WORKS ISSUED BY

THE HAKLUYT SOCIETY

THE TRAVELS OF LEO OF ROZMITAL

SECOND SERIES
No. CVIII

ISSUED FOR 1955
II

TETZEL

ITEM, from Neuss we rode to the country of the Duke of Gellern [Guelders]. We found him in a town called Graffe [Grave]. The Duke came himself to my lord in his inn and showed him much friendliness. He is of no great stature, in fact a small person. As a whole the common people of Guelders are well-made, but they are treacherous and great drinkers.

Item, we came then to the Duke of Burgundy’s land, to a city called Mechel [Malines]. There they gave my lord wine and showed him much honour. Malines is a fine, large and well-built city. They carry on a great trade, mostly in cloth. There for the first time we saw the Bruges baths.

Item, from there we rode to a great city called Brugel [Brussels]. Here we found the Duke of Burgundy. The Duke sent his steward to receive my lord and showed him great honour. My lord had to

1 The route lay through Crefeld to Grave. Schaseck’s description is translated at p. 31. Affairs in Guelders were much disturbed. In 1465 Duke Adolf of Egmont had seized his father, the Duke of Guelders, in his bed, forced him to walk five leagues on foot, bare-legged in cold weather, and imprisoned him in a dungeon in which there was no light but what came through a shaft in the wall. The Duke was not released until 1471, and then only because of the intervention of Charles the Bold. P. de Comines (Bohn’s ed. 1901-4, 2 vols.), I, p. 232.

2 The route lay through Bois-le-Duc and Lierre to Malines. Tafur (p. 191) has a charming description of Malines. "The Duke delights greatly to come here to rest, as one retiring to a garden. He has no palace in the town, but he lies at an inn, which is so excellent that it is fit to entertain, not him alone, but the greatest prince on earth." Tetz seems to have assumed that all bathing establishments in Flanders were named after those at Bruges, as to which see below, p. 31.

3 Philip the Good, d. 1469. He was then at the height of his power. His court was the most splendid in Europe. The Duke’s third wife, the Duchess Isabella, daughter of John I of Portugal, and granddaughter of John of Gaunt, had withdrawn from Court, owing to the Duke’s irregular life, but the travellers saw her in Brussels and again in Ghent. Schaseck, below, p. 40.

4 Brussels

send every day to the court for wine. This was according to the steward’s orders as a token that anyone to whom wine is given is acquitted at the inn. Every day red and white wine was fetched in great golden cans, of which one held ten measures. We lay there three weeks. On the tenth day the Duke ordered us to be brought before him. He stood in the hall surrounded by a great company of princes and dukes, knights and pages. He approached my lord and offered him his hand, as he did to all my lord’s honourable servants. Then my lord gave an account of his journey at first hand, the Margrave Rothel of Baden acting as interpreter. Then he directed that my lord should be provided with all that he required. After this wine was brought in great and rare vessels with sweetmeats on a great buffet, and my lord had to drink with the Duke, as did all his honourable attendants. The Duke then invited my lord to his palace and provided the most costly meal for him and his company which I have ever eaten in all my life.

As the Duke was served at table and the most noble princes and lords at side-tables, so my lord was served in the same manner. My lord and his honourable company ate alone in the Duke’s chamber and no one sat with them. A costly side-table had been set up overflowing with countless costly vessels and other things impossible to describe. There were thirty-two dishes with the most sumptuous food, eight of which were served together, and as for drink one can imagine that there was enough and to spare. When my lord had eaten, the other lords led him again to the Duke. He dispatched him first with attendants to see his zoological garden.

1 For an account of the extravagant feasts, see Otto Cartellieri, The Court of Burgundy (Eng. trans., 1929), ch. VIII. The entremets or buffets which much impressed the Bohemians are described by Kirk, Charles the Bold (1865), I, p. 87. They were designed to be looked at, rather than eaten. Rozmital’s visit is officially noted in January 1466: ‘Le 10, Le Duc fut faire de creuse quatre plats de viande, pour festoyer en son hotel le seigneur de Roenende, du royaume de Bohême, et frére de la royne dudit Bohême, le conte de Zacharowytz et plusieurs autres nobles gens dudit royaume de leur compaignie’ (‘Itinéraire de Philippe le Bon’ in Gachard, Coll. des Voyages des Souverains des Pays-Bas (1876), I, p. 99). ‘Le Duc fait festoyer le seigneur de Rothenval, frère de la reine de Bohème: le comte de Tschekowitz et autres nobles teiches’ (H. van der Linden, Itinéraires de Philippe le Bon et de Charles, Comte de Charolais (Brussels, 1940), p. 491).

