of America -- colonists who had fought for and won their independence. Americans must use their liberty to help others. A new world of freedom, for all peoples, is the legacy of Columbus.



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3. In Columbus Circle, New York City, a 77-foot granite column supports a marble statue of Columbus. Three bronze ships' prows, representing these in his fleet, ornament the shaft. Before the pedestal a winged youth studies a terrestrial globe. The open space below the monument is a mecca for orators, who expound on many subjects. The Circle gives a pleasing impression of space, with the expanse of Central Park spreading to the North and East. (Source: International)

SPAIN - COLU

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