



Marco Polo

Author(s): P. Pelliot

Source: *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland*, No. 2 (Apr., 1940), pp. 200-201

Published by: [Cambridge University Press](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25221641>

Accessed: 30/03/2011 14:53

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of JSTOR's Terms and Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>. JSTOR's Terms and Conditions of Use provides, in part, that unless you have obtained prior permission, you may not download an entire issue of a journal or multiple copies of articles, and you may use content in the JSTOR archive only for your personal, non-commercial use.

Please contact the publisher regarding any further use of this work. Publisher contact information may be obtained at <http://www.jstor.org/action/showPublisher?publisherCode=cup>.

Each copy of any part of a JSTOR transmission must contain the same copyright notice that appears on the screen or printed page of such transmission.

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



Cambridge University Press and Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

<http://www.jstor.org>

passed through Galicia and Silesia ; and most important of all, it leaves unexplained the name of Mišeslav. Who was Mišeslav ? We can by no means find any person of the name in Transylvania or Wallachia at this date. The only person of the name who figures in the whole story is Mieczyslav, Duke of Oppeln, who was present at the Battle of Liegnitz.¹ Surely, then, it is to this individual that the Persian report must refer, and we must in this case place "Black Wallachia" in Moldavia or even East Galicia.

462.

C. A. MACARTNEY.

MARCO POLO

It is always an unpleasant task for an author to have to reply to a reviewer, and I fully understand why Mr. Moule remains silent about Professor Benedetto's review of vols. i and ii of our *Marco Polo*, published in this *Journal* for 1939, pp. 628–644. But since these two volumes do not fall within my share of the common work, I am more at liberty to state that, in my opinion, Benedetto has not done them justice. In such a long review, written by a specialist on *Marco Polo*, one might have expected to find some positive contribution to the elucidation of most of the problems, but there is none. Minor errors of decipherment or translation are denounced ; such are unavoidable, and there are, indeed, quite as many in Benedetto's own decipherment of F as well as in his translation : as, for instance, in his Italian translation (*Marco Polo*, 140), "camucca", i.e. silk damask, while the text rightly has *camut*, "shagreen", or (p. 123) "polvere di lapislazzuli", "powder of lapis lazuli", though there is no "powder" in the text. In both cases Benedetto might have noted in his review that, on the contrary, Moule's version is quite correct.

But what is most unfair, is to say (p. 630) that the publication of the Toledo MS. (our vol. ii) was not needed, because, forsooth, he had already made use of the late Milan copy

¹ Dluosz, *Hist. Pol.*, p. 676.

of that MS., and had corrected the mistakes of the said copy. First of all, Benedetto has given only extracts from the Milan copy, and the complete text is, therefore, most welcome to scholars ; and, moreover, Benedetto's emendations are neither complete nor always happy. I cannot now enlarge on the discrepancies, but shall take one line as an example. In Benedetto's *Milione*, p. 196, l. 21, of the note (corresponding to our vol. ii, p. lxxviii, ll. 18-19), Toledo and Milan correctly give *pluries*, but Benedetto has adopted *prelum* ; Toledo correctly gives *fit* (= *sit*), but Milan *eset*, which Benedetto has retained ; Toledo correctly gives *personam*, but Milan *prelum*, which Benedetto has also retained. That Benedetto should particularly appreciate his own publication, most valuable indeed, is only natural ; but that innate feeling ought not to be turned into a disparaging judgment of the efforts of others.

P. PELLION.

[The subject is now closed.—ED.]