2 Schaseck who got drunk (below, p. 37) adds much to Tetz’s account.

3 The Duke’s country estates were at Saint-Jose-en-Noode, east of Brussels, and
which is of vast proportions with many fountains and lakes, in which one found all manner of birds and animals which seemed strange to us. Afterwards the Duke caused his treasure and jewels to be shown to my lord which are beyond measure precious, so much so that one might say that he far outdid the Venetians' treasure in precious stones and pearls. It is said that nowhere in the world were such costly treasures, if only because of the hundred-thousand pound weight of beaten gold and silver gilt vessels which we saw in many cabinets, and which were so abundant that we never thought to see the like. I have indicated the principal objects so far as I was able to see them.

Item, twelve little tunics, none worth less than 40,000 crowns.
Item, the hat which he wears, worth 60,000 crowns.
Item, a great golden cross; in it is carved a crucifix with our Lord God on the Cross, also his Mother and John standing below. This is of wood and carved from the wood of the Holy Cross on which our Lord died. The precious stones, pearls and gold are valued at 40,000.
Item, an ostrich feather on his hat, 50,000.
Item, a trapping for a saddle and a little cloak for armour, 10,000.
Item, a little purse [neserlen], 30,000.
Item, two small crosses, worth more than 60,000.
Item, a great golden cross, wherein is one of the [holy] nails, 60,000 gulden.
Item, frontlet for a horse, more than 30,000.
Item, so many costly jewels that they could not be shown to us, for the keeper of the jewels said he could not show them in three days. He told us that his lord had so many jewels that he had not seen them all in many years and indeed did not know where they were.

Bois, Boitsfort and Tervueren, on the outskirts of the Forêt de la Soigné (A. Wauters, Hist. des environs de Bruxelles (1851-5), III, pp. 20-36, 186). For the gardens and their contents, see Henne and Wauters, Hist. de la ville de Bruxelles (1845), III, p. 332. Tafur (Travels, p. 196) also visited the zoo. Schaseck (below, p. 39) notes the winter sports in the grounds, and see G. Loisel, Histoires des Monarques (Paris, 1912), I, p. 230.

BRUSSELS

The Duke of Cleves1 admitted to his fellowship my lord and lord Jan Zehrowsky Kollebrat and Achatz Frodnier and Gabriel Tetzel.

Item, at this time the Duke's son Charles2 arrived, having just come from Paris and Liège. My lord rode to meet him and inspected his army which was said to number 60,000 horse and 40,000 foot-soldiers.3 Duke Charles rode late into Brussels. All the trade-guilds rode out to meet him with lighted candles, each guild in its own livery. The councillors, in the same manner, rode to meet him, and stately tableaux had been prepared everywhere in the streets. After he had seen all this it was far into the night before he reached the old Duke's palace. The old Duke sent his leading councillors to meet him, who conducted him, with many others to the old Duke's palace. Among them was the lord Lev and his honourable attendants in proper order. The count Charles with nine of his nobles alighted at the palace,4 and with him were my lord and his attendants. The old Duke advanced to meet him. When he saw his father, he knelt before him until his father raised him to his feet and embraced him in loving manner and conducted him to his chamber. Then everyone departed. The next day my lord was conducted to the Duke's sister, the Duchess of Bourbon.5 There we saw many great ladies and maidens. The Duchess showed my lord great honour and was amazed at his hair.

