

GEOGRAPHY

Ancient Map Shows How World Looked to Columbus

Recently Discovered Chart Drawn by Turk From Information of Spanish Slave Who Sailed With Explorer

STARTLED to find the name Columbus mentioned on an old Turkish map of the Atlantic Ocean, Paul Kahle has subjected the map to closest study, finding on it important new clues to the discovery of America.

In a report on his investigations, to appear in the forthcoming issue of the *Geographical Review*, official organ of the American Geographical Society, Dr. Kahle announces his belief that for the first time geographers have an idea of the appearance of the map which served to guide Columbus on his first voyage.

"We are now in a position even to reconstruct this map to a certain extent," he declares.

No maps indisputably drawn by Columbus himself are known to be in existence. The maps which he undoubtedly drew to show the King and Queen of Spain where lay the fine lands he had found in their honor have vanished. Nor have searches ever revealed any chart by which the navigator steered his course on the world's most famous voyages of discovery. Hence the importance of the Turkish map, which appears to be a direct copy of one of the lost maps by Columbus. By translating the long Arabic inscriptions on the map, Dr. Kahle found that it was made for the Sultan Selim I, in 1513, and it specifically states that new lands are included, as added lately by the "Genoese infidel Colon-bo."

Undetected For Centuries

In quaint language, the Turkish map maker told the story of Columbus' discovery voyages, and declared that he followed a map by Columbus himself in drawing these new lands. The source of his information was a Spanish slave who had traveled three times with Columbus on his long voyages.

The map made for the Sultan has lain undetected in the Seraglio in Constantinople for centuries. Its discovery has stimulated interest in seeking the original Columbus map which the map-maker copied and which may have been preserved in Turkey. Some months ago

the American Ambassador to Turkey requested a search. A high Turkish official sent a circular letter to directors of museums in the country and to scholars studying Turkish maritime history, asking their assistance. So far no trace of the original map has been reported.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Once Popular Medicine Now Banned as Nuisance

VALERIAN, once a popular medicine that won the public confidence chiefly because of its bad taste and strong odor, now may be sold in New York City only under restrictions as rigid and strict as those applying to the narcotic drugs.

This is not because valerian is a dangerous medicine but because the offensive odor of the drug which may have won it popularity as a remedy has now made it a public nuisance. Valerian, once the chief constituent of "female tonics" and remedies for nervous and hysterical disorders, has come to be the chief constituent of "stink bombs."

The American Medical Association comments on the situation as follows: "The control of valerian is not induced by its medical uses but is instead to be a curb on racketeering, a system for making easy money, which may be said to be one of the prime developments of the last quarter century in which 'stink bombs' constitute a significant part of the materia racketeeria."

Science News Letter, October 7, 1933

HISTORY OF MEDICINE

Yellow Fever Conquerors To Be Honored

THE MEN who conquered yellow fever will be honored in a special Memorial Session when the American Public Health Association meets in Indianapolis the week of Oct. 9. As many as possible of the few still living among

the brave men who volunteered as "human guinea pigs" in the historic experiments of the U. S. Army Yellow Fever Commission will be present at the banquet.

Maj. Walter Reed, chairman of the Army Commission, made the first announcement of his success in transmitting the disease by the mosquito at the meeting of the American Public Health Association in Indianapolis just thirty years ago. This discovery and demonstration by Reed and the other members of the Commission, that the disease was transmitted by a mosquito, has been called the most important contribution to science ever made by an Army surgeon and second only to the discovery of anesthesia in its benefits to the human race.

The Surgeon General of the U. S. Army, Major General R. U. Patterson, and General Frederick F. Russell, director of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation, will make the principal addresses. Members of the Association who were present at the historic meeting thirty years ago will be feted as well as the men still living who participated in the investigations.

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Three-fourths of the western range of big game in the West is now within National Forests.



DR. WALTER REED