

Three Years Travels

FROM

M O S C O W

OVER-LAND TO

C H I N A :

THRO'

Great *Ustiga*, *Siriania*, *Permia*, *Sibiria*, *Daour*,
Great *Tartary*, &c. to *Peking*.

CONTAINING,

An exact and particular Description of the Extent and Limits of those Countries, and the Customs of the Barbarous Inhabitants; with reference to their Religion, Government, Marriages, daily Employments, Habits, Habitations, Diet, Death, Funerals, &c.

Written by his Excellency *E. YSBRANTS IDES*,
Ambassador from the Czar of *Muscovy* to the Emperor of *China*.

Illustrated with a large Map of the Countries, drawn by the Ambassador upon his Journey, and many curious Cuts.

To which is annex'd an accurate

Description of CHINA,

Done Originally by a *Chinese* Author: With several Remarks by way of Commentary, alluding to what our *European* Authors have writ of that Country.

Printed in Dutch by the Direction of Burgomaster *Witzen*, formerly Ambassador in *England*; and now Faithfully done into English.

L O N D O N :

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C H A P. XVI.

Of Quoangtung the Fifteenth Province.

Quoangtung, 'called by the *Europeans Canton*, is the most Southern Province in *China*; is bounded by the Ocean, and is provided with a very good Haven at the end of a River, which is Navigable with great Ships up to *Canton*. The whole is a fertile Country, plentifully abounding with all necessaries; which draws a very considerable Trade hither, as well with the *Indians* as *Europeans*, from which latter above one hundred *English*, *Dutch* and *Portuguese* Ships annually come to and go from hence.

The last mentioned Nation (*) having made themselves Masters of *Macao*, a Neighbouring Peninsula, have there a very fine Haven, from whence they drive a very great Trade to *Canton*, but are obliged on that account to pay annually 50000, some say 500000 Laens to the Emperor, each Laen amounting to two *Rixdollars*.

They have possessed this Island above an hundred and ten Years. (Our Author wrote about the Year, 1694.) and they have strongly fortified and built several Churches and Monasteries upon it. The Commodities in which they chiefly trade with the *Chinese* are Pepper, Cinnamon, Cloves, Sanders (very useful in dying) Callicoes: The Medicinal Wood, *Pucho*; Ebony, red dying Wood; Wine and a sort of Birds Nests found in the above-mentioned Island. These Birds Nests are esteemed a very good Restorative Med'cine: They are commonly boiled for a quarter of an Hour, and not longer in Chicken broth; for if it be suffered to boil longer, the whole would dissolve: each Pound of this cost three, and sometimes four Laens; and the white is esteemed best. *Arecca* being the Fruit of a certain Palm, which is hard, bitter and astringent, is also brought hither to be sold: The *Indians* commonly chew

(*) *Macao*, saith *Le Comte*, is famous for the former vast commerce of the *Portuguese* there, before the *Hollanders* justled them out of almost all *India*: And at present they are not able to keep many Forces there. Here is a very good Road for Ships to ride; the Haven indeed is but small, but safe and very commodious. All Customs on imported Goods are the Emperors: and tho' the *Portuguese* have yet a sort of form of Government there, yet (as we have elsewhere hinted more largely) they are subject to the *Mandaryns* in all cases which concern the Emperor

it with the leaves which they call Betel; which washed in a little Lime-water become red: and the Spittle of those who chew it is of a Blood colour: And any Person not accustomed to this usage upon trying of it turns very red in the face and inebriated.

This Plant is greatly celebrated and very much used in *India*; they biting and chewing it the whole Day, as perpetually as some smook Tobacco in other places: It is hot and dry, warms the Stomach and helps Digestion: It is also boiled in Water, and being astringent, is used in case of Fluxes. There are also brought hither Rhinocero's Horns, Ivory, Furrs, and Red Lacca, from whence the finest sticks of Sealing-wax are prepared: This Drugg is the Excrement of a sort of Worms or Ants, which sticks to the Leaf and Wood of the Plants. We shall hereafter treat of the Fruits.