1 This would be John (d. 1481), the son of Adolf I, Duke of Cleves, a nephew of Philip the Good, known as the child of Ghent. For these Orders, see p. 45, note 2, and App. I.
2 Charles, later Charles the Bold (b. 1433).
3 Schaseck's account, below p. 34.
4 The palace stood on the site of the present Palais du Roi. The old palace begun in 1300 and enlarged by Philip the Good in 1459 was burnt down in 1731 (Henne and Wauters, Hist. de Bruxelles, III, p. 318; J. B. Chrisyn, Les Délitie de Pays-Bas (ed. of 1769), I, p. 196). De Bestis who was there in 1578 (p. 116) says that the palace was so large that one could ride comfortably on horseback throughout the whole of it. In it were 36 fountains of which some rose to half the height of the tower. There is a long description of the palace and park in 1606 in Ernstinger's Rheineb (Stutt. Lith. Verein 1877), p. 233f.
5 Schaseck describes this meeting (p. 35). The Duchess of Bourbon was Agnes who married Charles I, Duke of Bourbon. On the Bohemians' long hair, see pp. 54, 62, and Appendix II.
Then my lord was arrayed and tilted\(^1\) with lord Jan Zehrowsky Kellebrat, and Achatz Frohner with Gabriel Tetzl in the Duke's palace before the aforesaid Duchess of Bourbon and the Duke. Everyone was amazed at the tilting. The old Duke said that he had once seen better tilting at Regensburg, and for my lord's pleasure he arranged a tourney in the manner of his country across a barrier. Then many noble princes, dukes and counts, clad in the most costly gold and other array, tilted together. Afterwards my lord invited many noble lords and beautiful ladies to his house and gave them to eat after the Bohemian fashion, at which they were much amazed. This was followed by a stately dance. My lord was allowed to invite the great ladies alone. They accepted and were very gay with my lord.

We saw in these parts the baths of Bruges, of which much might be written.\(^2\)

My lord lived in all things a very merry life, the cost of which was not to be measured, but the Duke provided for everything. My lord presented the lord Charles with a very fine horse, hoping for a better one in return. My lord Charles gave the page thirty crowns as drink-money and presented Achatz Frohner with a fine white palfrey, better than my lord's horse.

So we took our leave and rode to a powerful city also belonging to the Duke of Burgundy which is called Ghent.\(^3\) This is a German mile in length with a vast number of people living there. It carries on a great trade. There are many beautiful women. Yet one would hardly call it a city. On one side there is no wall, only a river flowing by.

From there we rode to Brück [Bruges]. We lay there during carnival time and visited first of all the Bruges baths\(^4\) and would have liked to tilt with the burghers, but they would not. During the carnival the Bastard of Burgundy\(^5\) invited my lord and his honourable companions to his palace. He had also invited the most beautiful women of Bruges. He provided for my lord a sumptuous feast. A buffet had been erected which aroused great admiration. Then we went to bed. Indeed we led a gay and worldly life. From there we rode to Kallis [Calais],\(^6\) a town lying on the sea. It belongs to the King of England, who has no town on

1 The Bruges baths were among the sights of the town. Men and women bathed together with only a common room for dressing. Tafuri (Travels, p. 200) says that 'the bathing of men and women together they take to be as honest as churchgoing with us'. In the Waterhalle the women could spend the night with any man they chose and could lie with him on condition that the man should not see her or know who she was, on pain of death. De Comines (Bohn's ed.), I, p. 13, writes that 'their (the Burgundians') baths and other amusements with women are lavish and disorderly and many times immoderate'. Tafuri (Travels, p. 183) visited a bathing establishment at Basle where men and women bathed quite naked. It was the custom to play games and take their meals in the water. Schaseck's description of the carnival is translated at p. 41. He has something to say about the intercourse between men and women, but both he and Tetzl are very discreet. See Letts, Bruges and its Past (and ed. 1926), p. 121, and generally A. Martin, Deutschen Badewesen in vergangenen Tagen (1906).

2 Undoubtedly Anthony the Great Bastard, one of the most redoubtable knights and military leaders of his day. Philip the Good is said to have had 24 mistresses and 16 bastards. The Bohemians were amazed at the privileges shown to bastards. See Schaseck's remarks at p. 39, and generally Kirk, Charles the Bold (1863), I, p. 97.

