

- This is another so-called exposure of an alleged mistake or untruth of the achievement of Columbus.

## SCIENTIST CALLS "DISCOVERY" BY COLUMBUS A FAKE

A British scientist recently told the British Association for the Advancement of Science that Christopher Columbus faked the log of the *Santa Maria* on his first voyage to America in 1492-93 because he knew that the new world already had been discovered.

The scientist, Prof. A. Davies, of Exeter University geography department, said the credit for the discovery of land in the west prior to Columbus should go to a Portuguese explorer named Dualma.

After leaving Spain, Davies claimed, Columbus would record in his private journal that the day's run had been 34 leagues, but would tell his crew that it had been 17 leagues.

Near the Bahamas the journal recorded the run as having been 1,076 leagues while the shorter version for the crew put the figure at 852

leagues — a difference of 900 miles. [A league is about three miles.]

Davies scoffed at the suggestion that Columbus scaled down the figures so as to reassure his crew of the certainty of finding land 750 leagues west of the Canary Islands.

This suggestion, the scientist said, was "almost certainly untrue," because the daily run was estimated by the pilot, the ship's master, and all the expert seamen on the ship, and no attempt was made to disguise the figures on the two accompanying vessels.

"Columbus clearly was arranging the run shown in his log to be much longer than it really was for purposes of his own," Davies said. The falsification of the log and other records was done to hide the true position of the land Columbus was to "discover," he added.

"He had foreknowledge of a land already discovered in the west and was arranging his own log in order to claim that it was a new discovery," Davies said. This advance knowledge, he said, would account for the con-

viction of Columbus that he would reach land 750 leagues west of the Canaries and his rigid adherence to a course due west at 28 degrees north latitude across the Atlantic.  
— *Chicago Daily Tribune*.

## OBSERVATION

Before turning to those moral or mental aspects of the matter which present the greatest difficulties, let the inquirer begin by mastering more elementary problems. Let him, on meeting a fellow-mortal, learn at a glance to distinguish the history of the man and the trade or profession to which he belongs. Puerile as such an exercise may seem, it sharpens the faculties of observation and teaches one where to look for. By a man's fingernails, by his coat-sleeve, by his boots, by his trouser-knees, by the callosities of his forefinger and thumb, by his expression, by his shirt-cuffs — by each of these things a man's calling is plainly revealed. That all united should fail to enlighten the competent inquirer in any case is almost inconceivable. —  
*Arthur Conan Doyle.*