

## Statue of Portuguese Navigator for Newfoundland



A STATUE commemorating the voyages of the sixteenth-century Portuguese navigator Gaspar Corte-Real was unveiled on September 8, 1965, on Confederation Parkway in St. John's, the capital of Newfoundland. The statue was a gift of several Portuguese fishing organizations, in gratitude for the traditional hospitality of the people of Newfoundland.

Gaspar Corte-Real was born in the province of Algarave in the south of Portugal to a noble family of French origin who had come to help the first King of Portugal in his fight against the Moors. He made at least three voyages in the northeast Atlantic in search of

"the Isles of Spices", then thought to be accessible from this direction. The first voyage, a Portuguese-Danish venture, occurred probably in 1472; the second took place in 1500; and the third, during which Corte-Real disappeared never to be seen again, in 1501. Corte-Real may thus have been the first European to set foot on Newfoundland soil.

The photograph above, shows in front of the statue (left to right): Admiral Henriques Santos Tenreiro, representing the Portuguese fishing fleet; Mr. Jaime Ferreira, Portuguese Consul at St. John's; Premier Joseph R. Smallwood of Newfoundland; and the Honourable Dr. G. A. Frecker, Newfoundland Minister of Provincial Affairs. In the background are members of the St. Nazare folklore group. Also present at the unveiling ceremony were the Portuguese Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Dr. Eduardo Brazao, Commander A. Teixeira de Mota, the Honourable C. M. Lane, Newfoundland Minister of Fisheries, and other Portuguese and Canadian officials.