

FALCONS & CRANES & CATORS OF CIAGANNOR ≠ MARCO POLO

FB VB good hawking which there is the great Kaan stays there very gladly every year at
 the season of the chase and takes his pleasure there. For he hawks with gersfalcons and
 P with herodians or falcons and takes [32a] birds enough with great joy and with
 V FB VB FB great festivity. And there are found five kinds & manner of cranes in these regions,
 R which I will describe to you. The one kind is all black like a raven¹ with great wings,
 R and they are very large. The second kind is all white. The wings are larger than
 the others, white, and very beautiful, for the feathers are everywhere full of round
 P eyes like those of the tails of the peacock, but they are of the colour of gold very
 VB V FB splendid and beautiful. And the head they have red and black and very well formed,
 FB and black and white at the neck² and of the colour of gold; and they are much larger
 V P than any of the others and are very beautiful to behold. They have eyes of varied colour,
 R L namely white black and blue. The third kind are like ours of Italy in every way; and
 VB R the fourth kind are small (smaller than these here of ours), having red and blue feathers
 FB FB TA very beautifully arranged, and at the ears have long drooping red and black and white
 TA feathers very beautiful.³ The fifth kind are all grey; they have the head white &
 FB red and black, very beautiful and well formed, and they are very large. And near
 this city is a valley, in which the great Kaan has had several little houses made
 VB R of wood & of stone, where they stay the night, in which he has a very great number of
 VB R VB cators, which in our language we call the great partridges, and quails kept. And there
 R is another kind of bird kept and fed for the court of the lord. And for their food the great
 Kaan always has millet and panick and other seeds which such birds like sown over those
 R R bill sides in summer, commanding that none shall be reaped so that they may be able to feed
 themselves abundantly. He makes many men stay there to watch these birds that they
 may not be caught. And they also throw the millet to them in the winter time, and they are so
 used to the food which is thrown to them about the ground that, as soon as the man whistles,
 wherever they may be they come to him, and there is so great abundance of them that
 VB FB this is a marvel to see. And when the court of the great Kaan is there & comes into
 VB that country⁴ for hunting & his pleasure he has of these birds in great abundance, as
 R many as he wishes of them. And in the winter when they are very fat (because for the

¹ LT: carbones Others: "raven"

² aucour The addition from FB is supported by several texts. L: bene protractum, of the head, perhaps for bene perfectum L (Ferrara): collum habent longum & nigrum L': collum habent nigrum et album

³ G: "The fourth are small and have two heads; the one head has no eye, and they eat with the blind head, and with the eyed they drink and see." B., p. cxxiv, quotes the same from LA.

⁴ LT,P,V: "city"