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# The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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## WHO DISCOVERED AMERICA?

### I. THE STORY.

(This, the first of a series of articles on a highly interesting topic, comes appropriately at a moment when the problem of who really discovered America is experiencing a revival. These articles are specially written for the *Daily Record* by an unquestionable authority on Runology and Norse tradition, and will appear consecutively until concluded.)

The *Daily Record* of June 4th contained a communication from its New York correspondent under the above heading, announcing the "find" of a stone bearing an inscription in *runic* characters which the writer seemed to regard as affording convincing testimony to the discovery of America by the Scandinavians before the landing of Columbus. The stone was discovered in Wisconsin, and bears the date 1362. That the Norsemen were acquainted with portions of the coast-line of the North American Continent previous to the voyages of Columbus is a well-established historical fact, but that this "find" is to be accepted as evidence of such is very questionable. In the first place, there is no evidence discovered as yet that these "hardy Norsemen" penetrated any distance into the "hinterland" in their voyages to the American Atlantic littoral. Even in these coasting expeditions they had constant fighting with the Skrellings (Skraelinjar), or Indians, and experienced considerable danger and difficulty with them, not being possessed of the advantage against swarms of such, and their stage-gems, which the after discoverers possessed in firearms. Then, further, if this Wisconsin stone is really a monument and remains of Scandinavian exploration, it means that this band of forty "hardy Norsemen" penetrated at least five hundred miles, as the crow flies, from the coast, through forests and the lands of hostile Indian tribes, and left this token of their track and travels, and tale of their troubles, which has apparently been unknown and undiscovered during these five hundred and fifty years. Moreover, if the inscription is in *runic* characters, it is one of the longest known. These Scandinavian *runic* symbols, derived from archaic Greek letters through traders down the Russian river valleys to the Greecised Scythian tribes and Greek colonies around the Black and Caspian Seas, were not easy to inscribe, and such inscriptions are invariably short. The longest yet found is, in comparison with all known ones, an exceptionally lengthy one, viz.: The Rök-stone in Ostergötland, Sweden, circa A.D. 800-900, and consisting of seven hundred and sixty letters. This Wisconsin-stone inscription would consist of about three hundred and forty *runic* characters. The instance recalls the case of the Dighton-stone, with its inscription of supposed *runic* letters, Roman characters, and picture signs. It was copied as early as A.D. 1680, and in the last century was deciphered thus: "Thorfin, with one hundred and fifty-one Norse seafaring men, took possession of this land." The best *runic* scholars and antiquarians have declared this to be without doubt of *Indian* origin. There have been many cases of "mistaken identity" in Runological research. The late Professor George Stephens, of Copenhagen, one of the world's greatest Runologists, with indefatigable industry and the zeal of a true scholar, deciphered about 10,500 *Runic* inscriptions,—all, with the exception of 19 wanderers, in Scandinavian lands and the British Isles. It is hoped that the *Daily Record's* New York correspondent will transmit further details concerning this "find," one of the most important—if really *Runic*—in the history of *Runic* research. Perhaps a rubbing could be obtained and

(Continued on page 4.)

## DRESDEN CHINA

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## THE EARTHQUAKE IN SOUTHERN FRANCE.

Marseilles, June 14.  
As more detailed reports continue to arrive, it becomes plain that the earthquake on Friday night was a very serious affair. Serious loss of life occurred, but the actual number of dead is not yet established. At Saint Cannat all the houses were badly damaged. The four outer walls of the church there completely collapsed. The populace is camping out in the fields. The victims of the shock at Lambesc were mostly asleep when the catastrophe took place. All the streets in the town and surrounding country are damaged. A woman having in her arms a five-year-old child was buried beneath the débris, and both were killed.

Later.  
Sixty persons are now reported to have been killed and many other injured. The Prefect's official report gives the following death-list: 14 at Lambesc, eight at Saint Cannat, two at Puy-St.-Réparate, one at Pélissane, and 12 at Rognes. The troops engaged in rescue work in the arrondissement of Aix have taken twelve bodies from the ruins. The churches at Venelles and L'Equille have collapsed. Telephonic and telegraphic communication is practically destroyed in the earthquake district.

