

Misson, François Maximilien; Goodwin, Timothy [Oth.]; Wotton, Matthew [Oth.]; Manship, Samuel [Oth.]; Tooke, Benjamin [Oth.]: A New Voyage to Italy: With Curious Observations On several other Countries, as Germany, Switzerland, Savoy, Geneva, Flanders, and Holland. Together, With Useful Instructions for those who shall Travel thither. Done out of French. In Two Volumes (Vol. I.)

London: Printed for T. Goodwin, at the Queen's-Head; M. Wotton, at the Three-Daggers in Fleet-street; S. Manship, at the Ship in Cornbil; and B. Took at the Middle-Temple-Gate in Fleet-street, 1699

An Account of the Croisade.

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The three Letters of Pope *Boniface* are kept in the Publick Palace of *Genoua*, among the Archives of the Republick; and I must own, it was by a great Favour that I obtain'd the communication thereof. I do not pretend however to say, that they were never publish'd; but I may affirm, that I could never meet with them, tho' I have enquir'd into the Matter as much as possible. Whatever it be, this Transaction must be very little known to the World, seeing the *Chevalier de Mailli* does not take notice of it in the History of *Genoua*, wherewith not long ago he obliged the World. Father *Maimburg* knew nothing of it likewise, having not so much as hinted at it in his History of the *Croisades*, tho' he seems to want words to extol * *Margaret* of France, Widow to *Bela* the third King of *Hungary*, who crossed herself, and went with the Christian Princes to the Relief of the Holy Land.

The more I think on this Undertaking of the Ladies of *Genoua*, the more I am perswaded that there was some Mystery in the Case. To see a kind of *Amazon*, a stout and strong Woman in an Army, is no subject of Wonder: There are several Examples of it; but to see a considerable number of Ladies of Quality brought up tenderly according to their Birth, taking on a sudden a Cuirass, as by way of Inspiration, and forsaking their Husbands, Children, Relations, and Pleasures, to expose themselves, to no purpose, to the merciless Waves, and horrors of the War, is, in my Opinion, such an extraordinary thing, that I cannot believe so odd a Fancy could enter the Thoughts of any rational Person. I said to no purpose, for what could these pretended Amazons do? What Exploits could forty or fifty weak Women perform, without Strength, and Knowledge in the Military Art? for after all

* She was Daughter to Lewis the Young, and marry'd first Henry, surnamed by the French Court-Mantel, King of England, associate to Henry II. his Father in the Throne.