

It was the story of Marco Polo, Citizen of Venice, private counselor and general imperial commissioner of Khoubilai-Khaän.

It was the narrative of an anonymous sailor, who was shipwrecked on the western coast of Africa in the year 1810. He was detained three years in slavery by the Arabs of the great desert, and resided several months in the city of Timbuktu.

It was a story about the herbs, trees, four footed beasts, fish, birds, insects and reptiles of the islands of Madeira, Barbados, St. Christophers and Jamaica.

And a story about the humming birds.

And about the eastern harbor seal.

And about the Korean tiger.

And about the clown triggerfish.

And about the deep-sea lizardfish.

And about the European butterflies.

And about the two chambered hearts of the black Chimaera, the deep sea shark of the subtropical seas.

It was the entire history of the tribe of Bani-Khalid, spanning the whole arabic peninsula, said to be the descendants of Prophet Mohammed's companion "Khaled ibn Al-Waleed".

It was also a description of the secret rites of the Sioux Indians.

And a story about the dances of the Cossacks of Novosibirsk.

It was a wonderful anatomical description of the whale beached on the east of the harbour of Ostende, on 4 November 1827.

It was all about the cryptogamic flora of Flanders.

And the lapidary of the 14th century.

And the coming transits of Venus.

And the so-called mechanical poisons of mussels.

It was an accurate description of the sexual life of aquatic salamanders and the development of the tadpole of these salamanders from the egg to the adult animal.

And the Jinzen mountain of Formosa.

And the diseased sycamore leaf of Utah.

And the pigmies of the Ituri Rain Forest.

And the geometry of twin cristals.

It was the story of a prehistoric frilled shark found on the shores of the Sea of Japan.

It was all about the sexual life of the leatherback turtle.

It was the blue-green bird-of-paradise.

It was the truth about the mammoth.

It was the Galapagos Mouse of Santa Cruz.

It was the Mangostan and the Bread-fruit. The first esteemed to be the most delicious; the other, the most useful of all the fruits of the East-Indies.

The flexible lips and the strong agile tongue of the black bear.

The 24 species of shorttailed crabs of the Red Sea.

The serpents of Florida.

The rain forest of Senegal.

The red fox of North America with his sharp pointy face.

The blind cray fish of Indiana.

Martha, the last passenger pigeon.

The wanderings of the water buffalo.

The Legume Tree of the South-East bay of Great Andaman.

The nocturnal birds of prey.

The fresh water octopus with arms in the form of horns.

the Casas Grandes meteorite.

The pines and furs of Japan.

The Jacamar.

The polypore mushroom.

The parrot fish.

The river horse of Liberia.

The travels of the Bluebird.

The rare moths of Georgia.

The North American starfish.

The young crab eater of lower Hudson valley.

The peak of Derbyshire.

The fossil of an extinct species of boa.

The birds of Carolina.

The spectral series.

The fish of the Bahama Islands.

The law of the winds.

The life of matter.

The british royal wasps.

The common frog.