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Study: Columbus Sailed from Barcelona on 2nd Voyage

BARCELONA – A study says that Christopher Columbus originally set sail on his second voyage to the Americas from the northeastern Spanish port of Barcelona in 1493 and not from the southern port of Cadiz.

Eva Sans, a researcher with the Circulo Catalan de Historia, found information that contradicts the official historical version that the trip began in Cadiz.

“Not only did the preparation for the second trip and the official reception of Columbus and the Indians by the Catholic Monarchs (Ferdinand and Isabel) occur in Barcelona, but the admiral’s fleet and the vessels and caravels that accompanied him departed originally from Barcelona,” Sans said.

The royal armada, according to Catalonian history, arrived in Cadiz on Sept. 23 and spent two days there provisioning the boats once again with water and food, “after some 15 or 20 days sailing from Barcelona” and before continuing on the journey toward the recently discovered lands to the west.

One of the sources used by Sans was the “Anales de Cataluña,” published in 1709 by Narcis Feliu de la Peña and held at the Catalonia Library.

“A large number embarked in Barcelona with Columbus, and Pedro Margarit was captain. They departed from Barcelona with the fleet of Colombus, arrived at Cadiz on September 23: They departed from Cadiz, making landfall on the Island they named Deseada, after which they named it Española, they departed for Haiti, where they got news that their friends had been killed by the Indians,” the document says.

“The official history tells that they set sail from Cadiz on Sept. 25 surprisingly omitting the first part of the trip from Barcelona, confusing and forgetting the fundamental role of the Catalonians under the orders of their king, Ferdinand II the Catholic, count of Barcelona,” Sans said.

The stops by the Catalonian fleet in the Andalusian ports were “normal and had been established since the 13th century,” the Circulo Catalan de Historia said.

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