



The Discovery of America and the Landfall of Columbus: The Last Resting Place of Columbus, Two Monographs, Based on Personal Investigations (Classic Reprint)

Rudolf Cronau

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Excerpt from The Discovery of America and the Landfall of Columbus: The Last Resting Place of Columbus, Two Monographs, Based on Personal Investigations

Historic splendor surrounds the name of that island where inhabitants of the old world for the first time met aborigines of the new. Yet we must confess with shame that so far it has been impossible to point out conclusively the particular island on whose shore this memorable event took place."

These were the words, with which in 1890, when all humanity began to prepare for the celebration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus, an eminent scholar characterized the "Guanahani - Question," perhaps the most interesting problem in all history. Indeed, no other question has been so baffling and caused such controversy. Numerous ingenious students have tried to solve it, but the sole agreement reached by their arduous investigations was that the landfall of Columbus took place at one of those many islands, which stretch from the south-eastern coast of Florida toward Hayti. and are known as the Lucayos or Bahamas. Everything beyond this meagre result remained doubtful, and the opinions as to which of these islands might be identical with Guanahani, differed widely.

This unsatisfactory state of affairs has been caused by several peculiar circumstances.

1. The original log-book or journal, kept by Columbus during his memorable voyage, has disappeared. Also all charts he made of his discoveries. The only source, scholars could rely upon, in the pursuit of their investigations, were extracts of the journal, furnished by Bishop Las Casas, the famous contemporary of Columbus.

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