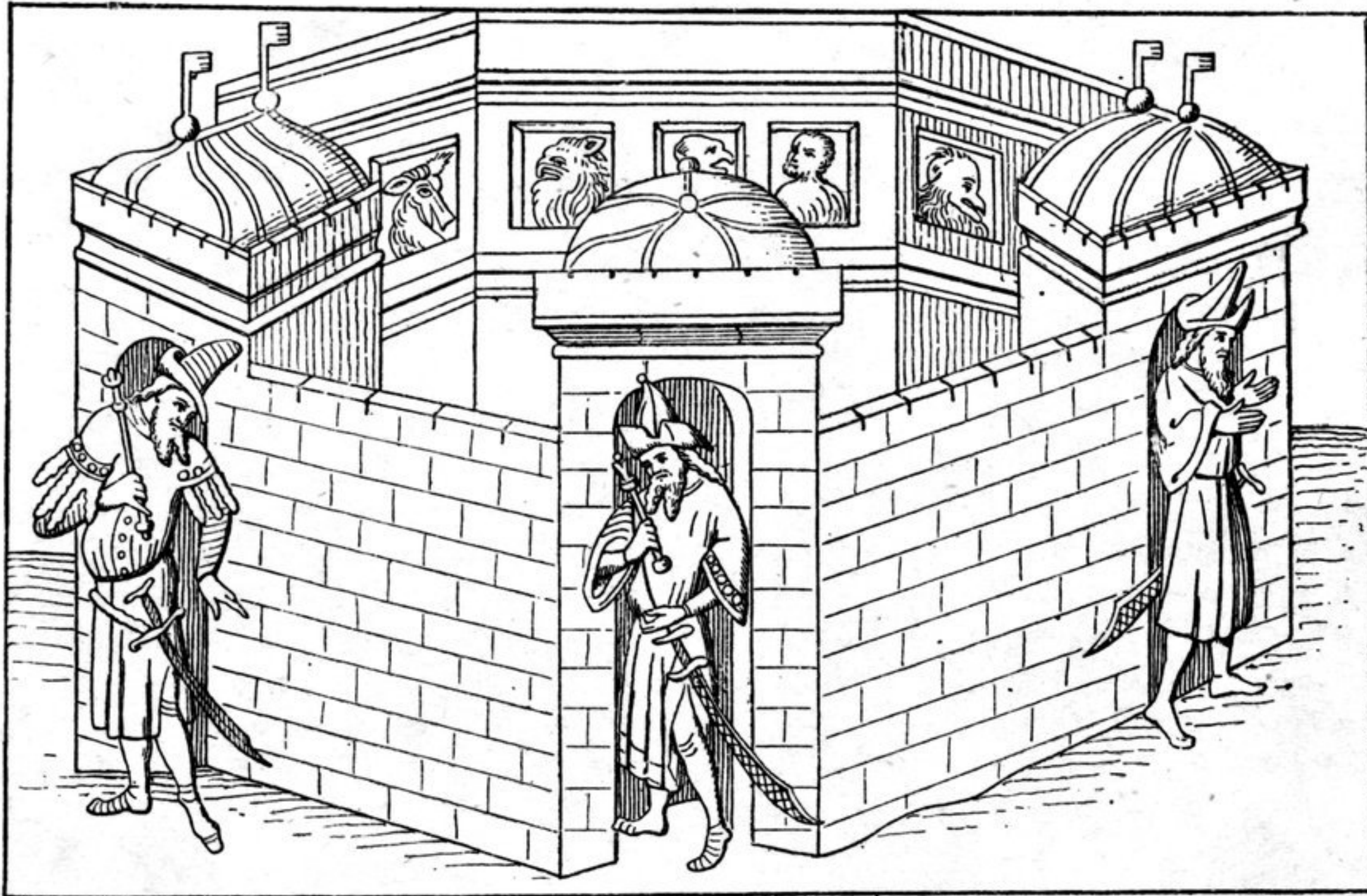


["The *Ta-ming tien* (Hall of great brightness) is without doubt what Marco Polo calls 'the Lord's Great Palace.' . . . He states, that it 'hath no upper story'; and indeed, the palace buildings which the Chinese call *tien* are always of one story. Polo speaks also of a 'very fine pillared balustrade' (the *chu lang*, pillared verandah,



A. Housselin J.

Palace at Khan-baligh. (From the *Livre des Merveilles*.)

of the Chinese author). Marco Polo states that the basement of the great palace 'is raised some ten palms above the surrounding soil.' We find in the *Ku kung i lu*: 'The basement of the *Ta-ming tien* is raised about 10 *ch'i* above the soil.' There can also be no doubt that the *Ta-ming tien* stood at about the same place



Winter Palace at Peking.