

The Bodleian Library manuscript of the *Milione* MS. Bodl. 264 *Introduction*

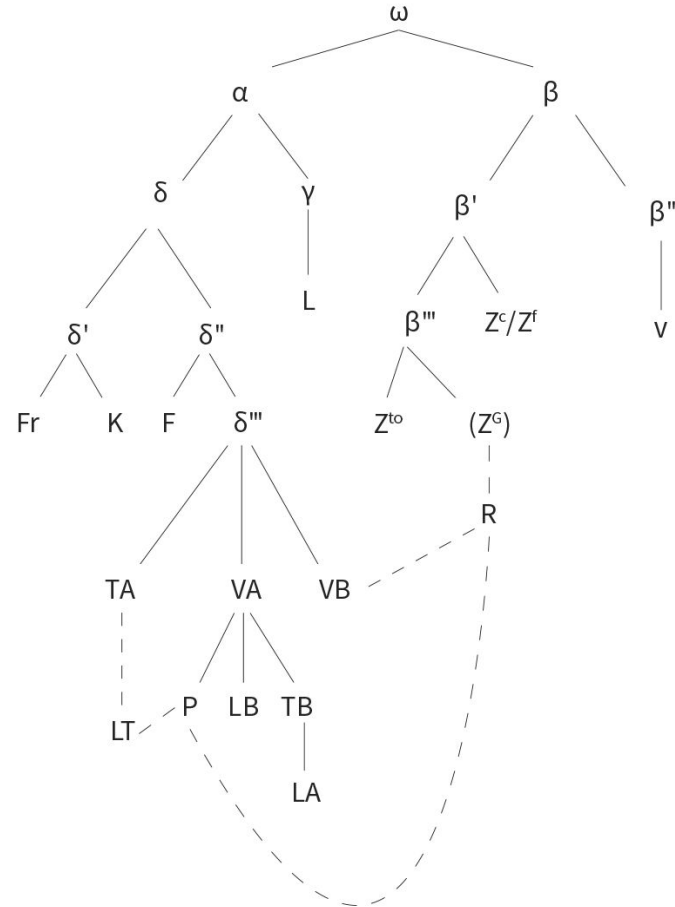


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[ve]dph

Venice Centre for
Digital and Public
Humanities

- Several remakes and translation in different European languages (up to 145 mss and 13 languages)
- Various audiences > various redactions responding to different interests
- Only one codex retains the original French-Italian language (F)

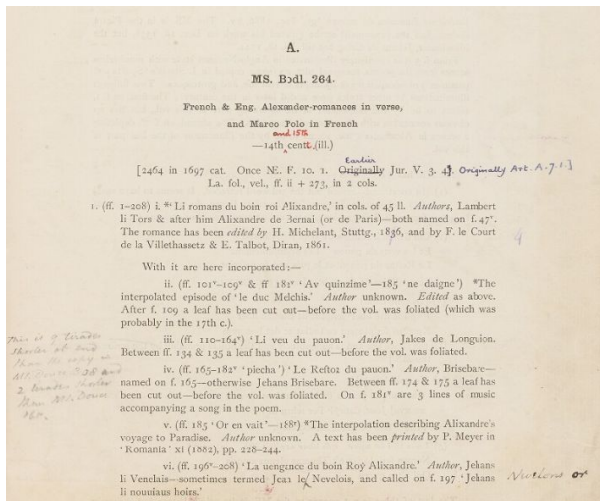




French context:

- Aristocracy
- Interest for the marvellous
- Richly illuminated manuscripts

Manuscript Bodley 264 - Bodleian Library, University of Oxford



Date: 1338 - 1410

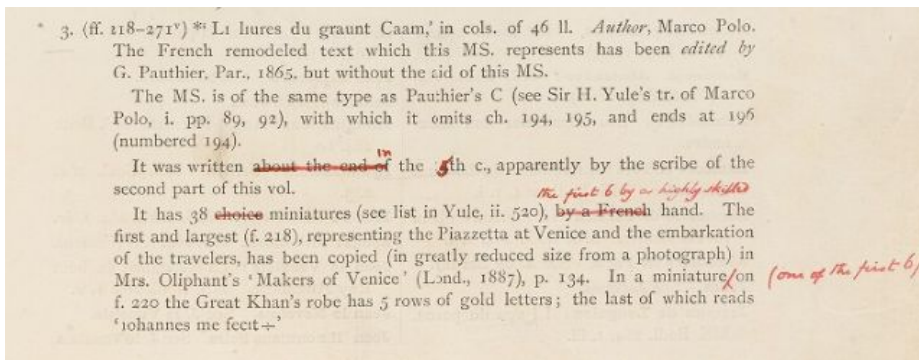
Catalogue notes

Contents: *Romance of Alexander* (ff. 3-208 / date: 1338-1344);

Alexander and Dindimus (ff. 209-215 / date: 1390-1410);

Marco Polo, *Li Livres du Graunt Caam* (ff. 218-271 / date: 1390-1410)

Material: parchment





Marco Polo, *Li Livres du
Graunt Caam*

Illumination of the city of
Venice

Illustrator: Johannes
("Johannes me fecit" f. 22or)

Recognisable buildings:
St. Mark's basilica;
St. Mark's Square (with
statues of St. Teodoro and the
lion of St. Mark);
Doge's Palace.



Name of the illustrator on the border of the blue cloak of the Khan (f.220r).



Decorated initial letters (f.218r).

Marco Polo, *Li livres du Graunt Caam*

MS. Bodl. 264, [fol. 218r](#) and [fol. 218v](#)

Ci commence li livres du graunt Caam qui parole de la graunt Ermenie de Persse. et des Tartars et d'Ynde. Et des granz merueille qui p(ar) le monde sont.

POur sauoir la pure verité des diuerses regions du monde. Si prenez cest livre si trouverez les grandesimes merueilles qui so(n)t escriptes en la Grant Hermenie et de Persse. Et des Tartars. (et) d'Ynde et de maintes autres provinces. Si comme n(ost)re livres vous contera tout par ordre des que mesires Marc Pol sajes et nobles citoie(n)s de Venice raconte pour ce que il les vit.

Here begins the book of the Great Khan, which talks about the great Armenia, Persia, the Tartars and India, and the great wonders that exist in the world.

To know the pure truth about the different regions of the world take this book, and you will find the great wonders that are written on Greater Armenia and Persia and the Tartars and on India and on many other provinces, as Sir Marco Polo, wise and noble citizen of Venice, will tell you in order because he saw them.