3 Calais was then the staple for English wool and wool-fells and a great resort of merchants. It was said in 1500 that the castle at Rhodes was not more strictly guarded (Trevisan, Italian Relation of England (Camden Society, 1867), p. 45). In 1517-18 de Beatis (Die Reise, p. 123) was much impressed by the huge walls and deep ditches. Its canals regulated by locks could flood the surrounding country for miles. The solitary gate was open only during the day and if the King himself arrived after supper he must sleep outside. The garrison was composed of the tallest and best-proportioned men. They were skilled archers and one of them could pierce a pipe full of wine from rim to rim. Except for the church of Notre Dame not much remains which Rozmiata can have seen, but English memories survived. Evelyn in 1643 saw an ancient building (probably the Cour de Gueuze), once called the Prince's Inn, with the inscription God save the King, and the name of the architect and date (Diary ed. by E. S. de Beer (1955), II, p. 83). There is a picture of Calais in the fifteenth century in the Cotton MS. at the British Museum reproduced in Medieval People by Eileen Power (1924), p. 136. See generally 'Calais and the English Pale', by Wincsont Dillon, in Archaeologia, LIII (1892), p. 289-338 (with illustrations and a plan) and The Chronicle of Calais to the year 1540, ed. by J. G. Nichols (Camden Society, 1840).
this side of the sea other than Calais. My lord lay there for some days as he wished to cross to England. He concluded that his equipment was too large for the crossing and sent many of his horses home, but none of his nobles, only certain pages. No nobleman retained any pages other than those about him. Thus lord Jan kept two pages, and Achatz Frodoner and Gabriel Tetzel had one page each. My lord kept also thirty-six horses which crossed over with him.

The people of Calais showed my lord great honour and gave him presents. The King of England kept the town very straitly. My lord hired a ship and had the thirty-six horses taken on board. That night we had a favourable wind so that we could cross. So we set the sails and left the land. But when we left harbour and reached the open sea the ship sprung a great leak and the water poured in, so that the horses stood in water up to their bellies. Then our Lord God sent us good luck. The wind veered so that we had a good breeze. But if the wind had not changed we should all have been drowned. We lay some days at Calais and ordered another ship, but had to wait for the wind. Then came a day when God sent us good fortune, and we had a good wind. The captain was ready to sail and took the ship out of harbour. My lord had to sit in a small boat so that he could be rowed out to the ship. Then there came a great wind and storm so that we were nearly drowned and only reached the ship with great difficulty. And if lord Jan and Gabriel Tetzel had not been there to help, my lord would have been drowned before he reached the great ship. So in bad weather we reached a city called Kanterburg [Canterbury]. My lord and his other attendants were so distressed by the waves that they lay on the ship as if they had been dead.

SCHASECK, (p. 21ff.)

We arrived for the night in a town called Crecel [Crefeld] from which not far distant is the castle called Crazen [Craçon]. This town is subject to a certain count. We saw here how they hunt conies with the help of a tame ferret. The ferret goes down the bur-

row in which the cony is hiding and drives it out by biting it. The hunter spreads nets around and catches the cony as it comes out of the hole. The inhabitants say that fifty or sixty can be caught in one day with the help of one of these ferrets. I thought this not far from the truth, for several were caught by a hunter while we were watching. Thence we reached Guelders, which is ruled by a prince, and came to a town called Old Guelders, where we found the prince of those parts. Nowhere in the whole of our travels were such fine horses to be seen in one place as in the Prince’s stables. When we were there the Prince kept his own father a prisoner. His territories border on the lands subject to the Duke of Burgundy. At that time the Duke of Burgundy was at war with Guelders and is said to have declared that the Prince must release his father, and that if he did not do so he would do it himself, even if he had to spend all his wealth in the undertaking.¹ We had difficulty in passing through this country, for everywhere it was necessary to ask for safe-conducts and even when we had obtained them we could hardly make our way. . . .

We arrived at Lira [Lierre], a town surrounded with such high walls that it is in no danger from siege weapons. For it is scarcely possible to see the roofs of the houses above the walls. The town is situated in the plain which is washed by [an arm of] the sea. Then we arrived at Malines, a city large and well-fortified, situated in the plain which is washed by [an arm of] the sea. The water flows through for six hours and then for six hours leaves it dry as the tide rises and falls.

We then travelled to Brussels which is distant four miles from Malines. It is the capital of Brabant. There we found the Duke of Burgundy. The day after our arrival we were taken to the Council House and were admitted through all the apartments. In one of the halls there are as fine pictures as can be found anywhere. Afterwards we ascended the tower² of this same Council House from which we could overlook the whole city. This tower is an elegant structure and of great height, reaching up into the heavens and

¹ See above, p. 26.
² The Hôtel de Ville was completed in 1443, but the tower was not finished until 1454. Many of the figures which adorned it were destroyed by the French in 1793.
The Travels of Leo of Rozmítal

together with the Council House it is situated in the heart of the city. On one side the city abuts on the hillside. On the other it lies in the valley. We spent several days there.

At that time the Duke's son was besieging the town of Liège, according to rumour, 150,000 men under his standards.

