

BOOK OF THE KNOWLEDGE

Chapter 3: Italy and the Western Mediterranean

A Modern English Translation — Exhaustive Version

I left Narbon and went to Malagona, thence to Monpesler where I passed over stagnant waters and crossed the river Ruedano. Then I went to Arle a rich and noble city which is in the Proençia, and on the banks of the river Ruedano is Aviñon, a rich city, where resides the Court of Rome, the Pope, and Cardinals. Near is Lecduena a city of the King of France. Afterwards I went to Marsella which is the head of La Proençia, going thence by the sea coast to Frenit and thence to Nista, and passed by Monago and Berengan and Saona. Then I ascended the mountains and down to Genoua, a very rich city on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. The Lord of it has for his device a white flag with a red cross, and with the word JUSTICIA.

I departed from Genoua and entered Lombardy where there are many great and rich cities. It is proper to know of Mediolanensis, Clamona, Boloña, the abode of philosophers, Padita, Panonia, Pavia, Burga, Ravena and Plazencia.

I left Lombardy and came to Pisa a land very fertile with a temperate climate. It has a flag gules.

Leaving Pisa I came to Tuscany in which there is a city called Florence. The Lord of it has for his device a white flag with a red cross.

I went from Tuscany to the noble city of Rome, which is the head of the empire of the Romans. A river called Tiber flows through it, which rises in the Alps of Albernica and flows by the Sea of Antona, and the patrimony, entering the sea, half land, at the port of Rome. From these mountains of Albernica comes another very great river called Arno, which flows through Tuscany to Florence and falls into the Sea of Pisa. The devices of Rome are a red flag with a gold bar on which are letters. Round this city of Rome are the Santa Sebra, and other cities Ostia, Taraçona, Gaera, Mondragon. Know that Rome, Pisa, Tuscany, and the lands of the principality are between the Mediterranean Sea and the Gulf of Venice. These are the arms of Rome.

I left Rome, went to the Romana and the principality, and arrived at Naples, a very luxurious, well supplied, and pleasant land in which are the provinces of Pulla, and Calabria. There are many rich cities, the principal ones being Surenti, Salerno, Policastro, Stalea, Rezo, Girazo, Cotruni, Taranto, Entranto, Brendizo, Monapoli, Var, Barleto, Monfrodoye, Pescara, Zchilazo. The King of Naples has for his device a purple flag with gold fleurs de lys, for he is of the House of France. Above is a red slip which they call a label.

I departed from Naples and went over to the island of Sicily, a short passage. It is very luxurious and well supplied. There are in it eight large cities, namely Mecina, Catania, Çaragoça, Girenti, Trapania, Palermo, Cafallu, Pari and Elrey. This Sicily has a flag parted per saltire, two quarters argent with eagles sable, the other two bars gules and or, for the King is of the House of Aragon.

Here in Sicily I went on board a galley and returned to the coast of Naples, to Girazo, going thence to the city of Entranto which is at the end of the Gulf of Venice. I went thence to Brandiza. Then, taking the left side of the gulf, by Naples, I went by Pescara, Antona, and Ravena to the city of Veneçia which is at the head of the gulf on the sea. It is bounded by Lombardy and the Sea of Anton, and by the land of the

patrimony, and to the east by Esclavonia. The Lord of this Venice has for his flag—argent, a winged lion gules like the lion of St Mark.

I departed from Veneçia in the same galley and coasted along the side of Esclavonia passing by a city called Aquylea, and another called Triesa. Thence I went to Parenzo, and arrived at a city they call Sena which is in Esclavonia and another called Jara. The King of this Esclavonia has for his device a yellow flag in halves, the red half near the hoist has a white star and the other half is yellow.

In the kingdom of Esclavonia there is a very high mountain which is called Boxina where four rivers rise. One is called Sar, another Raba, another Ur and another Rabeza. All these rivers enter the kingdom of Ungria and unite with the great river Danube which rises in the Alps of Germany. Now this land of Boxina marches with Germany and Panonia and Ungria, and the mountains are in its centre, and they are mountains well peopled, with a well supplied land, but they are not Catholic Christians, and the King of these mountains has the same arms as those of the King of Esclavonia.

I departed from Boxina and went along the coast to the city of Jara, thence to Sinbochon and thence to Narent. The King of this land has for his device a flag quarterly purpure and argent.

With this Narent there marches a city called Dulçecno which, with the adjacent mountainous country is very pleasant and well supplied. With this kingdom of Açeruva marches the kingdom of Burgaria and the kingdom of Daraze which are in the province of Esclavonia. In these mountains two very great rivers have their rise, one called Dranoya, the other Pirus, which flow into the kingdom of Ungria, falling into the great river Danube and forming in Ungria ten islands. They call the first Ungria la Mayor whence the kingdom of Ungria took its name. The next they call Jaurin, the next Buda, the next Firmina, the next Signa, the next Maçesno, the next Drinago, the next Posga, the next Ungria la Menor, the next Servia. All the rivers that form these islands enter the great sea near a city called Veçina of which I will write further on.

Know that in this Ungria there are many rich cities, to wit Ungria, Çeuana, Casoc, Biuer, Castro, Ferrun, Jaurin, Servia, Strugonum, Bagamos, Beac, Drinago, Saladino, Comoru Bahryvaei Bach Varasdin Myrkiu, and many others. This kingdom of Ungria Eszeln marches with Greece and Germany, Esclavonia, and Bolonia and Burgaria. The flag of this kingdom is parted per fess, upper half with fleurs de lys of France because the King is of the House of France, the lower half bars gules and argent.

Notes on this Chapter

This chapter covers the author's travels through southern France (Narbonne, Montpellier, Arles, Avignon, Marseille), Genoa, Lombardy, Pisa, Florence, Rome (with detailed description of the Tiber, Arno, and the city's arms), Naples and its provinces (Apulia and Calabria), Sicily, and then northward along the Adriatic to Venice. It continues into Dalmatia (Esclavonia), Bosnia (Boxina), and the rich description of Hungary (Ungria) with its many cities and the complex river system of the Danube forming ten islands. This chapter is particularly valuable for its descriptions of Rome, Venice, Sicily, and the detailed Hungarian geography and heraldry.