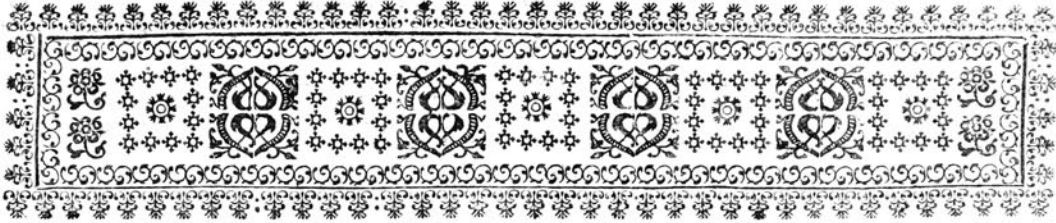


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A
 V O Y A G E
 INTO THE
 L E V A N T .
 By the KING's Express Command.



The Occasion and Design of this Voyage.

THE Count *de Pontchartrain*, Secretary of State, to whose Care the Academies are committed, and who is ever intent upon promoting the Sciences, mov'd his Majesty, towards the End of the Year 1699, to send abroad into foreign Countries some Persons that were capable of making pertinent Observations, not only upon the natural History, and the old and new Geography of those Parts, but likewise in relation to the Commerce, Religion, and Manners of the different People inhabiting there.

THE King, by whose Command I had formerly perform'd some Voyages in *Europe*, was pleas'd to pitch upon me for this of the *Levant* likewise.

Vol. I.

B

That

A VOYAGE into the Levant.

That great Prince, who by his Protection and Beneficence is ever contributing to the Advancement of all the noble Sciences, being already exceedingly pleas'd with the curious Discoveries, which, under his Auspices, the Gentlemen of the Royal Academy of Sciences have from time to time made in the most distant Climates: the King, I say, caus'd it to be signify'd to me, that I must set out for the *Levant*, there to make Remarks on every thing worthy notice.

I WAS overjoy'd at this further opportunity of gratifying the strong Passion I always had to travel into remote Places, where by personally studying Nature and Men, a much surer Foundation is laid, than by reading in one's Closet. I begg'd *M. de Portchartrain* to let me have the chusing of the Persons who were to accompany me in the Execution of this Design.

I WANTED a couple of stanch Men that could be depended upon, and who were of a humour to share with me the Inconveniences inseparable from long Journeys. Nothing is so dismal, as to fall sick in a Country where one knows no body, and where Physick is unknown. It frets a Man too, to see fine Objects, and not be able to take Draughts of them; for without this help of *Drawing*, 'tis impossible any Account thereof should be perfectly intelligible. By a singular good fortune, and which answer'd all my Wishes, I found in the Persons of Messieurs *Gundelscheimer* and *Aubriet* two real Friends; the one an excellent Physician, the other as good a Painter. *M. Gundelscheimer*, a Native of *Anspach* in *Franconia*, is at this time Counsellor and Physician to the Electoral Prince of *Brandenburgh*. To an extreme Passion for Natural History, he has join'd a compleat Knowledge of Vegetables and Physicks in general. I am beholden to his Care, for great part of the scarce Plants which I shall mention in the course of this Work.

M. AUBRIET of *Chalons* in *Champagne*, is no less industrious than skilful in painting in miniature the Plants of the Royal Garden. Nothing has hitherto been seen so beautiful in that way: and accordingly his Ability has merited him the Place of *Painter of the King's Closet*.

SECURE that these Gentlemen were my Well-wishers, I presented them to *M. L'Abbé Bignon*; whose marvellous Taste for all the Sciences, made him long ago sensible how necessary it was to go and ascertain one's self upon

The Occasion and Design of this Voyage.

3

upon the spot, concerning what the Antients knew of Natural History, and principally of Vegetables. And indeed, after having rang'd under their respective *Genus's* all such as are already known, what could a Man do more advantageous for Botany, than to enrich it with new *Species*, particularly such as were made use of by the antient Physicians in the Cure of *Maladies*?

SOME time afterwards, *M. de Pontchartrain* fix'd our Departure for the ninth of *March*, 1700. He wrote a Letter to *M. L'Abbé Bignon*, President of the Royal Academy of Sciences, to let him know that the King had order'd me to go into *Greece*, to the Islands of the *Archipelago*, and into *Asia*; to make diligent Search after things relating to Natural History; to inform my self touching the several Distempers and Medicaments in those Countries; to compare the Antient Geography with the Modern; and that his Majesty had granted me an Assistant, as likewise a Painter, and would defray all the Charges of our Voyage.

