

How did the city of Bruges manage to purchase spices, silk and perfume without ever sending any of its ships to Constantinople?

Bruges

“So in the Middle Ages it was possible for Bruges to become the most important trade centre of north-west Europe. [...] Flemish cloth, a high quality woollen material, was exported to the whole of



Europe from Bruges. [...] In the city itself, there was not only Flemish cloth manufacture but all kinds of other (craft) trades had developed. [...] Merchants could open a current account here, transfer large sums, change money and even pay with notes.”

Source: www.brugge.be



Constantinople






“Large-scale commerce in the Mediterranean involved mostly luxury items: aromatics, tortoiseshell, amber, pearls, precious stones, Malaysian tin, Indian arms and perfume. [...] Spices, silk, precious stones and porcelain were imported from the Far East. [...] The republics of Venice, Pisa and Genoa were the main Occidental cities trading with the Orient.” [translation]





Source: <http://classes.bnf.fr/>






Trajectory 1

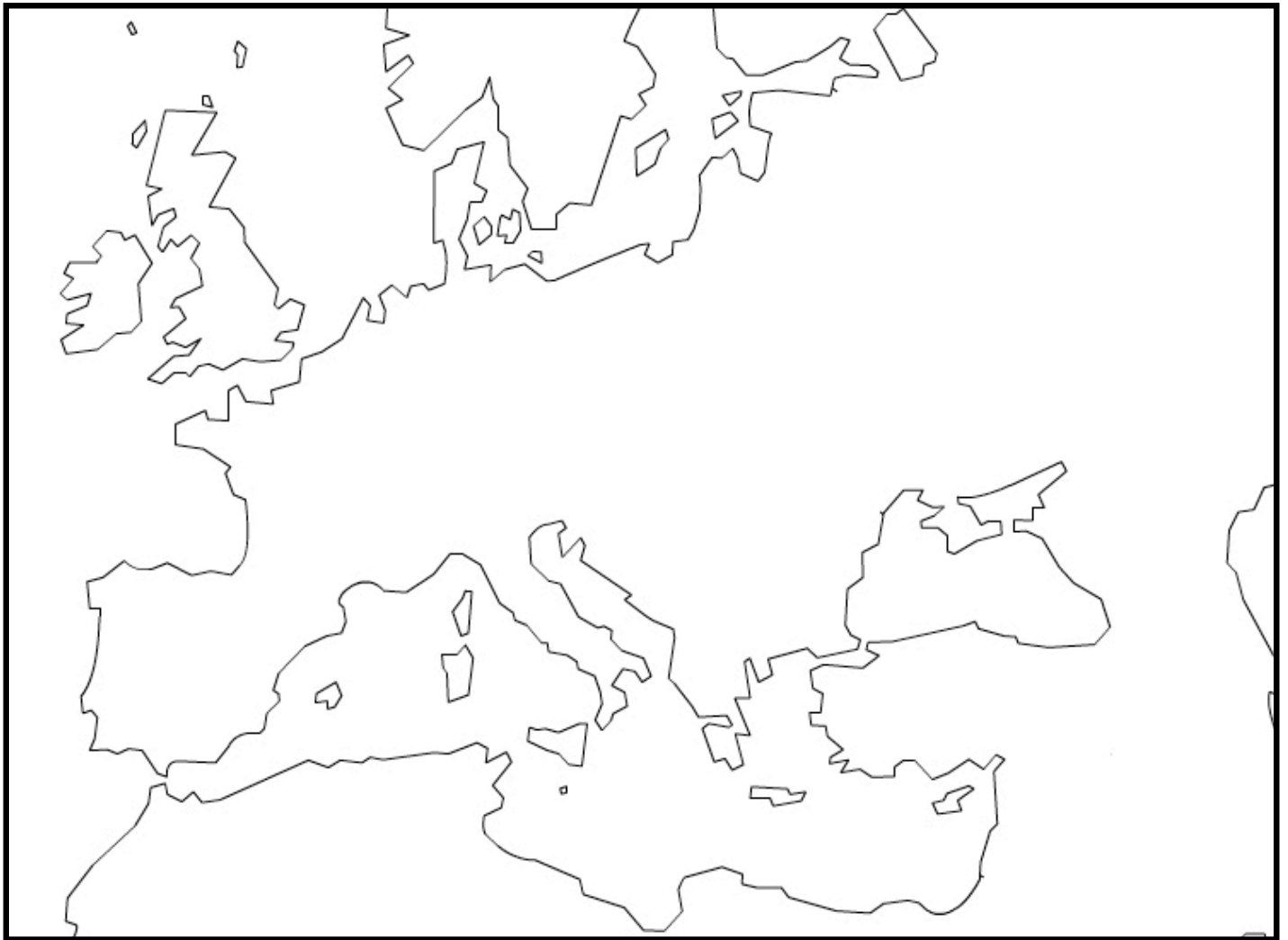
	City of Genoa
	Return to the city of Genoa

	<p>Visit to the banker</p> <p>In the name of the Lord, this fourth of April 1399. Upon receiving this letter please pay in due form the sum of 500 pounds to Francesco di Marco from Genoa. Please add this amount to my account. May God be with you.</p> <p>Accepted on June 4, 1399, in Constantinople.</p>
	<p>Visit to the banker</p> <p>In the name of the Lord, this fourth of April 1399. Upon receiving this letter please pay in due form the sum of 500 pounds to Francesco di Marco from Genoa. Please add this amount to my account. May God be with you.</p>
	<p>The sea is calm and the voyage was long. We are finally arriving in Constantinople!</p> <p>Francesco di Marco</p>
	<p>Purchase of spices, silk and perfume at the fair in Constantinople.</p>
	<p>First stop, Alexandria, where we unload wood and cloth.</p> <p>Francesco di Marco</p>

Trajectory 2

	City of Genoa
	Return to the city of Genoa

	<p>Visit to the banker</p> <p>In the name of the Lord, this eighteenth of September 1399. Upon receiving this letter please pay in due form the sum of 200 pounds to Brunaccio di Guido & Co. from Genoa. Please add this amount to my account. May God be with you.</p> <p>Accepted on August 10, 1399, in Bruges</p>
	<p>We unloaded our cargo of spices, silk and perfume. We then purchased excellent Flemish cloth in Bruges.</p>
	<p>July 1, 1399. We hit stormy weather at sea yesterday. May God protect us.</p>
	<p>Last stop in London before heading back out to sea. We picked up a cargo of woollens yesterday. The boat is completely full now, so we can begin the voyage home.</p>
	<p>Visit to the banker</p> <p>In the name of the Lord, this eighteenth of September 1399. Upon receiving this letter please pay in due form the sum of 200 pounds to Brunaccio di Guido & Co. from Genoa. Please add this amount to my account. May God be with you.</p>



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