



# COLUMBUS MEMORIAL FESTIVAL

*October 12th, 1965*

SAN SALVADOR ISLAND



Christopher  
Columbus



Memorial  
Foundation

1965

# San Salvador Columbus Festival

Christopher Columbus Foundation  
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*Former Ambassador from Cuba  
to the United States, the  
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## Memorial Festival Committees

### FESTIVAL MANAGEMENT

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Project Coordinator .....	Mr. Frederick N. Metcalf
Diplomatic Liaison for C.C.M.F. ....	Dr. Guillermo Belt
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Supervisee Guest Services .....	Mr. Hans Rothpletz
Director of Press Relations .....	Mr. John Duffett
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San Salvador Liaison .....	Mr. Eugene Etcheverry
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Santa Paula Liaison .....	Mr. Frederick Lennertz

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Governor .....	Hon. Sir Ralph Grey
Minister of Tourism .....	Sir Stafford Sands
Minister of Post & Telecommunications .....	Sir Roy Solomon
Government Liaison .....	Mr. R. H. Symonette
Development Board Liaison .....	Mr. Kurtz Henley

### MANAGEMENT FOR THE ISLAND OF SAN SALVADOR

Island Commissioner .....	Mr. Donald M. Pratt
Security & Services .....	Mr. Joseph Albury
Island Committee Member .....	Mr. Jacob Jones
Naval Base Cmdr. ....	J. C. Mann, Cmdr. U.S.N.
Air Force Base Manager .....	Mr. Henry J. Smith

## THE CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

The Christopher Columbus Foundation, a private organization of prominent citizens of the American Nations, has been formed to commemorate a dramatic moment in the history of the Americas, and to develop the Island of San Salvador as a cultural center for the Hemisphere. As the point of origin for the peoples who, over many generations, settled the New World, it is hoped that one day San Salvador will become a repository of the arts and artifacts of the Age of Discovery as well as a showplace for exhibits by all the nations which benefited from that discovery.

The Foundation has declared as its aims:

The promotion of peace, education, and friendship among the peoples of the Americas and of the world.

An "Instituto de La Americas" at San Salvador would be established and eventually, a seat of high learning dedicated to such activities that will contribute to the knowledge of American governmental and business relations, history, geography, languages, literature and the arts.

The organization plans a new museum, music festivals, and competitions designed to encourage peoples of the Americas to exchange ideas in the arts.

The Foundation believes that in the encouragement of scholarship, the exchange of students, sharing of knowledge, and fostering of interpersonal relationships between men of disparate nations lies the key to a peaceful and prosperous future for this hemisphere. The primary purpose for the formation of the Foundation is to facilitate the formation of such relationships among the future leaders of our hemisphere.

In the practical world of economics, the Foundation plans to invite men of distinction from the business life of all the nations of the hemisphere to meet in convocations to discuss the problems and needs of their respective countries. Seminars for students of Western Hemisphere and general international economics would benefit from the experience and thinking of the foremost men of our era.

The laying of the cornerstone for the "Instituto de Las Americas" represents the first action in the construction of this center for the "New World," and is to symbolize the faith of the founders in the creations to come.

It is indeed fitting that this enterprise, dedicated to discovering new grounds for a meeting of the minds of men, be named for that giant personality whose discovery four hundred and seventy-three years ago, gave us all the gift of nationhood, the gift of mutual and cherished homelands - Christopher Columbus. This Foundation hopes by its efforts to contribute sufficient works and deeds to make it worthy of the illustrious name it has adopted.

**Dedication Ceremony, San Salvador**  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

9:30 A.M.	Guests disembark S.S. Santa Paula Selections Nassau Constabulary Band	10:20 A.M.	Speakers: His Excellency Senor Victor Andres Belaunde, Ambassador to (Cont.) the United Nations from Peru The Honorable Lloyd Hand, Chief of Protocol, U.S. Department of State His Excellency Dr. Guillermo Sevilla Sacasa, Ambassador to the United States and the O.A.S. from Nicaragua Dr. Guillermo Belt, Foundation Secretary
10:00 A.M.	Introduction of His Excellency, Sir Ralph Grey, Governor of the Bahamas Sir Roland Symonette, Premier of the Bahamas Nassau Constabulary Band God Save The Queen, Introduction Dr. Jose A. Mora, Secretary General of the Organization of American States His Excellency Dr. Juan Plate speaking for the Organization of American States	11:45 A.M.	Laying of Cornerstone for the "Instituto de las Americas"
10:20 A.M.	Flag Raising Invocation Rt. Rev. Bernard Markham, Lord Bishop of Nassau and the Bahamas Speakers: W. J. McNeil, President Grace Line John W. McDevitt, Supreme Knight, Knights of Columbus His Excellency Senor Carlos Soa Rodriguez, Ambassador to the United Nations from Venezuela	12:00 Noon	The Hon. Donald M. Pratt, Commissioner for the Island of San Salvador "Salve Regina" sung by San Salvador Choir Benediction Closing Rendition Nassau Constabulary Band
		12:15 P.M.	Luncheon for Official Guests, Air Force Club (Optional long or short tours of the Island)
		2:15 P.M.	Leave for Landing Craft
		3:00 P.M.	S.S. Santa Paula Sails for New York

