

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD FROM SUGIU TO CIANGAN

the rest of the world.<sup>1</sup> But they are *mean men and not men used to the exercise of arms*; Z Z  
 but I tell you that they are *clever and discreet* merchants and cunning men of all L  
 crafts, and also there are great *very wise men called Sages, like our philosophers, and* Z R  
 great natural physicians who know nature very well *and recognize diseases and give the* R  
*due remedies for them; there are also many others called magicians and diviners.* Moreover Z R Z  
 I tell you quite truly that there are quite six thousand bridges *all of stone in this* FB  
 city, below *the greater part of which one galley and two would well pass.* And again Z  
 I tell you that in those mountains of this town the rhubarb grows there *in the* R  
*utmost perfection, and it goes through the whole province, and ginger also grows there in very* R L  
 great abundance. For *it is so cheap there that* I tell you that for *as much silver as is a* R VA  
 Venetian groat you would have quite forty<sup>2</sup> pounds of fresh ginger which is [66a]  
 very good. And you may know that it has sixteen<sup>3</sup> very large *important cities and* Z  
 of great trade and of *very great industry under its rule.* And you may know that FB  
 the name of this city which is called Sugiu means to say in French<sup>4</sup> *city of the* R  
 Earth, and *the name of another city named Quinsai which is near here is called city of* Z Z R  
 the Heaven. And they have these names *given for their great nobility and power.* Z Z  
 And we shall tell you of the other noble city which is called Heaven *after this.* Z  
 Now we will leave Sugiu and will go *forward to a city which is found, called Vugiu.* FB Z  
 And you may know that this Vugiu is one days journey distant from Sugiu. And FB  
 it is a very great city and good and of great trade and of great industry. And because  
 there is nothing of novelty which does to mention we will leave it and *will go and* v  
 will tell you of another city which is called Vughin. And this Vughin is also a  
 very great city and important, *the people of which they are idolaters and subject to* v  
*the rule of the great Kaan, and have money of notes. And there is great quantity of* v FB  
 silk and of many *sorts of other costly goods. And they are clever merchants and* Z FB  
 clever at handicraft. Now we will leave this city and will tell you of *another city also,* Z  
*named the town of Ciangan.* Now you may know that this city of Ciangan is very  
 great and *noble and rich.* They are idolaters and are subject to the great Kaan, and L  
 have money of notes, *and they live by trade and by handicraft. Very fine sendals of* FB R  
 many fashions are made there [66b] in very great quantity, *and are carried through* R

<sup>1</sup> VB: *se fosseno audazi et uerjly et atj ale bataglie njuno dubita che ala moltjtudene de gente i sono non che i foseno domjnatj ma conquisterebono tuta quela proujnzia et molto piu oltra* VA: *non se poria chonquistar da tuto el mondo*

<sup>2</sup> TA,LT,VB,R: "forty" P,LT(margin): "eighty" FA,FB,VA,L,V,Z: "sixty"

<sup>3</sup> FA,FB,TA',VA,P,L,V,Z: "sixteen" TA<sup>3</sup>: "fifteen" LT,VB: "twelve" See PN.

<sup>4</sup> VA: *in nostra lingua latina* VB: *in latino* Both are Venetian versions made, presumably, from a French original. cf. p. 453. But Latin sometimes meant nothing more than European.