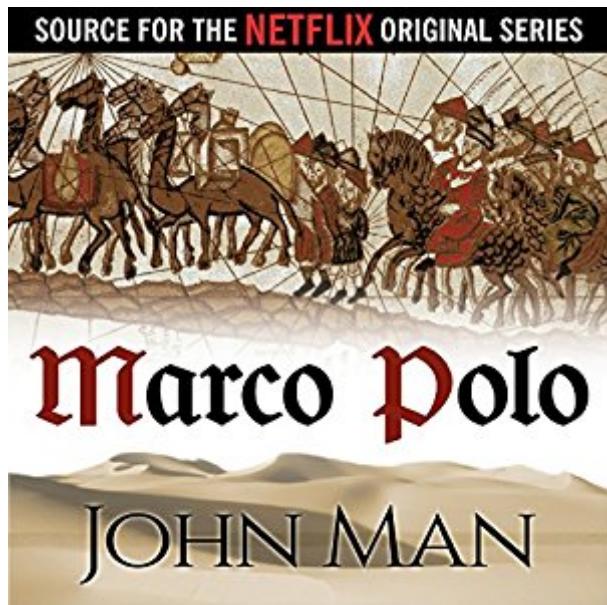


The book was found

Marco Polo: The Journey That Changed The World



Synopsis

In 1271 a young Italian merchant named Marco Polo embarked on a groundbreaking expedition from Venice, through the Middle East and Central Asia to China. His extraordinary reports of his experiences introduced medieval Europe to an exotic new world of emperors and concubines, amazing cities, huge armies, unusual spices and cuisine, and imperial riches. Marco Polo also revealed the wonders of Xanadu, the summer capital of Mongol emperor Kublai Khan. Almost 750 years later, acclaimed author John Man traveled in Marco Polo's footsteps to Xanadu and then on to Beijing and through modern China in search of the history behind the legend. In this enthralling chronicle, Man draws on his own journey, new archaeological findings, and deep archival study to paint a vivid picture of Marco Polo and the great court of Kublai Khan.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

At least five recent & well-regarded translations of that traveller's tale by Messer Marco Polo & ghost writer Rusticello are now available, making accessible what the imprisoned older man remembered of his youthful adventures in the lands of Kublai Khan. Even before these tales were written down, however, their veracity was questioned, their honesty derided, and the sanity of the narrator suspected. On one point only was agreement strong: the rubies, diamonds, pearls, sapphires and emeralds sewn in the shabby cloaks Marco, his father Niccolo, and his uncle wore on their return to Venice in 1296. So, asked John Man, what does current scholarship say about these questions? "Marco Polo: The Journey that Changed the World" gives Man's answers in 15 chapters. The chapters are organized somewhat linearly in that they include Kublai's empire from Polo's arrival to

the Khan's death and organized somewhat opportunistically in chapters such as Xanadu and Marco's relationships with women. The overall conclusions are that some of Polo's narrative is consistent with what evidence is available, such as the likelihood Marco actually did spend many years in Kublai's China, the existence of a huge ruc-like bird, and that Xanadu probably was shaped like a stately pleasure dome. along the lines of the Mongolian ger. Some is also certainly not true and a lot is indeterminable. What to me makes this book worthy reading is the sorting out of the details and specifics like the number of bridges in Kublai's capitol city and claims Marco made of Kublai's innovations in legal, social, and governmental areas, including that wonder, printed money. Man's modus operandi makes this a traveller's tale about a traveller's tale.

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