**Distinguished Guests From The Americas**

His Excellency Dr. Eduardo Ritter Aislan Ambassador to the O.A.S. from Panama	The Reverend Laurence McGinley Society of Jesus
Mr. James R. Anderson Foundation Director	Admiral & Mrs. W. J. McNeil President Grace Line Inc.
His Excellency & Mrs. Fern D. Barzidy Ambassador to the O.A.S. from Haiti	His Excellency Dr. Jose A. Mora Secretary General O.A.S.
His Excellency Dr. Carlos Garcia Bauer Ambassador to the O.A.S. from Guatemala	Mr. Paul Murphy Chief of Protocol O.A.S.
His Excellency Dr. & Mrs. Victor Andres Belaunde Ambassador to the U.N. from Peru	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Nachtman Foundation Director
Mr. Victor A. Belaunde, Jr. Dr. & Mrs. Guillermo Belt Foundation Director	His Excellency Dr. & Mrs. Emilio N. Orbe Ambassador to the O.A.S. from Uruguay
Miss Marilyn Belt	Mr. & Mrs. Hector Ormachea Minister Counselor to the O.A.S. from Bolivia
Mr. & Mrs. Gutierrez Cano Director World Bank	His Excellency Dr. & Mrs. Enrique Tejera Paris Ambassador to the O.A.S. from Venezuela
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Carignan Vice President South American Group, W. R. Grace	His Excellency Dr. Hector Paysse Chairman Uruguayan Delegation to the United Nations and President of the Security Council
His Excellency & Mrs. Alfredo Vasquez Carrizosa Ambassador to the O.A.S. from Colombia	Mr. Richard E. Pearson Assistant Vice President National Geographic Society
Mrs. Rafael de la Colina Representative of the Government of Mexico	His Excellency Dr. & Mrs. Juan Plate Ambassador to the O.A.S. from Paraguay
His Excellency Dr. Richard M. Colombo Ambassador to the O.A.S. from Argentina	His Excellency Ambassador & Mrs. Jose Luis Redondo Permanent Delegate from Costa Rica to the United Nations
Dr. & Mrs. Don Ramon de Clairmont Daenas Ambassador to the O.A.S. from El Salvador	His Excellency Dr. & Mrs. Carlos Soan Rodriguez Ambassador to the United Nations from Venezuela
His Excellency & Mrs. Gonzalo J. Facio Ambassador to the O.A.S. from Costa Rica	Dr. & Mrs. G. Rodriguez Master Guillermo Rodriguez, Jr. Festival Committee
Dr. & Mrs. Pedro Grau President Festival Committee	Mr. & Mrs. Elliot Roosevelt Mayor of Miami Beach
Ambassador & Mrs. Lloyd Hand Chief of Protocol, U.S. Department of State	His Excellency Dr. Guillermo Sevilla Sacasa Ambassador to the United States and to the O.A.S. from Nicaragua, & Dean of the Diplomatic Corps
Mr. & Mrs. William Hickey Chairman of the Spanish Institute	Mr. & Mrs. Frederic P. Sands Vice President Grace Line Inc.
His Excellency Rodriago Jacome Ambassador to the O.A.S. from Ecuador	Mr. & Mrs. E. R. Senn Senior Vice President Grace Line Inc.
His Excellency Dr. & Mrs. Don Alejandro Magnet Ambassador to the O.A.S. from Chile	His Excellency Dr. & Mrs. Richard A. Midence Soto Ambassador to the O.A.S. from Honduras
His Excellency & Mrs. Limar Penna Marinho Ambassador to the O.A.S. from Brazil	Mr. & Mrs. John L. Topping Alternate Representative of the United States to the O.A.S.
Mr. & Mrs. John W. McDevitt Supreme Knight, Knights of Columbus	

