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A Classic Portrayal of the Discovery of America
By a Best-selling Author of Historical Novels

1492: ADMIRAL OF THE OCEAN SEA by Mary Johnston

Mary Johnston has both power and passion, and these, after all, are the main essentials for the highest achievement in fiction — Atlantic Monthly

As a novelist Mary Johnston's chief ability lay in her vivid description of landscape, coupled with her unerring story-telling instinct. Though her methods were romantic, her novels were well-authenticated — Dictionary of American Biography

In the 15th century, a fabulous journey awaited those who could unlock the secrets of the Earth's geography. Beautifully written and emotionally compelling, **1492: ADMIRAL OF THE OCEAN-SEA** (Hambledon Hill Press), by Mary Johnston, tells of the famous adventures of Columbus and his men, who sailed into the almost mythical seas beyond the horizon in search of the "New World", in the hopes of attaining vast wealth and power. This exceptional book, by best-selling author Mary Johnston, traces the long route taken by explorers hoping to locate Asia. Based on their limited means and understanding of navigation, they struggle to find their position, while at the same time encountering many natural wonders and exotic peoples. Tensions build as they appear to become increasingly lost. Columbus and his crew begin to lose hope, until they finally receive the vindication of their bold vision.

Johnston's brilliant book pays special attention to the conditions of the late 15th century period. It describes the competition between classes and ethnic groups in Spain, as well as the clashes that occurred when people from two very different cultures, native American and European, interact. These issues are not merely abstract, since we see them vividly through the eyes of a disenfranchised individual: a Christian sailor of Jewish background, who has been compelled to lead a secretive and solitary existence. The incidents of his life are brought to us in a handsome, elegant language, uncommon in the books of our day. **1492: ADMIRAL OF THE OCEAN-SEA** is a marvelous work that brings together history, drama, idealism and art.

Mary Johnston (1870-1936) was the author of nearly two dozen novels, which have sold more than a million copies. Despite her celebrity status, she enjoyed a relatively quiet life in the turn of the 20th century South. Johnston's family was of strong Virginia stock, and of English and Scotch-Irish background. She received much inspiration and factual information from the books contained in a library her father had built in their home. A capable and influential man, her father was at various times Confederate major, lawyer, state legislator, and president of the Georgia Pacific Railroad. Although Johnston was born into this stimulating and enriching environment, she started to suffer

from poor health already in childhood. Being the eldest child, she nevertheless had to take charge at age 20 of household affairs after her mother died. Johnston took refuge in writing, and she gained much success and fame from the quality of her works. Moreover, excellent book sales allowed her to become financially independent. Following her father's death, she built a home called Three Hills, near Warm Springs, Bath County, Va. Johnston never married, and although she made trips far from home, including New York and Europe, Virginia is where she stayed throughout most of her life.

Johnston admired many authors, such as Sir Walter Scott and Charlotte Yonge. She was interested in a wide range of subjects, with a special fascination for history. In her many books, she dealt with such topics as conflict between whites and Indians in Virginia, events and battles during the Civil War, religious freedom in seventeenth-century England, and the collapse of feudalism in twelfth-century France. Not surprisingly, she imbued her books not only with great historical flourish, but with a lavish indulgence in imagination. Consequently, what set Johnston apart from other writers was her ability to dramatically tell a story based on true events, but at the same time keep details accurate and in perspective. She also possessed an exceptional fluency in depicting the environment, both natural and social. Over her career, most critics agreed that her works were intelligently constructed, with innovative characterization and varied themes. Yet, what was often overlooked and underappreciated was a unique gift to mix facts, idealism, drama and mysticism.

Paul Dennis Sporer (editor) is the author of *The Dimensions of Companionship; Liberating Love; The Concept of Family; and Equal but Different*. He has also served as editor on more than 30 culturally and historically significant books, including *Painting Explained*, by Thomas Gullick; *Is Secession Treason?*, by Albert Bledsoe; *The Heart of Aryavarta*, by Lawrence Dundas; *Beauty and Art*; by Aldam Heaton; *The French at Home*, by Albert Rhodes; *From Slave Cabin to Pulpit*, by Peter Randolph; *Newer Ideals of Peace*, by Jane Addams; *Views of Old Europe*, by Bayard Taylor; *Gentle Measures*, by Jacob Abbott; *Parental Influences*, William Bacon; *Finding a Way Out*, by Robert Moton; *The New Birth*, by Austin Phelps; *Tupelo*, by John Hill Aughey; *An Incident of Travel*, Arthur Jerome Eddy; *End of an Era*, by John Sergeant Wise; *The Missionary*, by Samuel Mazzuchelli; *Half a Century*, by Jane Swisshelm; *Born Three Times*, by Thomas L. Johnson; *Dark Hollow*, by Anna Katharine Green; and *1492: Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, by Mary Johnston.

For further information about **1492: ADMIRAL OF THE OCEAN-SEA**, or to arrange an interview with the editor, please contact Cassandra Foxton, inform_at_anzapublishing.com. The publisher's website address is AnzaPublishing.com.

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Revised and enhanced edition

Pub. Date: 2006; Pages: 296; ISBN: 1-932490-16-7 (hc), Price: \$26.95