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## Marco Polo in Latin – beginnings of a critical edition

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## **Abstract:** Marco Polo in Latin – beginnings of a critical edition

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Marco Polo's (1254–1324) description of the Far East has been translated into and published in every language imaginable. Marco Polo is reputed to have dictated the work to Rustichello, a writer of knightly romances, who wrote it down in a mixture of French and Italian. The Dominican Francesco Pipino of Bologna translated it into Latin somewhere between 1310 and 1322. This translation was the one used by the learned Europe in the Middle Ages and beyond, which of course renders it culturally important.

The fact that some 60 known manuscripts exist points to its status as a bestseller. And yet, there is still no critical edition, so I have undertaken the task of preparing one. So far, I have begun studying the manuscripts found in the Vatican Library and made a preliminary transcription of one of them, but most of the work remains. In this presentation, I shall introduce the project in more detail and give some comments regarding my achievements and ideas so far