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Von Marco Polo

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PENGUIN CLASSICS

MARCO POLO

The Travels

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Von Marco Polo : The Travels (Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Travels (Classics):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Go to the SourceVon Bruce KendallThis volume will enthrall anyone interested in true adventure. Marco Polo was the original Indiana Jones and then some. Please do not waste time on Gary Jennings' The Journeyer. This is the real deal

and needs no dramatic embellishments. The Travels takes you on a trip from 13th century Venice to "Cathay" and back again. You will learn how Europeans found out about fireworks, paper currency, printing and pasta. The harrowing journey across the Gobi desert is particularly well reported. Marco Polo was more than an explorer. He was one of the world's first anthropologists. This is an exciting read, an account of how medieval Europe initially perceived China and the far east, and of how the Mongol rulers and Chinese emperors perceived them. Highly recommended. As to the print quality of the Penguin edition, I have had my copy since the early eighties and it has yellowed only slightly. Viking is now printing on acid-free paper. One must remember that these editions were printed primarily to reach the widest audience for the least amount of expense at the time. For years, Penguins were accessible to students and to the collector who couldn't afford an elaborate, fully illustrated, fully mapped volume of a particular work. I couldn't have read as many of them as I did in my late teens and early twenties if that were not the case. I owe a lifelong debt to the editors for their efforts. I've also never read a bad translation of any Penguin Classic.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. lush mercantilism; snapshot of a long-gone world

Von Ein Kunde

Much of this book is just a merchant's version of poetry-- details of the spices, livestock, telescopes or rare jewels that are each city's specialty. There are funny stories (the Khan who employed dancing girls and troughs of milk and honey to convince his warriors that they were living in Paradise) and magical ones (the manufacture of asbestos, called "salamander"). Bigotry had more to do with religion than race; Messr. Marco will describe the marvelous works of some "Saracen" or an "idolater" and then say something nasty like "but he eats the unclean parts of animals, because he knows not the true God." But his employer, the Great Khan, ruled wisely over people of many diverse creeds, and Marco deeply respects the Khan's tolerance. A recent book by Frances Wood questions the details of the journey, but I prize these tales more for the images they evoke of the lost world where (for example) Iraq was widely known as a center of learning and culture, an exporter of high-quality rich, luxuriant cloths.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Barely believable adventures

Von Bernie

A very remarkable book written in the 13th century. Many secrets were revealed when Marc returned. And may interesting explanations of things like the origin of cinnamon.

Marco writes well enough of his travels and you feel that you are there. You can actually follow the trail if you have a map. He describes the flora and fauna of each region and describes the economics and industry of the region.

Example: "The women of the superior class are in like manner free from superfluous hairs; their skins are fare, and they are well formed." It is interesting to see how little has changed from Marco Polo's 13th century and now.

The Nutritional Trace Metals

Kurzbeschreibung

Marco Polo was the most famous traveller of his time. His voyages began in 1271 with a visit to China, after which he served the Kubilai Khan on numerous diplomatic missions. On his return to the West he was made a prisoner of war and met Rustichello of Pisa, with whom he collaborated on this book. The accounts of his travels provide a fascinating glimpse of the different societies he encountered: their religions, customs, ceremonies and way of life; on the spices and silks of the East; on precious gems, exotic vegetation and wild beasts. He tells the story of the holy shoemaker, the wicked caliph and the three kings, among a great many others, evoking a remote and long-vanished world with colour and immediacy.

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Modern scholars have questioned the veracity of Marco Polo's account, but there's no doubt that his description of his travels through the Mongol Empire of the Middle Ages--with its spices, exotic animals, rare jewels and dancing girls--is enchanting. --Kathleen Keefe.co.uk

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