

THE HUNT OFFICERS TOSCAOR AND BULARGUCI \neq MARCO POLO

FB L gersfalcons, and peregrine falcons and saker falcons *and other kinds of birds* in very
 VL great abundance, *for such creatures are infinite & good in his domains*; and they also carry
 L goshawks in great quantity to catch birds on rivers.¹ But do not understand that
 he keeps them all with him in one place, but he divides them here and there in
 TA FB many places by hundreds and by two hundreds and by more *and by less, as it seems*
 FB P good to them. And these hunt birds always, *of which there are a vast number, releasing*
 gersfalcons, goshawks, and falcons in pursuit of them whenever they see them, and they bring to
 the great lord the greater part of the birds which they take. And I tell you that when
 LT FB the great lord goes hawking with [42a] his gersfalcons, goshawks, and with his other
 FB VA birds, he has *about him* quite ten thousand men who are arranged *about the plain* by
 FB V two *and by two* and are called *in their tongue* toskaor, which comes to say in our
 V FB language men who stay to watch *the birds*. And they do so, for by two *and by two*
 R they stay here and there, *one party separated from another*, so that they really control
 enough of the country; and each has a call and a hood so that they can call and hold
 V the birds. And when the great lord, *& the others likewise who are with him*, has his
 birds thrown there is no need that those who throw them should go after them
 TA because the men of whom I have told you above, who are *standing in pairs* here and
 there, watch them so well that they cannot go anywhere that these men do not go
 FB TA VA *after [them, and] they are taken*; and if the birds have need of help they *that are nearest*
 FB help them immediately. And all the birds of the great lord and also all those of
 R FB the other barons have a little tablet of silver *tied* on their feet *for recognition*, on
 R which is written the name of *him* whose it is and who keeps it. And by this way the
 bird is known as soon as it is taken and is given back to him whose it is. And if
 R one does not know whose it is, *or because he who has taken it does not know him personally*
 FB *though he knows the name, then it is taken and* carried to a baron who is called bularguci,
 V which means to say *in our tongue* the keeper of the things which find no master.
 V VA For I tell you that if *by chance* one finds a horse or a sword or a bird or other thing *that*
 FB *is lost or strayed* and he does not find whose it is, [42b] *then it is carried immediately*
 P P to this baron, and he has it taken and *carefully* kept *till it is demanded by its owner*. And
 R LT he who finds it—*anything which may be lost*—*is bound immediately to carry it to its*
 owner, *and if he does not do this* he is held for a thief if he does not carry it promptly
 TA VA *to that baron*. And those who have *mis-laid or lost* the things go off to this baron and
 FB he, *if he has it*, has it given back to them quite immediately. And this baron
 VA always stays in the highest place of all the host² with his ensign aloft, so that those

¹ V: oxelar a li monti TA³: porta aghugle e astori di riuere

² VA: in quella chanpagnia