THIS Letter was read in the Assembly the 16th of *February*. The Society express'd a great deal of Joy at an Undertaking which promis'd so well for Physicks, and which shew'd how much his Majesty had at heart the perfecting the different parts thereof. At the same time *M. L'Abbé Bignon* propos'd to them *M. Gundelschëimer*, who was unanimously accepted, and his Letters were expedited in quality of the Academy's Agent, to aid me in my Labours. He thank'd the Society at the first Meeting, and was present at all the rest till the day of our departure, which was the sixth of *March*, when we took our leave of them, and afterwards went to *Versailles*, to receive the last Orders of *M. de Pontchartrain*, and of the King's chief Physician. *M. Fagon*, who so distinguishingly possesses that Post, not content with having oftentimes spoken to the King concerning the Advantages that might accrue from such a Voyage towards the illustrating of Natural History, was further pleas'd to introduce me to his Majesty; who with his wonted Goodness accepted a Book which he had given me leave to dedicate to him.

¹ Institutiones
Rei Herbariæ.

THE 9th of *March* we set out in the Flying-Coach, and reach'd *Lyon*s in seven days and a half. Here we saw the Collection of rare Plants, which *M. Goiffon* observ'd in the *Alps*. That learned Physician promises the Publick not only a History of the Vegetables growing in the Neighbourhood

B 2

bourhood

4

A VOYAGE into the Levant.

bourhood of *Lyons*, but also several uncommon Observations in Anatomy; and above all, such as concern the Structure of the Ear. *M. Goiffon* brought us acquainted with *Father de Colonia*, Library-Keeper of the Jesuits, a learned Antiquary. He has collected, in a very short time, an amazing number of *Greek* and *Latin* Medals, Idols, Utensils serving for the Heathen Sacrifices, Weights and Measures of the Antients, Talismans; and in fine, every thing that regards Polite Antiquity.

THE 16th of *March* we fell down the *Rhone* to *Condrieu*, a Village in *Dauphiny*, seven Leagues from *Lyons*, and two from *Vienne*. The next day we lay at *Pouzin*, a little Town four Leagues below *Valence*.

A I X.

THE 18th we went ashore at *Avignon*, from whence we set forward for *Aix*, a Day's Journey from *Avignon*. Without being partial to the Place of my Nativity I speak it, *Aix* for its bigness is one of the best-built agreeable Cities in all *France*. After I had embrac'd my Relations, we went and paid our Respects to *M. de Boyer d'Aiguilles*, Counsellor in Parliament: and however curious his Pictures are, we were less affected by them than by his own personal Merit. That learned Magistrate not only excels in the Knowledge of Antiquity, but is endow'd with that exquisite Taste for *Drawing*, which gives such an additional Lustre to the Great Men in that kind. *M. d'Aiguilles* has caus'd to be grav'd part of his Collection, upon a hundred large Plates, after the Originals of *Raphael*, *Titian*, *Michael Angelò*, *Paul Veronese*, *Corregio*, *Carrachio*, *Tintoret*, *Guido*, *Poussin*, *Bourdon*, *Le Sueur*, *Puget*, *Valentine*, *Rubens*, *Vandyke*, and other Masters. That worthy Gentleman must permit me to tell the World, that some of those Plates he grav'd with his own Hand; that the Frontispieces of the two Volumes, which compose the said Collection, are of his own Invention; that the Engravers, for the Truth of the *Contours*, and the Force of the Expressions, were directed intirely by himself. There cannot be a nobler Diversion for a Man of Quality, who, over and above, so worthily discharges the Duties of his high Station.

M. DE THOMASSIN MAZARUGUES is another Counsellor of the Parliament of *Provence*: a Gentleman of distinguish'd Merit, who puts us in hopes of a Collection of Letters by *M. de Peyresc*, which in Manuscript have been handed about through the whole Kingdom. That indefatigable

The Occasion and Design of this Voyage.

5

rigable Man left above 100 Letters all of his own Hand-writing, as M. *Spon* observes. It is confidently reported, that M. *de Peyresc's* Heirs, for one whole Winter, made use of the Papers they found in his Clofet for Firing to warm themselves. Better had it been to have burnt Cedar, or the Wood of Aloes: Enough of both these, Nature every day produces; but such a Man as M. *de Peyresc*, the World perhaps may never see.

