

THE GULF OF CHEYNAM AND LAND OF CIAMBA ≠ MARCO POLO

Z FB names are *parts* of the Ocean sea. Now henceforth we will leave this country so that I  
VB Z will tell you no more of this country nor of these islands *particularly* because they  
are too much out of the way & also because we were not there. And again I tell you  
that the great Kaan has nothing to do there, nor do they pay him tribute or anything.<sup>1</sup>  
And so we will go back to Çaiton and from there we will begin our book again.

FB HERE HE BEGINS AGAIN TO TELL OF THE LESSER INDIE AND FIRST HE TELLS OF

THE COUNTRY OF CIAMBA. Now you may know that when one sets  
out from the port of Çaiton and sails by sunseting something towards  
Z the south-west-wind fifteen hundred miles, he sails across a certain great gulf named  
Cheynam. And this gulf lasts in length for the days journeys of two months, sailing towards  
the quarter of tramontaine. And throughout towards the sirocco it is bounded by the province  
R Z of Mangi, but on the other side by Amu and Toloman and also many other provinces named  
R Z above together with these.<sup>2</sup> Inside the gulf are infinite islands which are almost all well inhabited.  
And great quantity of gold dust is found in them, which is gathered from the water of the sea.  
R Z at the mouths of the rivers. A great quantity also of copper or brass is found and of other things;  
and they trade among themselves with these things which are found in one island and not in  
another. They trade too with those of the mainland, for they sell them gold, brass, and other  
things, and buy back from them what they need. Much grain grows in the greater part of them.  
R Z This gulf is so great and so many people dwell in it that it seems as it were another world in  
itself. Now let us return to the first subject, namely that when departing from Çaiton one has  
sailed across the diameter of this gulf, as is said above, fifteen hundred miles then he comes  
Z to a country which is called Ciamba, which is a very [74b] rich land and great in extent.  
VB They have a king for themselves and their own people and their special language and  
VB TA are all idolaters. And he pays tribute of twenty elephants to the great Kaan each  
Z Z year, and he pays him no other thing but elephants and lign aloes in plenty. And  
Z I will tell you how and why this king pays this tribute to the great Kaan. It was  
P true that in the 1278<sup>3</sup> year from the incarnation of Christ the great Kaan Cublai  
VB sends one of his barons who had Sogatu for name with very many men both on  
Z horses and on foot upon this king to Ciamba to conquer this province, and he begins  
Z FB to make very great war<sup>4</sup> on the king and on the kingdom. And the king<sup>5</sup> who was of

<sup>1</sup> VB adds: *ne dubitate chel signo gran can ge podesse mandar eserzito suo tuto conqujsitrja ma per la immobilita non po*; and also repeats the beginning of c. 155 with many verbal variations.

<sup>2</sup> R: *prouincie con quelle di sopra nominate*

<sup>3</sup> P, R: 1268 Z omits.

<sup>4</sup> *gorte* perhaps to be corrected to *guerre* as FA, FB, Z, V, etc.

<sup>5</sup> VB: *era signore azamballe* and below *azambale uedendo* R: *Accambale* But B. (p. 168) is probably