

Apollo XI. Apollo VIII orbited around the moon, and Apollo X came within 10 miles of the lunar surface and mapped out the territory over which Armstrong was later to fly. As Armstrong explained: "By the time we launched in July, we knew all the principal landmarks on our descent path by heart and, equally importantly, we knew all the landmarks on our way prior to the point at which we would ignite our descent engines"

Needless to say, Columbus did not have any such advantages. After finally getting the support of Ferdinand and (principally) Isabella, he was given the self-conceived title "Grand Admiral of the Ocean Sea and Viceroy and Perpetual Governor." He was allotted three ships, two of which (the Nina and Pinta) were "provided" by the city of Palos, Spain, to make amends for a transgression they had committed against the Spanish crown. He had a full crew of at least 90 "first-class" sailors including carpenters, ship caulkers, a "barber/surgeon," waiters, servants, cooks and several gunsmiths. It was only in later voyages, after

the news was out of his discovery, that he had to take on an assortment of stowaways, "thieves, gentlemen, ambitious enthusiasts, murderers and mutineers" bent on making a quick fortune in the "Indies."

Equipped with only anecdotal evidence and virtually no maps, he set sail from Spain on Aug. 3, 1492, bound for the jumping off point in the Canary Islands, a distance of some 700 miles, where he restocked his supplies. He then began his historic 33-day journey of some 3,100 to 3,400 miles, barely avoiding mutiny and eventually landing on a small island he named San Salvador in present day Bahamas.

Little did he know that he had landed on what has been described as the "most intricate mazes of islands and isthmuses on the planet." Subsequently, Columbus claims to have counted more than 700 islands and cays in the course of his initial voyage. He later commented: "It is important that I forget sleep and labor much at navigation, because it is necessary and

which will be a great task."

It was this constant watch for land, perilous weather and sleep deprivation in his voyages that caused him temporary loss of eyesight, rheumatoid arthritis, malaria, severe gout and possibly a nervous breakdown. At one point, he was so ill that the usually precise navigator was unable to record a single event for a period of almost three months.

In contrast, Neil Armstrong manually "navigated" the final 500 feet of the 50,000-foot descent to the moon surface, a period of 12-1/2 minutes. Though he later described this as akin to an "elevator ride," it was a terrifying experience by virtue of the fact that his ship (the "Eagle") went beyond its original target and had only seconds of fuel left. Armstrong later described this feat as a "13" on a scale of "one to 10."

Throughout their respective voyages, both men were well aware that their lives and those of their crews could have ended in a millisecond. According to Columbus "not a day passes that we do not look death in the face." He was so

ASSOCIAZIONE SAN ROCCO DI VALENZANO — CHICAGO CHAPTER



Festeggia il Santo Protettore San Rocco

La Santa Messa

sarà celebrata **DOMENICA 4 AGOSTO alle ore 12:00 PM**
presso il Festival Center di Casa Italia, 37th and Soffel, Stone Park.
Subito dop seguirà la processione del santo. Suonerà la Banda Siciliana.

Dinner Dance PRESSO MANZO'S BANQUET HALL
18 AGOSTO - COCKTAILS 3 PM - DINNER 4 PM

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