[Rozmítal sent his herald to offer his services to Duke Charles. The offer was gratefully declined as the war was then over, but Rozmítal was asked to remain in Brussels until Duke Charles arrived there.]

At length on the eighth day my lord was admitted to the presence of the old Duke who sent certain of his councillors to the inn with an invitation. They welcomed my lord in the Duke's name with friendly words, and my lord sent a gracious answer. Afterwards my lord was conducted by them into the castle of that city and was invited to sit at table with certain dukes, to wit, the Duke of Cleves, the Duke of Guelders and three of the Duke of Burgundy's bastard sons, together with certain counts. But my lord was given the highest place above the dukes, and his attendants likewise were given seats above the others at a separate table. First my lord was honourably served, then his retinue likewise. After the meal my lord was conducted to the old Duke, who came out as far as the third chamber to receive him. The Duke took my lord by the hand and led him to his own chamber. There, it appears, he conversed with my lord, and as he took his leave the Duke asked my lord to do him the honour of remaining a little while until his son arrived, who, it was thought, would soon come now that he had subdued his enemies. My lord agreed to this and to whatever else the Duke required. Then the Duke added that when his son had returned to the palace he would give orders for a tourney to be held according to the custom of their country. My lord replied that, if it pleased the Duke, he too with his attendants would t uncertain according to the custom of his country. The Duke responded that he was most eager that this should be done and begged

1 Charles the Bold was then engaged in his lifelong struggle with Louis XI of France and became one of the principal leaders of the League of Public Weal. The battle of Montlhéry in July 1465, at which he showed great bravery, prevented the French King from re-entering Paris, but, as events were to show, it was an indecisive victory. Charles was now returning home after having put down a revolt by the citizens of Liège.

My lord to do so in order that he might be acquainted with jousting on horseback after the manner practised in Bohemia.

Three days after this audience the Duke sent his herald to my lord in his inn to enquire if he would be pleased to go out to meet his son, for it was reported that he was only two miles from the city. Then my lord ordered his attendants to array themselves with all magnificence and advanced the two miles to meet him [the Duke Charles]. There we saw his troops advancing to meet us, and saw also what chariots, what arms and other instruments of war they had. When we asked where the Duke was we were informed that he had gone hawkimg nearby. When we were already approaching it was reported to the Duke that the lord had arrived, who had sent to him in the camp saying that if there was to be fighting he would like to join him. The Duke, on hearing this, abandoned his hawkimg and other matters and came at once to meet my lord. When the Duke was in sight my lord, with certain attendants riding beside him, made as if to dismount, but when the Duke saw this, although still some distance away, he spurred up his horse and galloped towards my lord with his attendants and trumpeters and forbade him to do so. Then, taking my lord by the hand, he rode apart from his company and would not let my lord leave his side until he had reached the city.

Night was now falling, and a great company of the Duke's people had poured out some distance from the city to meet us. The way was lit with an uninterrupted line of lights through the whole town and right up to the castle. As we passed through the city many and various spectacles were presented. I can truly say that there were several thousands of lights.

When we arrived at the castle where the old Duke resided the Duke Charles dismounted and asked my lord to do the same. Then taking him by the hand he led my lord into the presence of the old Duke. The Duke was seated in a hall on a throne which was hung with cloth of gold woven with great splendour, as befitted the ducal hall. When they approached him both knelt. But the Duke made as if he were looking in another direction and did not see them. Then they knelt again and even then he saw them not, but when they had knelt a third time, at last the old Duke
THE TRAVELS OF LEO OF ROZMITAL

gave his right hand to his son and afterwards to my lord. Then with one in either hand he led them into his own chamber through nine other rooms. In the vestibule of each some hundred men-at-arms were on guard. Whether this is always so I did not discover. But I was told, when I asked, that at no time of the night or day were there fewer guards. If this is so I can affirm that no other Christian king keeps such a splendid court.

