

America

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Americus Vespucci has no idea what he hath wrought.

The land bearing his Anglicized name identifies both North and South America. There is no hint that Vespucci ever visited North America, or knew the discovery was two continents. His expeditions, sometimes as observer for the King of Portugal, took him to land now known as South America. He made many detailed notes on these journeys; when these records reached other European nations, it caused that land to be referred to by his name.

To add to his stature, he is also credited with being the first to state this discovered land was not part of India, but in fact was a separate land mass between Europe and Asia. Further, he was the first to develop fairly accurate determination of longitude. This system was used in part for four hundred years, even after the development of Chronometers in the late 18th Century; was made obsolete finally with the introduction of radio in the 20th Century.

On Americus' third voyage, his ships headed south along those shores; on reaching 25 degree South they explored, then reversed course. While there he also mapped in the Southern sky, Alpha and Beta Centauri, the constellation Crux (the Souther Cross); these been seen by the early Greeks, but gradual precession of the earth lowered them below the European horizon.

When cartographers began mapping the explorations by those early explorers, the German mapmaker Martin Waldseemuller in his 1507 map of the world, chose to name these lands America. This name, feminine of the Latin "Americus", Vespucci's first name; for both Europe and Africa were named after women.

Imagine, within the first ten years following Columbus claiming everything in this new world in the name of the King of Spain, maps began naming this land America.

And now you know the rest of the story.
We live in land named after a genius.

Every resident of Chicago, Cabo San Lucas; Santiago and Seattle; Honolulu and Houston; Miami, Monterrey, Molaki and Maricao; Tia Juana and San Diego; Denver and Whitehorse; Montreal and Mexico City; Havana, Halifax, and Haiti; yes, everyone, both Continents, native and immigrant alike, can look back to

these foreigners, Vespucci and Waldseemüller, and proudly call themselves Americans.

Wait a minute.

What did you say?

You object? Just because individuals live in other than these United States part of North or South America, they have no right to call themselves Americans?

Won't that cause hard feelings? You don't care?

Of course I don't want to fight about it. O you do, do you!

You threaten me because I mentioned Pope Francis is an American?

What? Everyone who comes here and doesn't become a citizen is a wet-back?

That's unreasonable.

Yeah? I'm not sure the citizens of that other "Americas" would agree to now start calling themselves Vesputcians.

Columbians? We already have a nation of Columbians.

And we'd have to change all those maps.

You don't care! That wouldn't cost us anything?

I should what? That's more than rude. And if I could, would it solve anything?

Hold it! If it would keep me out of a fight, I'd try it.

Jeez.

Ladies and gentlemen, some very abusive Americans ask that you never again choose America as subject for the Writers Group.

Maybe..... Indians, Taxes, or Texas.



North and South America are of the similar age to other world land masses. It was the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans that provided isolation from their earlier settlement by the natives of Europe, Africa and Asia.