AMONG the other Literati of our Town, is reckon'd M. *Gautier*, Prior *de la Valette*; that great Astronomer, so prais'd by *Gassendus*. *Scaliger*¹ and ² *Casaubon*, who were not over-lavish of their Encomiums, agree that M. *de Rasca de Bagarris*, Clofet-Keeper to *Henry IV.* was one that understood all the antique Monuments wonderfully well. We must not forget *Hannibal Fabrot*, an eminent Lawyer, and who was a perfect Master of the *Greek* Tongue, and thorowly knew the Oriental History, as is apparent from the Versions he made of some Volumes of the *Byzantine* History, and his learned Notes upon the most obscure Passages. Father *Thomassin* and Father *Cabassut*, Priests of the Oratory, will for ever be an Honour to the City of *Aix*. Their Erudition was unbounded, as likewise was that of Father *Pagi* a *Cordelier*, one of the profoundest Chronologers of the last Age.

¹ Scalig. Opu-
cula.

² De Satir.
Poefi.

THERE are few Cities in the Kingdom, or perhaps in *Europe*, where there have been more Cabinets of Curiosities: nay, at this very time there are very fine things to be seen, especially at the Intendant M. *le Bret's*. Hardly any Ship comes from the *Levant* to *Provence*, but either the Merchants or some of the Sailors bring with them Medals, grav'd Stones, or other Rarities of Antiquity; which they easily find vent for, because the Parliament and the other superiour Courts being held at *Aix*, the Country is oblig'd to repair thither as the Centre of Business.

THE 27th of *March* we arriv'd at *Marfeilles*. The first thing I did, MARSEILLES.
 was to wait upon the Commissioners of Trade, to whom I imparted the Orders M. *de Pontchartrain* had charg'd me with. There being no Ship ready to set out for the *Levant*, we had time enough to view the Beauties of that City, and to admire the Alterations which have been made there in this Reign. If they go on building in the same magnificent manner, *Marfeilles* will soon recover the Lustre it had in the time of the *Greeks* and *Romans*: for all that we see there of the old Town is the

Work

6

A VOYAGE into the Levant.

Work of later Times, which even then had a tang of the *Gothick* Ignorance and Barbarism.

Rerum Geog.
lib. 4.

STRABO, the exactest of the antient Geographers, as great an Admirer as he was of the *Asiatick* Buildings, wherein nothing was used but Marble and the glittering Granate, describes *Marfeilles* as a City very handsomly built, and of a considerable Largeness, dispos'd in manner of a Theatre round a Haven naturally form'd by Rocks. Peradventure it was yet more superb before the Reign of *Augustus*, under whom *Strabo* liv'd: for that Author, speaking of *Cyzicus* as one of the bravest Cities of *Asia*, has this Observation, That it was beautify'd with the same Ornaments of Architecture, as had been formerly seen at *Rhodes*, *Carthage*, and *Marfeilles*.

¹ Λακύνδων.
Eustath. ad
Dionys. Perieg.
v. 75.
Ibid. lib. 12.

² Κήσιμα ἢ ἐστὶ
Φωγείων ἢ
Μαυσαλία.
Strab. Rer.
Geog. lib. 4.

³ Γνώμων.
Strab. ibid.
lib. 2.

THERE are not to be found any Remains of that antient Splendour: it were but labour lost, to look for the Foundations of *Apollo's* and *Diana's* Temples, which its Founders, the ² *Phoceans*, had erected there. All that we know of the matter, is, that those Edifices were in the highest part of the Town. Neither can we find the place where *Pytheas* fix'd his famous ³ Needle, for determining the Elevation of the Pole of *Marfeilles*. *Pytheas*, who was of this Town, and who flourish'd in *Alexander's* time, was, according to *Gassendus*, the antientest of all the Men of Letters that the East produc'd. Glorious it is for *France*, as *M. Cassini*, the best Astronomer of our Age, observes, to have given Birth to a Person capable of carrying his Speculations to a point of Subtilty, which the *Greeks* had not then been able to attain, though they assum'd to themselves the Invention of all Sciences.

⁴ Tacit. in Vit.
Agr. cap. 4.

MARSEILLES may not only boast of having given the Sciences Induction into *Gaul*, but likewise of having form'd one of the three most famous Academies in the World, and of having shared her Scholars with *Athens* and *Rhodes*. ⁴ *Marfeilles* was resorted to from all parts, for the Study of the *Belles Lettres* and Philosophy. The *Romans*, on account of its Politeness, sent their Children to be educated there: and the *Gauls*, who were not over-proud of that Virtue, were so delighted with the *Greek* Tongue, which was spoken in its Purity at ⁵ *Marfeilles*, that they made use of it even in their publick Acts.

⁵ Strab. Rer.
Geog. lib. 4.

THO

The Occasion and Design of this Voyage.