The next day the young Duke ordered a tourney to be proclaimed and that those who wished to take part should assemble in the place appointed for it. When all were assembled we observed their manner of tilting—that is they tilt with spurs to their horses, a barrier intervening, using very slender lances. Whoso breaks the greatest number of lances has the glory of victory. Immediately before they leave the lists the broken lances are counted, and he who has broken the greatest number is conducted to his lodgings by a great concourse, crying his name again and again and proclaiming his victory. These things having been concluded, at the third hour of the night, the Duke sent to John Zehrowsky and invited him to come with certain of the senior members of his company who wished to wrestle, saying that he would provide each with an opponent. Thereupon lord John presented himself at the castle with those whom he had chosen. He entered the hall where the Duke was with three Duchesses, those of Burgundy, Cleves and Guelders and other ladies and noble maidens. Then certain of the Duke’s attendants approached John Zehrowsky and informed him that he should prepare himself, as his opponents would shortly appear. Then lord John enquired how the wrestling was to proceed, whether the wrestlers were to appear naked or in tunics. ‘In tunics,’ was the answer, ‘for such is our custom, but it is prohibited by law to seize an opponent below the belt and to trip him up by the feet. Otherwise it is permitted to throw an opponent to the ground in whatever manner one wished. For it is the custom’, they said, ‘in our country to wear underclothes, that is tunic and hose, and it is no shame to wrestle thus clad, even though multitudes of matrons and maidens be present.’

The bout having started, the wrestler could do nothing against his opponent, the lord John, who threw him three times to the ground, at which the spectators were amazed. For it was said that his match was not to be found in all the dominions of the Duke of Burgundy, that he had not previously been beaten by any man at wrestling, and that for this reason he had received 500 gold pieces a year more than his usual wages. But perhaps he would now lose this reward, as he had been thrice overthrown.

After the wrestling match the Duke called lord John to him dressed only in his tunic, as he had wrestled, and feeling all his limbs, feet and hands, examined his whole body and was amazed that his wrestler had been vanquished. Then the Duke asked lord John whether he had a worthy adversary against whom he could match a noble Count of his. Lord John had a man present called Kevard who wrestled with the Count and threw him to the ground three times. Then Schaseck approached the Duke and said: ‘I beg, most illustrious prince, that your highness may appoint an adversary who may be thought to be my equal.’ Having heard this, the Duke ordered one to be summoned for him to wrestle with. As we wrestled I threw him at once to the ground. But when by the Duke’s orders I renewed the contest, I was thrown down with such force that I thought the devil was behind it.

When the wrestling match was over the Duke ordered wine and sweetmeats to be served, of which so much was spread about that one might think it could scarcely be bought with several gold pieces. But the Duchesses served me so abundantly that I could scarcely reach my inn. I was drunk.1

The day following this wrestling my lord jousted with John Zehrowsky in the Duke’s hall and they encountered each other with such force that my lord splintered his lance on his adversary’s breast. Neither however was unhorsed. Then Lord John begged my lord that he might break a lance in honour of the illustrious ladies and maidens there present. My lord consenting, lord John spurred his horse and drove his lance against the wall below the window from which the Duke and his consort and other Duchesses

1 It is interesting to note that it was the custom at that time for guests to be made drunk. In the Nassau palace at Brussels a mammoth bed was kept for guests who were unable to get home. The bed was always kept ready with pillows, sheets and counterpanes, and when the guests could not stand they were thrown on to it (de Beatis, Die Reise, p. 117).
were looking on, and struck the wall with his lance with such force that his horse was thrown back on its haunches. Then certain of the Duke's courtiers came forward to see whether not he was fastened to his horse, since so violent a blow had not dislodged him. Lord John then set his horse for a second time at the wall and again broke his lance without injury, which seemed to those present to be a great marvel, as they are not accustomed to tilt without a barrier between them.

After that people came daily to that place declaring that he [Lord John] could not have come from the race which now inhabit the earth, but must have sprung from the race of ancient giants.

When the contest was over the Duke sent for the weapons with which they had tilted and asked whether these were the weapons which all men used for tournays in our country and added: 'You call that a sport which fills us with amazement. For a man who pleaded guilty to paricide it would be too great a punishment to be made to fight in such a manner. You risk your lives in sport as though you had no wish to live.' For they tilted in breast-plates which the Duke's court had never seen before. After my lord's contest, Frodner and Tetzel entered the lists, but both remained in the saddle. Then Frodner, in the presence of a great multitude of people, sprang from his horse, all armed as he was without resting on his stirrups.

