

stranieri 1000. Tanti? Pochi, ove si consideri che dal 6 al 9 Marzo 1997 (e quindi 15 giorni prima della manifestazione filatelica) la Fiera di Milano ha ospitato CARTOO-MICS 97, mostra-convegno annuale dedicata ai fumetti: 35.000 visitatori il dato ufficiale e 300 giornalisti accreditati.

Prendendo in prestito la terminologia degli incontri di calcio possiamo con un certo umorismo affermare che i fumetti battono i francobolli per 3 a 1, tanto più ove si consideri che il prezzo d'ingresso allo stadio era uguale per entrambe le manifestazioni.

A proposito di prezzo d'ingresso alla Fiera di Milano: tengano presente gli organizzatori di ITALIA 98 che l'Ente Fiera ha recentemente aumentato il prezzo del biglietto d'ingresso, là dove il pubblico è ammesso, a L. 20.000, il che non ci sembra che favorirà l'afflusso appunto ad ITALIA 98, semprechè questa esposizione, che per ora si distingue per la totale e strana assenza di notizie, abbia luogo.

– **Festa grande a Varallo Sesia** per il nostro socio Luigi Morera che, nel 70° di collezionismo di cartoline maximum, è stato nominato presidente onorario dell'Associazione italiana di maximafilia, unico sodalizio nel nostro Paese per questa specializzazione, costituitosi molti anni or sono proprio per iniziativa del nostro amico Morera. Congratulazioni, caro Luigi!”

## JOHN CABOT'S VOYAGE OF 1497

The 500th anniversary of John Cabot's historic voyage from Bristol, England to the “Newe Founde Lande” in 1497, is celebrated this year

by Newfoundland, as well Canada, England and Italy. The highlight of the celebrations was the Matthew, a replica of Cabot's ship. This reborn Matthew recreated the original trip of Cabot by crossing the North Atlantic ocean from Bristol, England to Bonavista, Newfoundland, where it arrived on June 24, 1997. In Bonavista, it was greeted by many dignitaries, among them H.M. Queen Elizabeth II, and the Italian president ..... The Matthew then began a 46 - day tour of Newfoundland, visiting 17 ports.

On June 24, 1997 in celebration of Cabot's voyage, a commemorative stamp was issued jointly by Canada and Italy (the country of his birth).

This stamp shows the ship Matthew on rough seas, as it approaches the New Land. The lower border of both the Canadian and Italian stamp describes the event in English, French, and Italian: “Cabot's Voyage-Le Voyage de Cabot-Il Viaggio di Caboto.”

Figure 1, shows the card with the replica of Matthew and the Canadian stamp, tied together with a special First Day cancellation of Bonavista, NFLD.

John Cabot (c. 1449-1498) was born in Genoa, and spend most of his life in Venice. He was drawn to the sea and became an experienced sailor and navigator.

After the discovery of the New World in 1492 by Christopher Columbus,

John Cabot, who now lived in England, with

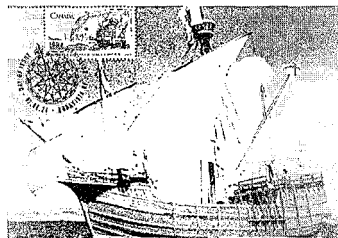


Figure 1: The replica of Cabot's ship Matthew

the support of the merchants of Bristol, petitioned King Henry VII for royal assent to conduct an expedition to find a route to Asia for the King of England. King Henry VII authorize John Cabot to “sail to all parts, regions and coasts of the eastern, western, and southern sea, to find, discover, and investigate whatsoever islands, countries, regions, or provinces”.

In May 1497, John Cabot with his three sons and a crew of 18 men set sail from Bristol aboard the ship *Matthew* ( named after his wife Mattea) . After crossing the harsh Atlantic ocean, they arrived , on June 24, on Canada’s eastern coast, somewhere between Labrador and Cape Breton. The exact location remains unknown, most probably he landed near Bonavista, NFLD one of the most easterly of Newfoundland. He claimed his “neue founde lande” for England. This was the first formal discovery of North America. He reported: “The neue founde lande... yeeldeth plenty of fish... There is a great abundance of Cod”.

Cabot, before returning to England, sailed further south, mapping the coast line. Cabot’s map of the coast that he explored is lost, but in it’s place, we have. Juan de la Casa’s map, which bears the date of 1500 and which is supposed to have been made in part after Cabot’s map. La Casa’s map, which is kept at the Museo Naval, Madrid, is the first portrayal of the New World. This map makes mention of the voyage of John Cabot to the coasts of Labrador and Newfoundland (1497), the voyage of Vasco de Gama to India (1497-1498) and the landing of Cabral in Brazil (1500). The above mentioned voyages are accompanied by authentic inscriptions and the flags of England, Spain, and Portugal.

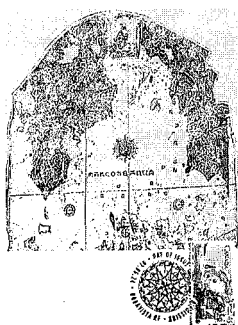
The remark “ mar descubierta por inglese” (see discovered by the English) propably refers to the 2nd voyage of John Cabot (1498).

On figure 2, we see the card with the map of Juan de la Casa, this same map also appears on the background of the stamp. The card and the stamp are tied together by the special First Day cancellation of Bonavista, NFLD of June 24, ‘97.

Cabot, on his return to England was welcomed as a hero King Henry VII awarded him an annual pension of twenty pounds - a large sum in those days - and gave him permission to undertake a second voyage.

In 1498, the restless John Cabot made a second voyage across the Atlantic. He left from Bristol with five ships and 200 men, to start a settlement in the “ neue founde lande”. One ship, forced by storms, had to return to England. The fate of Cabot and the four remaining ships is a mystery to his day.

For years John Cabot’s name was forgotten, his maps and writings were lost, and credit for his discoveries was given to his son Sebastian. Today, however, John Cabot’s name has been restored to his rightful place in history. He is remembered as the first European to make a formal landing on Canada’s shores.



Georges Constantourakis

*Figure 2:  
Map of Juan de La Cosa c. 1500 (This  
is only the right part of the map.)*