

and will of course be the most important contribution to the study of Marco Polo which this whole book will have to offer.

The rest of this volume is occupied with Tables and Documents which may, it is hoped, save future students from waste of time and labour.¹ Nor will some of the Documents, which include perhaps rather illogically the great printed Preface to Marco Polo by G.-B. RAMUSIO, be found to be without an independent interest of their own.

Amongst the many other friends whose extraordinarily kind and learned help has made these volumes less unworthy than they otherwise must have been, a very high place must be given to the staff of the Warburg Institute, and most especially to the Director, Dr F. SAXL, and to Dr Gertrud BING and Dr H. MEIER, and through them to a multitude of Librarians and other scholars and photographers personally unknown to me throughout Europe. For it is very much owing to their influence that the keepers of the libraries or archives in Berlin, Copenhagen, Ferrara, Florence, Milan, New York, Padua, Paris, Rome, Seville, Treviso, Venice, Vienna, and elsewhere have without exception kindly allowed us free use of the manuscripts and the documents in their care. In Venice too direct help was received from Dr SAXL and from his friends Drs H. BUCHTHAL, R. KRAUTHEIMER, and O. KURZ. Help too has come unstintedly from the staffs of the British Museum, of the Cambridge University Library, and of the Library of Trinity College. I have to thank also my friend Professor Ellis H. MINNS who has solved many problems in the reading and transcription of hard places in the manuscripts; and Mr A. D. TRENDALL and the Director of the British School at Rome for help there.

Leave to reproduce the Frontispiece from a fine copy of the German edition of 1477 was kindly given by the heirs of the late Charles CHADENAT; while the engraving of Cardinal de ZELADA, which forms the Frontispiece of the second volume, was supplied through the kindness of the *Porträt-Sammlung* of the Nationalbibliothek at Vienna.

Sir Denison Ross has most kindly contributed some valuable and interesting pages to the Introduction from the stores of his varied learning. And the

¹ It will be noticed that the List of Manuscripts does not include the modern transcript of the printed edition of 1477, made for Thomas GRENVILLE at Vienna in 1817 and now in the British Museum (MS. Add.33,755); nor that of the Portuguese edition of 1502, made some time after 1860 and kept in the library of the Academia das Sciencias at Lisbon (Gab. no.3, E.10, no.3). Detailed descriptions of these will be found in MARSDEN's Introduction p. lxxi, and in F. M. E. PEREIRA *Marco Paulo*, Lisbon, 1922, p. IX, respectively.