After these events the Duke gave orders that my lord should be conducted into his treasury where the Duke made them display and set out on a table all the precious stones, arranged according to their various names, as well as his clothes adorned with pearls and gems. And the Duke ordered his councillors to beg my lord to do the Duke the honour of taking away with him any of the jewels which pleased him. My lord would accept nothing, but asked the councillors to thank the Duke most graciously, adding: 'God forbid that I should accept anything. I have not come hither with my retinue to accept gifts, but it was to practise knightly virtues that I set out on this journey which, God helping me, I mean to achieve. Money and riches are easily obtained, but a good name endures for ever. This thought has always been in my mind and, God willing, I shall carry it with me to my grave.'

---

On the eighteenth day after our arrival my lord went to the Duke to take leave of him, and after thanking him for the honour shown to him, he begged the Duke to give him a herald that he might traverse his country in greater safety. To this the Duke replied: 'You ask, my friend, a small favour of us. Ask a greater and you will not be refused. But we will gladly comply with your request. We have a herald who has sojourned at the courts of all Christian kings and knows seventeen languages. Him we will give you with orders to conduct you faithfully back to your own country. If he returns to us with his task faithfully performed he will find us a kind master.' And he spoke the same words to the herald in our presence and gave him the same orders. The herald afterwards accompanied us to Bohemia.

On the day on which my lord took leave of the Duke we saw a marvellous spectacle. There is a park adjoining the castle with a lake which was then frozen over. The Duke ordered certain of his courtiers to go out to this park and to run a course on the frozen lake. They—there were twenty-eight of them—fought on foot with such agility that I can declare that never have I seen or heard of such agile men. One in particular was so skilful that he resisted alone the assault of twenty-two men. Such was their speed in running and turning that no horse could have kept up with them. I was curious to see what it was that they had on their feet which enabled them to move so swiftly on the ice. I could easily have done this, but I could not leave my lord who was looking on with the Duke. We saw also many kinds of wild beasts in the park. After this my lord took leave of the Duke and his son.

Three of the Duke's bastard sons were also present. In our country we call them spurii. They are not held in disrepute as with us, but enjoy the same food and drink as the Duke's legitimate son. In those parts it is the custom of kings and princes to have concubines

---

1 Apparently the Bohemians had never seen skating before. The sport spread slowly from the Low Countries. The earliest reference to skates in the O.E.D. is 1648; but see Fitz Stephen's description of London before 1183: 'Others there are, more skilful to sport on the ice, who fit to their feet the shin-bones of beasts, lashing them beneath their ankles, and with iron-shod poles in their hands they strike ever and anon against the ice and are borne along swift as bird in flight, or bolt shot from a mangonel' (Stenton, Norman London, p. 13).
living in their castles. Their children are given estates for their lives and when the father dies the legitimate sons do not take the estates from them again. If a prince quarrels with a bastard, and it comes to a duel, the prince cannot refuse to fight by saying that a bastard is not worthy to fight with him, being nothing but a bastard, while he [the prince] is an offspring of a legitimate marriage. He cannot therefore refuse but is bound to fight with him. And indeed in those parts men do not brawl and rend each other with abuse as with us.

Leaving Brussels and the Duke of Burgundy, we reached Termonde, a town five miles away, which is subject to the rule of the Duke of Burgundy. The road is through marshes. We spent the night at Ghent. This town is five miles from Termonde and is reached through marshes. Of all towns subject to the Duke of Burgundy it is the greatest and most powerful. It is said that, if the Duke so required, it could supply 50,000 armed men or more. The town is very large, a mile long and somewhat less in width. It also is surrounded by marshes of the sea. It is said to have rebelled three times against the Duke of Burgundy.

The town is surrounded by great numbers of mills, which are worked by the wind, such as I have never seen elsewhere. In my judgment there must be 300, more or less. In the castle of Ghent we saw the wife of the old Duke of Burgundy. Ghent, which also lies in Brabant, is situated in a plain. There is a village four miles distant from that town, which marks the boundary between Brabant and Flanders.

While travelling through Brabant it happened often that we lacked wood or other fuel for cooking. Therefore we were obliged to use the dung of oxen and turf which is stored in great heaps to dry like wood. They have also in those parts a kind of earth which burns like coal and is used by smiths, for in those places which we passed through there is a dearth of forests and wood. Therefore, as we have said, we used other things to feed our fires. From Ghent we travelled to Bruges, which is in Flanders. The journey, for eight miles, is wholly through marsh and sand as far as the walls.