7

THO the People of *Marfeilles* at present make Trade and Commerce their principal Occupation, yet it is a Place that often produces very ingenious Men in every respect. 'Tis with just reason that *France* has admired the Eloquence of M. *Mascaron* Bishop of *Agen*. The Chevalier *d'Hervieu* was well skill'd in the Oriental Tongues. M. *Rigord* is eminent among the Antiquaries, as is Father *Feuillee*, a *Minime*, among the Astronomers. Father *Plumier* of the same Order, and of the same Town, has immortaliz'd himself by the Discovery of above nine hundred Plants, which had escap'd the diligence of other Travellers into *America*. He died toward the Close of the Year 1704, at *Port St. Mary* over against *Cadiz*, where he was waiting for Passage to *Peru*, by the King's Order.

WE were not long at *Marfeilles* e'er we went to see the last Performances of M. *Puget*, an admirable Sculptor, great Painter, and excellent Architect. M. Puget's Elogium. He was born at *Marfeilles* in 1623, of Parents who had not Estate enough to keep up their Name. The happy Dispositions he had for *Drawing*, discover'd themselves as soon as he could well hold a Pencil. At fourteen Years of Age he was put out to the *Sieur Roman*, the ablest Sculptor and best Shipwright; who, after two Years, was so satisfi'd with his Disciple, that he left it to him intirely to build a Gally of considerable magnitude, and likewise to do the carving part. After this Specimen, young *Puget* set out for *Italy*, and tarry'd about a Year at *Florence*, where he wrought half a dozen graven Stands for Candlesticks by the Great Duke's Order. This would have procur'd him more considerable Work, if the strong Desire he had to see *Rome* had not induc'd him to quit that Court. At *Rome* he apply'd himself intirely to Painting, and gave so well into *Peter de Cortona's* Manner, that that eminent Artift happening one day to pass by a House where M. *Puget* had set out one of his Pictures for show, he had the Curiosity to go in, and engag'd the Author to accompany him to *Florence*, whither he was sent for, to paint a Gallery for the Great Duke: but M. *Puget* soon went back to *Rome*, being promis'd by a certain Person, Agent to the Queen Mother, that he should be employ'd by her Majesty in drawing the finest Pieces of Antiquity. He acquitted himself perfectly well of this Commission, and took such a Relish for Painting, that he staid there near fifteen Years; and

A VOYAGE into the Levant.

and had not come away then, but to look after what little Matters his Father had left him. The Duke *de Brezé*, Grand Admiral of *France*, order'd him to make a Model of as noble a Ship as he could invent: which Model was follow'd, and the Ship was named the *Queen*. He then invented those beautiful Galleries, which Foreigners have so much admir'd, and but faintly imitated. He drew some Pieces at *Thoulon*, a *St. Felix* in the Church of the Capuchins, an Annunciation for the Dominicans, and another Picture which is in the Cathedral. At *La Valette* near *Thoulon* are seen three Pieces of his; one at the high Altar, representing *St. John* writing the Apocalypfe; *St. Joseph* in the Agony of Death; and *St. Hermentarius*.

AT *Marseilles* he painted, for the Church *de la Majour*, the baptizing of *Clovis*, and that of *Constantin*: but that Piece of his call'd the Saviour of the World, is, if possible, more beautiful. The Jesuits have in their House at *Aix* two Paintings by this excellent Man, the Annunciation, and the Visitation of the Virgin. The Education of *Achilles* is the last thing he did: it remains in his Son's Gallery.

M. PUGET had, in 1657, so dangerous a Fit of Sicknefs, that after his Recovery he was advis'd by his Friends and Physician never any more to meddle with Painting. But how was it possible to check so lively a Fancy, seconded by such capable Hands? However, whether it was because Sculpture was easier to him, or that he had a mind to go on with the Models he was then upon purely for his diversion, he never apply'd himself any more to Painting. Some time afterwards he began that fine Gate of the Town-House of *Thoulon*, whose two * *Termini* under the Balcony, the Marquis *de Seignelay* was so pleas'd with, as to propose to the King to have them brought to *Versailles*. The Arms of *France* in Basso-Relievo of Marble, was another piece of Work done about the same time by M. Puget; and is one of the chief Ornaments of the Town-House of *Marseilles*.

HE came to *Paris* in 1659, being invited thither by M. *Girardin*; who for some time employ'd him at his Seat of *Vaudreuil* in *Normandy*, to make two large Figures; which M. *le Pautru* was so taken with, that he

* *Figures*, the upper part like a human Shape, and ending in a Pedestal; call'd *Termini* by the *Antients*, who us'd them for Boundaries, and number'd them among their Gods. The French call them *Termes*.

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The Occasion and Design of this Voyage.

