

**AMERICA NOT DISCOVERED BY  
COLUMBUS: AN HISTORICAL  
SKETCH OF THE DISCOVERY OF  
AMERICA BY THE NORSEMEN IN  
THE TENTH CENTURY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649510696

America Not Discovered by Columbus: An Historical Sketch of the Discovery of America by the Norsemen in the Tenth Century by Rasmus B. Anderson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**RASMUS B. ANDERSON**

**AMERICA NOT DISCOVERED BY  
COLUMBUS: AN HISTORICAL  
SKETCH OF THE DISCOVERY OF  
AMERICA BY THE NORSEMEN IN  
THE TENTH CENTURY**



## NORSE LITERATURE.

PUBLISHED BY S. C. GRIGGS & COMPANY,  
CHICAGO.

ANDERSON—AMERICA NOT DISCOVERED BY COLUMBUS - . . . . .	\$1 00
ANDERSON—NORSE MYTHOLOGY - . .	2 50
ANDERSON—VIKING TALES OF THE NORTH	2 00
ANDERSON—THE YOUNGER EDDA - . .	2 00
FORESTIER—ECHOES FROM MIST LAND, OR, THE NIBELUNGEN LAY REVEALED - .	1 25
HOLCOMB—TEGNÉR'S FRIDTJOF'S SAGA - .	1 25
HORN—HISTORY OF THE LITERATURE OF THE SCANDINAVIAN NORTH - . . . . .	3 00
JANSON—THE SPELL-BOUND FIDDLER - .	1 00
LAURIDSON—VITUS BERING - . . . . .	1 25
LIE—THE PILOT AND HIS WIFE - . .	1 50
LIE—THE BARQUE FUTURE - . . . . .	1 00
PETERSON—NORWEGIAN-DANISH GRAMMAR AND READER - . . . . .	1 25

AMERICA NOT DISCOVERED BY COLUMBUS.

---

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

Discovery of America by the Norsemen

IN THE TENTH CENTURY.

By RASMUS B. ANDERSON, A.M.,

PROFESSOR OF THE SCANDINAVIAN LANGUAGES IN THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN;  
HONORARY MEMBER OF THE ICELANDIC LITERARY SOCIETY.

WITH AN APPENDIX

ON THE HISTORICAL, LINGUISTIC, LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC VALUE  
OF THE SCANDINAVIAN LANGUAGES.

ALSO A

BIBLIOGRAPHY

OF THE

PRE-COLUMBIAN DISCOVERIES OF AMERICA,

By PAUL BARRON WATSON.

---

FOURTH EDITION, ENLARGED.

---

CHICAGO:  
S. C. GRIGGS AND COMPANY.  
1891.

WS 221 3.4

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY  
FROM THE LIBRARY  
OF F. L. BAY  
NOV. 8, 1918

COPYRIGHT, 1874,  
BY S. C. GRIGGS AND COMPANY.

COPYRIGHT, 1888,  
BY S. C. GRIGGS AND COMPANY.

KNIGHT & LEONARD, PRINTERS, CHICAGO.

## PREFACE.

---

IN preparing this sketch, the author has freely made use of such material as he considered valuable for his purpose from the works of Torfæus, C. C. Rafn, J. T. Smith, N. L. Beamish, G. Gravier, B. F. De Costa, A. Davis, Washington Irving, R. M. Ballantyne, P. A. Munch, R. Keyser, and others, and he is under special obligations to Dr. S. H. Carpenter, of the University of Wisconsin, for valuable suggestions.

This sketch does not claim to be without faults. The style may seem dull and heavy, but it is hoped that the reader will be generous in criticising an author who now makes his first appearance before the *American* public. The object of this sketch has been to present a readable and truthful narrative of the Norse discovery of America, to create some interest in the people, the literature, and the early institutions of Norway, and especially in Iceland,—that lonely and weird island,—the *ULTIMA THULE*



of the Greek Philosophers; and of the good or ill performance of the task, a generous public must be the judge

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN,  
*June 18, 1874.*

## CONTENTS.

---

CHAPTER I.	
THE NORSEMEN, AND OTHER PEOPLES, INTERESTED IN THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA, - - - - -	35
CHAPTER II.	
NORSE LITERATURE HAS BEEN NEGLECTED BY THE LEARNED MEN OF THE GREAT NATIONS, - - -	41
CHAPTER III.	
ANTIQUITY OF AMERICA, - - - - -	45
CHAPTER IV.	
PHENICIAN, GREEK, IRISH, AND WELSH CLAIMS, - - -	47
CHAPTER V.	
WHO WERE THE NORSEMEN? - - - - -	49
CHAPTER VI.	
ICELAND, - - - - -	52
CHAPTER VII.	
GREENLAND, - - - - -	58
CHAPTER VIII.	
THE SHIPS OF THE NORSEMEN, - - - - -	61

CHAPTER IX.	
THE SAGAS AND DOCUMENTS ARE GENUINE, - - -	64
CHAPTER X.	
BJARNE HERJULFSON, 986, - - - - -	68
CHAPTER XI.	
LEIF ERIKSON, 1000, - - - - -	71
CHAPTER XII.	
THORVALD ERIKSON, 1002, - - - - -	75
CHAPTER XIII.	
THORSTEIN ERIKSON, 1005, - - - - -	78
CHAPTER XIV.	
THORFINN KARLSEFNE AND GUDRID, 1007, - - -	79
CHAPTER XV.	
OTHER EXPEDITIONS BY THE NORSEMEN, - - -	84
CHAPTER XVI.	
THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA BY COLUMBUS, - - -	85
CHAPTER XVII.	
CONCLUSION, - - - - -	93
APPENDIX.	
THE SCANDINAVIAN LANGUAGES, - - - - -	95
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE PRE-COLUMBIAN DISCOVERIES OF AMERICA, - - - - -	121