Bruges

This is a large and beautiful city rich in merchandise, for there is access to it by land and sea from all countries of the Christian world. The merchants have their own stately houses there in which are many vaulted rooms. They lie close to salt marshes which spread through the town as far as those houses. There are many canals in the town and some 525 bridges over them. At least it is so reported, but I did not count them.

We arrived at Bruges eight days before the carnival which we celebrated there, entertaining ourselves with various plays and dances. In that country, and particularly at Bruges, it is the custom in the last days of the carnival for noblemen to go about masked, each striving to be more fantastically dressed than the others. Whatever colour the master affects, his servants are similarly dressed. They put masks on their faces in order that they may not be recognised and they resort to places where dances and plays are held. Everywhere there is the noise of trumpets and drums. And if anyone meets the lady of his choice he gives her a paper bearing his name but speaks no more to her, and thus she, but no one else, knows who he is. He dances with her, and after the dance she plays various kinds of games with him, each staking sundry gold pieces according to his or her means. When these depart others follow at the same games, and all are occupied thus in these last few days. It is also the custom in Flanders for noblemen and well-born persons to live not in the country but in the towns where there are many diversions and delights.

We continued thence to Dunkirk, which is likewise subject to the Duke of Burgundy. There for the first time we reached the sea, for the town lies on the coast. It is so strongly fortified that among all the towns of the Duke of Burgundy, who has fourteen provinces under his rule, it has no equal, for it can be surrounded on all sides with water, so that access to it is impossible for two miles. When the wind is favourable more than a hundred fishing vessels

1 Bruges was still the great trading centre of Northern Europe in spite of the silting up of the Zwyn. A list of the merchants’ houses is given in Letts, Bruges and its Past, p. 118 and (at p. 104) a fifteenth-century drawing showing the main waterway to the centre of the town.

2 For Tezel’s brief reference to the carnival, see above, p. 31.
are sent out, which take great quantities of fish. In no other single town of those parts have we seen so many hares as there. The next day we saw how fish are caught by means of baits placed on the shore. This is the method. When the sea ebbs a large tract of land is left dry all at once for one or two miles. On this the fishermen place baits to attract the fish. When the sea returns again the whole tract is covered by the waves, and the fish, seeking the bait there, are caught.

This coast region adjoins the district which is called the Freeland. It is subject to the Duke of Burgundy. They say that in case of need the Duke could summon from it 100,000 men-at-arms. For that Duke is easily a match, in wealth and power, for all Christian princes. He possesses great treasure and riches. Fourteen dukes and many counts are subject to his rule. He has only one legitimate son, the heir to so much wealth, and three bastards. The walls of this town are washed by the sea. Thence we continued to Gravelines, a town three miles away from Dunkirk. It is on the sea and lies in the same marshes.

Calais is three miles distant from Gravelines and lies on the seashore. It is subject to the English king. More than half a mile away is the boundary of Flanders. Whoever wishes to sail for England must embark from this town. When we arrived there we were forced to wait for twelve days owing to the winds which blew from England.

When we embarked on the ship and sailed forth we were in great peril which I will refrain from describing. For driven back by the sea we had to return to Calais. Such was our good fortune that all who beheld it marvelled. They said that such a thing as had happened to us had not occurred in a hundred years. After this on the third day we took ship again and set out for England.

1 The Franc of Bruges, a district outside the jurisdiction of the town and governed by a châtelain as lieutenant of the Count of Flanders. It comprised a large number of towns and villages, and by the fifteenth century its importance was such that it had established itself as a fourth Member of the Estates of Flanders.

2 Schaseck underestimates. See above, p. 31, note 2.

3 Compare Tetzal's description of Calais at p. 31.

III

TETZEL

CANTERBURY is in England and belongs to the king of England. There lies the beloved St Thomas. In that city there is a costly coffin in the Cathedral. It is a bishopric and the church is very fine. The coffin wherein St Thomas lies is all of gold and is long and broad, large enough for a middling-sized person to lie in it. It is so richly adorned with pearls and precious stones that one would think there is no richer shrine in all Christendom. Great miracles are performed there.

Item, once upon a time a King of France made a vow on the field of battle. He defeated his enemies and came to the Cathedral and to [the shrine of] the holy St Thomas. He knelt at the shrine and prayed and had a ring on his hand, in which was a very precious stone. The Bishop of the cathedral at Canterbury begged the King to give the ring with the stone to the shrine. The King replied that the ring was too dear to him, since he believed firmly that whatever he undertook would not miscarry so long as he had...