9

advis'd M. *Fouquet* to make use of so great Master in the Works of *Vaux-le-Vicomte*. Marble being a scarce Commodity at *Paris*, that Minister, who had an exquisite Taste for every thing that was excellent, order'd M. *Puget* to go to *Italy*, and buy up as many Blocks of Marble as he pleas'd: by this means he was the first Man that made that beautiful Stone so familiar to us. While he was at *Genoa* freighting three Shipload of it, he carv'd that noble *Hercules*, which is now at *Seaux*, leaning on a Shield charg'd with Flower-de-luces. The News of that Minister's Disgrace, kept him at *Genoa* longer than he propos'd. He left there two admirable Figures, St. *Sebastian* and St. *Ambrose*, placed among the Pillars of the Cupola of St. *Peter de Carignan*. Under that of St. *Ambrose*, he has represent'd the blessed *Alexander Sauli*, a Prelate of an exemplary Life, whose Ancestors founded that Church. M. *Puget* did likewise acquire great Fame by his Piece of the Virgin, which is in the Palace of *Balbi*.

THE Duke of *Mantua* about the same time caus'd him to make a Basso-Relievo of the Assumption, which drew thither the Cavalier *Bernini*; and that great Man allow'd it to be a compleat Piece. The Duke left nothing unattempted to engage M. *Puget* in his Service, and promis'd him some considerable Posts in the Government; but died soon after.

MARIA SAULI, a Nobleman of *Genoa*, who after the example of his Ancestors has expended great Sums for adorning the Church of St. *Peter de Carignan*, pray'd M. *Puget* to make a Model of a Canopy for the great Altar. This Work shews to what a degree of Perfection that incomparable Man had carry'd Architecture. Whilst he was preparing to execute it, M. *Colbert*, upon M. *Bernini*'s Character of him, oblig'd him to come to *France* by the King's Command; where his Majesty honour'd him with a Pension of 1200 Crowns, in quality of Sculptor, and Director of the Works which regarded the Shipping and Gallies. M. *Puget*, desirous to go upon things of a longer duration, after having done his Duty in that respect, undertook a Basso-Relievo of *Alexander* and *Diogenes*: it is the grandest Piece of Sculpture he ever perform'd; but he did not finish it till a little before he died. *Milo Crotoniensis* was the first and finest Performance of M. *Puget*, that ever came to *Versailles*: Anguish and Rage are imprinted upon the Visage of *Milo*; every Muscle

Vol. I.

C

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A VOYAGE into the Levant.

of the Body is expressive of the Strugglings of that sturdy Prize-fighter, to disengage one of his Hands caught fast within the Trunk of a rifted Tree, which he was trying to pull in pieces; whilst with the other he is tearing up by the roots the Tongue of a Lion that was going to devour him behind.

THE Marquis *de Louvois*, Super-Intendant of the Buildings after *M. Colbert's* Death, wrote to *M. Puget*, that his Majesty was desirous he would undertake a Groupe, to accompany that of *Milo*. *M. Puget* made the Model of his *Andromeda*, but finding himself indispos'd, he caus'd one of his Disciples to rough-hew it; and after he himself had finish'd the same, it was presented to his Majesty by his Son. The King not only honour'd him with the Character of a most excellent Sculptor, but likewise stiled him Inimitable.

SOME Years afterwards, passing through *Marfeilles*, I told *M. Puget* that the Figure of *Andromeda* was thought to be too small, and that *Perseus* look'd a little oldish for so young a Hero. He answer'd me very calmly, that one of his Men named *Verrier*, who was since grown very eminent in Statuary, had in the rough-hewing made the Figure of *Andromeda* a little too short; but yet that there would be found in it the same Proportions as in the *Venus of Medicis*. As for that of *Perseus*, added he smiling, the Down on his Cheeks denotes him to be of no such advanc'd Age.

M. PUGET has preserv'd his Father's final Work, namely, the Bas-Relief of *St. Charles*, wherein the Plague of *Milan* is represented in so moving a manner. This beautiful Piece was long ago bespoke by the Abbot *de la Chambre*, Curate of *St. Bartholomew*: but it was very late e'er *M. Puget* finish'd it. His Son has, in Wax, the Equestrial Figure of the King, which was to have been erected in the Royal Square at *Marfeilles*, of which likewise his Father had drawn the Plan. *M. Lauthier* a celebrated Lawyer, and *M. Girardon* his Majesty's Sculptor in chief, have some Sea-Pieces done with a Pen by *M. Puges*: they are perfectly charming.

EQUALLY happy in Invention, Fecundity of Fancy, Nobleness of Taste, and Correctness of Design, he animated the very Marble, and made it as it were breathe: The hardest Stones soften'd and grew tender
 under