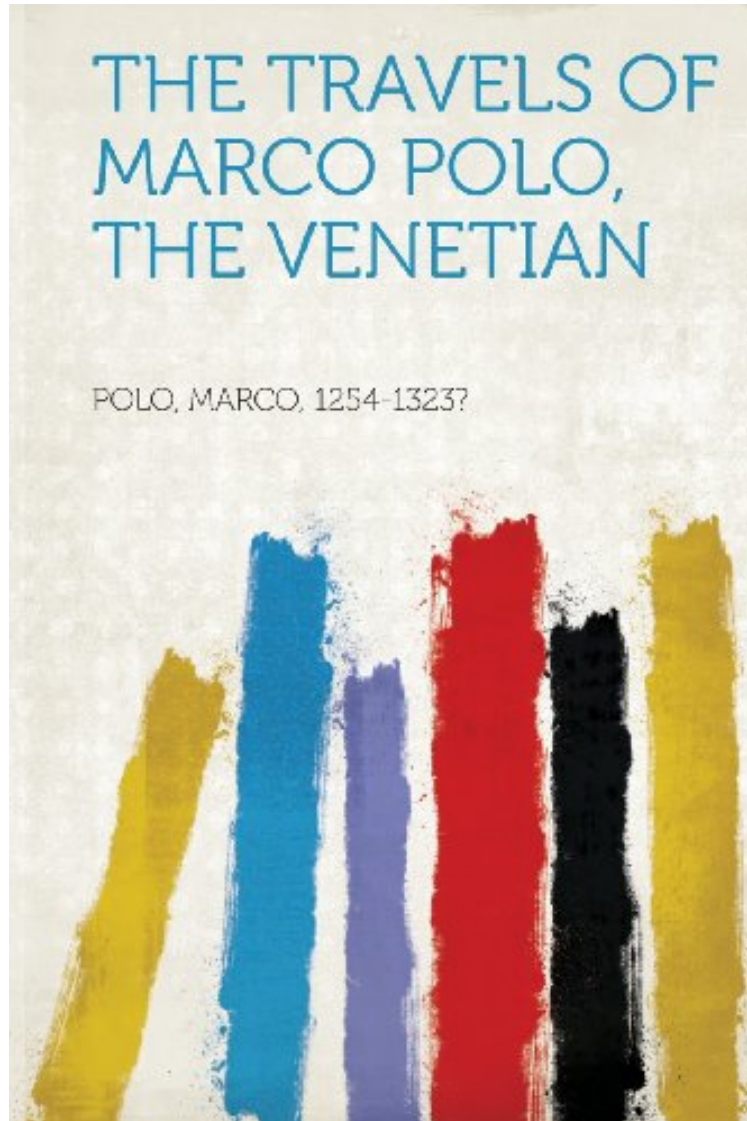


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The Travels of Marco Polo, the Venetian

Marco Polo

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About the AuthorNe a Venise en1254, Marco Polo a dix-sept ans quand son pere l'emmene faire un voyage qui le conduit au bout du monde connu: en Chine. La, il sert l'empereur Koubilai Khan pendant dix-sept ans et visite tout l'Extreme-Orient avant de rentrer chez lui avec beaucoup de choses a raconter. C'est pendant qu'il est en prison a Genes qu'il dicte le recit de ce qu'il a vu: Le Livre des Merveilles. Apres avoir couru mille dangers, Marco Polo est mort dans son lit, a Venise, a l'age de soixante-dix ans.John Masefield (1878-1967) is in the highest class as a writer of clear, muscular English, whether he is writing about the countryside he loved so well, or, as in this book, the sea, with which he maintained that love-hate relationship which is the hallmark of the genuine seaman, ' writes Professor Lloyd. Brought up in Herefordshire and soon orphaned, Masefield was trained on the Conway at Liverpool, served his apprenticeship in windjammers, sailed around the Horn and was beached in New York before he was eighteen. His experiences in these impressionable years stayed with him for the rest of his life. Back in England at the turn of the century, Masefield worked for the Manchester "Guardian" and published two books of verse (one which contained 'Sea Fever') and a collection of short stories before "Sea Life" in "Nelson's Time" was published in 1905. He became famous in 1911 with the publication of "Everlasting Mercy", when the use of the word 'bloody' created a sensation. Reynard the Fox, published in 1919, consolidated his position. In 1930 he was appointed Poet Laureate and other honours followed, notably the Order of Merit in 1935.