At St. Cannat the houses are mere heaps of ruins. At daybreak on Saturday the Mayor ordered the inhabitants to leave their houses, which they did with great expedition. The work of rescue at once began, and ten dead and many injured were soon recovered from the ruins. Rognes has suffered still more seriously.

## SHOCKS IN SPAIN, PORTUGAL, AND ITALY.

Madrid, June 14.  
Early on Saturday morning, and again before noon, more or less violent subterranean disturbances were experienced here.

Lisbon, June 13.  
Several light earthquake shocks are reported from various parts of the country.

Genoa, June 13.  
On Friday night the entire district of San Remo was shaken by earthquake. The people at Vallobona, Coldirodi, and Bordighera spent the night in improvised tents, and in San Remo itself hundreds of people sought refuge in the cafés. The shock was not violent enough to cause much damage.

## REPORTED JAPANESE PLOT AT HONOLULU.

New York, June 14.  
A telegram from Honolulu received here yesterday reports that the local police, while making a domiciliary search at the headquarters of the Japanese labour organisation, came upon a number of documents which establish the fact of a Japanese conspiracy against the American administration of the island.

Later.  
With reference to the Japanese conspiracy at Honolulu, it is reported from there that twelve Japanese have been placed on trial for inciting to rebellion, and three for inciting to murder. The case is exciting great interest at Honolulu.

## COLONIAL PRESSMEN AND THE NAVY.

London, June 13.  
The naval review at Spithead yesterday in honour of the Colonial press representatives was a highly successful and imposing spectacle. Hundreds of warships were anchored in long lines, down which the special vessels conveying the visitors slowly passed, thus affording everybody an excellent view. The round was finished at the "Dreadnought," which was boarded by the whole party. An attack on the mammoth battleship by submarines and destroyers followed. This proved to be a most realistic affair, the submarines diving one side of the vessel and coming up on the other side. An inspection of the ship was made, and tea provided on board. The party afterwards returned to the harbour, proceeding to Whale Island, where they witnessed a sham fight by the naval men. A 4.7-inch gun was landed, together with 12-pounders. The defenders were driven back at first, but they rallied and eventually drove the invaders off, capturing some of his guns. A drive through the dockyard was the concluding item, the return to London being made at 7 p.m.

The naval manœuvres which begin on Tuesday will continue for more than a month, and will be on a larger scale than any former exercises. The scene of operations will be the waters of the English Channel and North Sea.

## THE TSAR'S PENDING VISIT TO ENGLAND.

London, June 14.  
The British Labour party, and some sections of the Radical party, are strongly protesting against the forthcoming visit of the Tsar of Russia to England. A conference of 92 unions connected with the Independent Labour Party has just been held, at which King Edward's proposed reception of the Tsar was strongly condemned and a resolution in favour of a great public demonstration against the visit adopted.

## KAISER AND ENGLISH TUTOR.

London, June 13.  
By command of the German Emperor, Herr von Haniel, Secretary of the German Embassy, has laid a wreath upon the grave of the late Mr. Gerard Fox, of Dibden, near Southampton, former tutor of the Emperor, and conveyed the sympathy of his Majesty for the relatives of the deceased gentleman.

## BRITISH AND GERMAN SCRIBES FRATERNISE.

Cherbourg, June 14.  
The new steamer of the North German Lloyd, "George Washington," arrived here last evening on her first outward voyage after a delightful trip from Bremerhaven. The average speed during the run was 18½ knots. At Spithead the liner passed the assembled British fleet anchored there, some 100 warships in all. At Southampton forty English newspaper men came on board, and were cordially welcomed in a short speech by Herr Heinicken. Greetings were also exchanged between the English and German newspaper men, the latter being already on board, and an atmosphere of the utmost friendliness prevailed, the spokesmen of both parties giving short speeches in favour of friendship between their respective nations.