

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD^s AND EARLIER EDITIONS

Junior, to whose kindness much of this information is due. It is described as follows (cf. *Book Prices Current* Oct. 1929-Aug. 1930, p. 669): Polo (Marco) *Itinerarium et Descriptio Regionum Orientalium*, manuscript on paper, 38 leaves, two columns, 41 lines to a page, initials in red and blue, defective at end, boards, German, 15th century, folio, 300 × 220 mm.. Marco Polo occupies fol. 1-35 and is complete; *Flos hystoriarum* (*tractatus de statu et condicione quatuordecim regnorum asie*), beginning at the foot of fol. 35^d, occupies the last three leaves and is defective. The text of Marco Polo begins without any title: *NObilis et discretus vir dominus marcus paulo de veneciis cum xxvi. annis continuis . . .* and ends: *Hii tamen reges proximi parentes erant et ambo ex cinchin imperialis progenie descendentes*. The text of the first and last pages differs very slightly from that of L and L¹; but near the top of fol. 1b is a confused and corrected sentence which shows an attempt to make sense of an early corruption. It reads: *Sic ergo cum eorum mercimoniis disposuerunt uersus iter uersus oriens que iure sperantes apta esse reuerti posse*. The first *uersus* is decidedly cancelled and a thin line is drawn through *que iure* and *reuertere posse*. cf. p. 75 above.

135. This occupies fol. 260^r—265^r (fol. 261—265 being also numbered 1—5) of the volume in which it is bound. The actual text begins on fol. 261^r: *Quegli che desiderano de intendere . . .* and ends at the foot of 265^r: *ano molte Zitade et Casteli soto si. Nel fine del libro Explicit Liber Millionis ciuis Venetiarum. explectoque fuit sub anno D. N. mill^{mo} quadring^{mo} quinquagesimo quinto mensis Nouembris Die uigesima septima* (in margin: 1455.) On fol. 260^r is the note: *Alcuni primi Capi del libro di sr Marco Polo copiati dall' esemplare manuscritto di Paolo Rannusio*. The text comprises the Introduction and the single chapter on the Lesser Armenia, corresponding to the first twenty chapters of F, followed by the colophon from the end of the book. It is impossible to say why so much and no more of the original was copied, but it is not unnatural to guess that the original had been damaged or destroyed leaving only these first few pages legible (one word near the end is marked as partly illegible); and that the original was the copy of VB which was used by G.-B. RAMUSIO is made likely by the fact that it belonged to Paolo RANNUSIO who may have been the father or the son of G.-B. R.. The writing is attributed to the 17th century, but may well have been written in the later sixteenth.

142. The treatment of Quinsai in this fourteenth-century text, known to me only through the KNUST-STUEBE edition of 1902, is specially remarkable. Into our c. 139 (the Conquest of Mangi) the editor has transferred the story of the letter sent by the queen of Mangi to Baian (p. 326), followed by a great part of our c. 152 as the contents of that letter (*Tal fue el scripto que la reyna envio al grant chan*), adding that the great Kaan was much moved by the letter and sent orders that the place and people should not be hurt and should be ruled according to their own customs. This again is followed explicitly (*dize fray Odorich*) by a part of Odoric's account of the place (cf. *Wy* pp. 463-467), and a few more details from c. 152, including *ciudad del cielo*. The following readings in the text itself may be noted: The king Facfur fled "by night" (*de noche . . . quando vino la manyana la reyna fuen de mucho yrada*); of the bridges, *XII puentes de piedra* (as in G, p. 327 n.); of the lake, *et en medio ya un grant plano en que ya un bell palacio del rey, en que sta la mas noble gent de aquella ciudad*; of the funerals, *et han monges que siguen el cuerpo quasi a nuestra busanca. Empero todos son ydolatres*; of the census, *Et todos los meses fazen cerca por todas las puertas, assi que el senyor sabe todos meses qui es partido . . .*; of the foundlings, *et segunt lur natividat les fazie mostrar officio sotil o grossero*; of Polo's stay there, *car yo hi stuve un mes por fechos del grant chan*; and at the proper place for c. 152, *trobamos la ciudad de Quinssay, de que vos avemos ya parlado, que es la mayor del mundo et la mas segura et habundada de todos bienes. Et partiendo de Quinssay . . .* Mangi appears to be consistently called *daumangui*, perhaps, as STUEBE suggests, for the French *du Mangi*.

143. These short extracts are written by Meo Ceffoni on the blank pages at the end of a MS. of Dante. B. considers that they are taken directly from a Franco-Italian text, and they are prefaced by the curious remark that the book of Marco Polo is kept "at Venice on the Rialto fixed with chains so that everyone can read it, as some say", and concluded with: "as is said in this fine book in many places, which is a great book of more than twenty quires, as he knows who has seen and read it all completely." The text of these notes is as follows:— *Il marchio polo e un libro che tratta di portti del mare ettera del chose crandi e miracolose chessi trouano nel mo[n]d[o] fece qesto libro u[n] gentile uomo da uinega chessenpre ando nauichando elli e qatro suoi filliuoli discendentti luno dopo laltro segitando caschuno il sopradetto libro di marchio polo e qesto libro ista a uinega in sul rialto apichato cholle chatene chonnun el puo legere da dire dalchun* and at the end, *merchatantie che uenchono diqa a uinega a pisa delle partti dindia chome e detto in qesto bello libro in piu luchi che e u[n] crande libro di piu di uentti qaderni chome sa chilla veduto elletto tutto intero* Meo Ceffoni is on fol. 195 (io son chiamato meo ceffoni), and the date 1430/1 is deduced from notes on fol. 179^r, 204^v (note by Dr LOTZ and Dr G. BING).