This Province abounds with brown and white Sugar; and great quantities of Silk are wrought here, of which all sorts of Goods are made, and transported hence to *India* and other places. The *Indians* also buy here great quantities of Porcelain, Tin, Iron, and Copper-work, Paper and several other Merchandises and Rarities, most of which are paid for in Silver; but on the other side a great deal of Gold is transported from *China* to *India*.

The chief City of this Kingdom is called *Quangchen Fu*; an extraordinary fine City: which is stocked with and trades in all sorts of *European* and *Indian* Commodities. About four *French* Miles distant from this City is a Village called *Fuxan*, where the greatest Trade in all *China* is drove: for the Inhabitants are richly stocked with all sorts of Manufactures: And it is reported that sixty thousand Families live in this Village.

This Province hath suffered very much by War. In the beginning of the Revolution of the Empire, the chief City was besieged by two petty Kings, Princes of the (*) Imperial Blood, with a very great Army, and for above the space of one Year, furiously assaulted

(*) These Princes were afterwards, one of them King of *Quantong*, and the other of *Fokien*: But those Monarchies were but of short duration; nor did they devolve on their Heirs; for one after the other they were both continually accused of some Crime or other; but indeed the true reason of their fall was, that reasons of State would not permit the Jealous *Tartar* to suffer any Princes of the Antient Race, of which the *Chinese* were not a little fond. This was also the chief reason why *Osangouei's* Posterity were killed, whatever specious pretences were made use of to colour the Barbarity; such were those drawn from the rigorous *Chinese* Laws, which directed the punishment of Treason to the Ninth Generation, and that they were thereby forced to it.

Southwards on *Siam*, and Westwards on *Pegu*: But is a Country of no manner of Commerce.

Siam is a very large Kingdom, which is frequently infested with Wars and Confusions: 'twas formerly subject and tributary to this Empire, but taking advantage of its distant situation and the various Revolutions of the *Chinese* Monarchy, that Kingdom hath like *Pegu* shook off the Yoke. This is a Kingdom of a very wide extent, but the Land is waste, untilled and uninhabited: and its People living mostly in Woods and Wilderneses, behave themselves rather like Wild Beasts than reasonable Creatures. They build or erect Hutts made of Hides; and the whole Country abounds with Woods, which harbour Elephants, Rhinoceros's, Buffles, Wild-Oxen, Tygers, Bears, and several other Wild-Beasts. Here are great Herds of Apes as big as Children. The Woods are very closely crouded with lofty Trees, of the heighth of Forty or Fifty Ells; some of which are also so thick that seven or eight Men joining Hands can hardly begirt them, and one Trunk is large enough to hew out a Boat. Here are innumerable quantities of Crocodiles, which devour Men alive, and are four or five Ells long: Which renders travelling either by Water or Land very dangerous in all parts of this Country: As it is also at *Pegu*, *Laos*, *Camboja*, &c. The Inhabitants of all which Countries, wear the same sort of Habits, and very nearly agree in their Customs and Manner of living; but differ in their Language and way of Writing. They are all Heathens, and extravagantly reverence or rather Idolize their Priests. Their Pagods or Temples are all of Brick, but very numerous and ornamental: Their Idolatrons Images are large, beautiful, and finely guilt, some of them being about ten Ells high. The Streets and several spacious places are adorned with large Turrets, about Fifty or Sixty Ells high, gilded all over on the outside. These Idols were brought by the *Bramines* (so their Priests are called) out of *India*, as is above-mentioned in the XXI. Chapter.

The King keeps his Court at *Jutia*, which is also called *Siam*; this is a large, and upon an exterior view seems a very fine City, but is very desolate within: The *Dutch* have a House or Factory at the City of *Ligor*, and the *English*, *Portugueze*, *Mogols*, *Persians*, and *Chinese*, trade very considerably here; nay several *Portugueze* live in the City. Formerly the *Europeans* enjoy'd great Immunities, here; but at present are abridged of some of them, on the following occasion.