**Distinguished Guests From The Bahama Islands**

His Excellency Sir Ralph and Lady Grey The Governor of the Bahamas	Hon. George Baker, M.H.A. Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries	Mr. Albert Miller Assistant Commissioner of Police
Hon. Sir Roland and Lady Symonette The Premier of the Bahamas	Hon. Godfrey K. and Mrs. Kelly Minister for Education	The Rt. Rev. Markham The Lord Bishop of Nassau and the Bahamas
Hon. Frank H. and Mrs. Christie Minister for Aviation	Hon. Joseph T. Albury Minister for Electricity	Senior Don Mayobanex Vargas y Vargas Dominican Consul to the Bahamas
Hon. Sir Harold and Lady Christie Member of Tourist Board	Hon. Foster and Mrs. Clarke Minister for Health	Mr. and Mrs. Dennis G. Mitchell Honorary Consul to the Bahamas for Ecuador
Hon. C. Trevor Kelly Minister for Maritime Affairs	Hon. Peter D. and Mrs. Graham Minister for Labour and Housing	Mr. and Mrs. Julio Bordes Haitian Consul General to the Bahamas
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Dupuch Acting Minister for Works	Hon. Donald E. and Mrs. d'Albenas Minister for Out Island Affairs	Mr. and Mrs. Noel Plant Honorary Consul for Mexico to the Bahamas
Hon. Robert H. and Mrs. Symonette Speaker of the House of Assembly	Hon. G. A. D. and Mrs. Johnston Minister for Road Traffic and Records	Mr. & Mrs. Galliano Vouch Consular Agent for Italy to the Bahamas
Hon. Roy M. and Mrs. Solomon Minister for Posts and Telecommunications	Senator the Hon. C. W. F. and Mrs. Bethell Minister without Portfolio	
	Sir Foley and Lady News Secretary to the Cabinet	

## THE ISLAND OF SAN SALVADOR



Less than one degree of latitude above the Tropic of Cancer, fronting the broad swells of the Atlantic, only a little changed from that fateful day in 1492, lies the all-but-forgotten island of San Salvador. Known by the Indians as "Guanahani," and later as "Watling's Island," the name "San Salvador" was bestowed on the place by Christopher Columbus.

To name the island after the Saviour was not solely an act of symbolism by Columbus; it was also a realistic acknowledgement. For the finding of that place, at that time, on that morning was the salvation of the expedition, the fleet, and perhaps the life of Columbus himself.

Thirty-five days out from the Canaries, sailing ever westward into the unknown, having endured hardships, two false landfalls, two near mutinies, perilously close to the end of his tether, the sight of the low beach illumined by the moon must indeed have seemed a gift of divine providence to the voyager.

On that October morning history forever changed the little island in the warm sun. Christopher Columbus had not, as he thought, come upon the Indies by a new, short route. He had discovered a New World.

For many years people argued about which island was Columbus' San Salvador. When most historians agreed, the island which had been named Watling's, for a noted buccaneer, was re-named San Salvador. It is about 200 miles east southeast of Nassau.

The oldest monument to the discovery is a weathered stone cairn erected on the San Salvador beach by The Chicago Herald in 1891 in anticipation of the 400th anniversary of the 1492 discovery. Another marker, a cement cross, is located on what is now called Landing Beach, south of Cockburn Town, the main settlement on San Salvador. This is the spot where our celebration will take place. Another monument marks the spot where Columbus and his crew attended the first mass celebrated in America.

In 1962 an almost exact replica of Columbus' smallest ship, the Nina, was built in Spain. It sailed from Palos, his Spanish point of departure, along the original westerly route.

The 20th century replica of the caravel reached San Salvador on Christmas Eve 1962 and anchored off Cockburn Town. Nina was subsequently towed to Nassau and placed on exhibition for a while before being taken to Mexico.

The island is low, sparsely wooded, with a few rolling hills inland, many beautiful lakes, and miles of clean, smooth beaches. Points of interest are Cockburn Town, "Watling's Castle" — ruins of the noted pirate's mansion — the discovery monuments, and a Columbus Museum.

At present there are about 1,000 inhabitants living on the beautiful island. Many of these are descendents of Royalists and their slaves who fled from Virginia during the American Revolutionary War.

It is now assured that San Salvador, which has had a fairly quiet existence since 1492, will claim its inheritance and become a meeting place for the cultures of the Old and New Worlds, as history intended.







*Christopher Columbus Memorial Foundation*

SAN SALVADOR  
ISLAND



OCTOBER 12,  
1965

# FIRST-DAY COVERS

This envelope contains First-Day Covers, commemorating the ceremonies at San Salvador Island, prestamped and ready for addressing to your friends. Please use the enclosed blank stationery for any note you wish to enclose in the First-Day Cover envelopes. After your envelopes have been addressed please return them to the purser's office, or any Grace Line staff member. These envelopes will be post-marked at San Salvador Island on October 12, 1965—473 years after the discovery of the New World.

**PLEASE DO NOT DROP IN REGULAR MAIL BOXES. ALL ENVELOPES MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOON ON OCTOBER 12, 1965.**

*Christopher  
Columbus*



*Memorial  
Foundation*

**SAN SALVADOR ISLAND**

October 12, 1965

Mailed from the site first discovered by Christopher  
Columbus — 473 years ago — in the New World