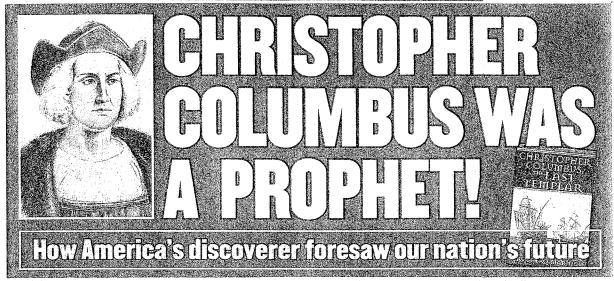




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HRISTOPHER Columbus is celebrated today as the man who discovered America, but recently unearthed documents reveal he left a far more dramatic legacy as a visionary who accurately foresaw events six centuries in the future!

Historians have long believed Columbus was interested in more than just finding a new route from Europe to India, but his true motives have remained a mystery until now.

Part of the picture was revealed by Ruggero Marino, an Italian researcher who has spent 15 years investigating Columbus. In his new book, Christopher Columbus, The Last Templar (Destiny Books), Marino unveils evidence that the renowned explorer used King Ferdinand and Queen isabella of Spain as sponsors, but was really following a

secret plan laid out by Pope Innocent VIII and the long-suppressed Knights Templar.

This secret society - the same organization at the heart of the best-seller, The Da Vinci Code - aimed at creating a "New Jerusalem" where Jews, Christians and Muslims could worship together in peace.

"Columbus was given the mission to lay claim to a new continent for the Templars to realize their dream," explains historian Giorgio Fontella. "He was able to succeed, in part, because he had access to secret maps and navigational tools devised by Templar scientists in the Holy Land.

"But documents in the Spanish Royal Archives prove that Columbus

was also led by a series of prophetic dreams that assured his success."

Letters between Columbus and a scribe employed by Queen Isabella describe a technique for bringing on visions using a mirror of polished stone and a kind of herbal tea carried to Europe from what is now Afghanistan.

The Italian explorer would drink the tea, which brought on a state of profound relaxation, and stare into the mirror until he fell into a deep trance.

While in this semi-conscious state, he would watch as future events unfolded. The letters describe in exhaustive detail not only his discovery of the New World, but also a host of

other events that have since come to pass.

These include the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock, the Revolutionary War, the Civil War and America's role in World Wars I and II, up to the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"Columbus foresaw America's first steps as a nation ruled by its people and dedicated to the ideal of personal freedom," Fontella explains. "His predictions about each of these major wars was precise down to the slightest detail – describing, for example, that World War II would be fought against a German army marching under a 'hooked cross,' another name for the swastika."

The letters also contain descriptions of the invention of the submarine and airplane, the first automobile factories, the highway system, the lunar landing and the construction of the International Space Station.

"It was during these years, when Columbus saw Americans and Russians working together to build a city orbiting the Earth, that the world would face its greatest challenge – what we now call the war on terror," says Fontella. "But at the end of its construction, it will be a shining light looking over a world at peace."

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