

ODORIC OF PORDENONE

Italian Franciscan, traveler to the Far East (d. 1331).

Odorico da Pordenone (or del Friuli), Odoricus de Portu Naonis, sive de Foro Julii. The Christian name Odoric is the same as Ulric, Udalric, Vodaric, etc.

He was born at an unknown date between 1274 and 1286 in Villanova, a village near Pordenone, Valle Noncello, in the March of Friuli, just north of the head of the Adriatic. The family name was probably Mattiussi, and some of his ancestors may have come originally from Bohemia.

At an early age Odoric joined the Franciscan order, and soon became known for his asceticism and humility. In 1314 he set forth on his travels to the East. Odoric spent sixteen years in the East and returned to Padua in 1330. At the request of Guidotto, a priest in the parish of St. Anthony of Padua, Odoric dictated an account of his travels to a brother Franciscan, Guglielmo da Solagna. After this, Odoric started for the papal court at Avignon, but became ill in Pisa and turned back to Udine, in his own "paese" of Friuli, where he died on January 14, 1331. He was beatified by Benedict XIV in 1755.

The account of his travels attracted immediate attention. In 1340 another redaction was made in Avignon by Heinrich von Glatz, a Silesian Franciscan, and in 1351 it was translated into French by Long John of Ypres (XIV-2).

Although Odoric was an uneducated person and had no scientific curiosity, his descriptions are valuable as those of a fairly accurate observer; he was not always correct in his deductions, but always of good faith; in spite of its brevity, his chronicle contains many interesting facts not recorded by his contemporaries, or facts which the great Marco Polo had failed to observe. He must be considered one of the greatest travelers of the Middle Ages, and the best historian of the Catholic missions in China.

His itinerary was as follows. He went to Trebizond, then to Erzerum, Tabriz, Sultāniyah. He spent five or six years sharing the apostolic work of his brethren in that region. When he left Sultāniyah, he proceeded to Kāshān and Yazd, Persepolis (Ištākhr), Shirāz, Baghdād, Hurmuz (Ormuz), a harbor in the eastern part of the Persian Gulf (the order is not quite clear and seems strange). He sailed from Ormuz to Tana, near Bombay, in 28 days, landing there soon after April 3, 1321. He then traveled down the Malabar coast, stopping at many places including Ceylon, then up the coast of Coromandel as far as Mailāpur, where he took ship for the Malay peninsula. He landed in Sumatra, Java, Borneo, on the coast of Champa, and finally reached Canton. He then continued to Chang Chou (Zaiton; Introd. 2, 1055), Fuchow, Hangchow, Nanking, Yangchow, whence he sailed on the Grand Canal (Introd. 2, 981) to the Mongol capital Khānbaliq (Cambaluc, Peking). He remained three years in Khānbaliq, then returned more rapidly overland, via the provinces of Shansi, Shensi, Ssüch'uan, and farther on by an unknown road, with brother James of Ireland (Jacobus de Hibernia); it is not clear to me whether brother James was with him all the time or only on the return journey.

The best way of giving the reader some idea of the contents of Odoric's account is to select a few samples. In Chaldaea he saw the tower of Babel, or rather the Birs-i-Nimrūd (a part of the ruins of the great temple of Nabū at Borsippa), which he mistook for that tower. The same mistake was made by other mediaeval travelers, such as Benjamin of Tudela (XII-2). Indeed, the true tower of Babel was already in ruins when Alexander the Great arrived in Babylon (324 B.C.); Alexan-

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less than 40 mi. including the almost impassable Shieve Phelim mountains. Red Hugh's support of the Spanish commander, Juan del Aquila, who counseled an immediate attack against the advice of the more cautious O'Neill, may well have brought about the crushing defeat that may be regarded as the death blow of the old Gaelic Ireland. O'Donnell then went to Spain where he died, said to have been poisoned by an English agent, though this has never been fully proved.

Meanwhile his cousin and brother-in-law Niall Garve O'Donnell (1569-1625) had gone over to the English. Though Hugh had delegated his authority to his younger brother Rory when he left for Spain, Rory was never inaugurated in his place. After Hugh's death Niall Garve, who had meanwhile quarreled with the lord deputy, was chosen chief by his own partisans. He did not long enjoy his position as he was charged with complicity in Sir Cahir O'Dogherty's rising of 1608 and imprisoned in the Tower of London, where he died.

Rory O'Donnell (1575-1608) accompanied Hugh to Kinsale. In 1603, having already signified his allegiance to Lord Mountjoy, the lord deputy, he went to London with Tyrone, and James I created him earl of Tyrconnell. The government's terms for a settlement satisfied neither Niall Garve nor Tyrconnell; Niall Garve's career was soon terminated and Tyrconnell began negotiations with Spain, which led to his sudden departure with Tyrone from Ireland in Sept. 1607, an event known as "the flight of the earls." Tyrconnell went to Rome and died three months afterward. His daughter Mary Stuart O'Donnell (b. 1607) was the heroine of many romantic and dangerous adventures. Rory O'Donnell was posthumously attainted in 1614 thus bringing more than 100,000 ac. in Ulster to the crown; but his son Hugh Albert was recognized by the court of Spain, where he lived, as earl of Tyrconnell.

Hugh Albert is supposed to have appointed Hugh Baldearg O'Donnell as his heir, but this is improbable. Hugh Albert died in 1642 and Hugh Baldearg lived until 1704. The latter fought with distinction for James II at the Boyne and at Aughrim, but later quarreled with Richard Talbot, earl and titular duke of Tyrconnell, and went over to William III. He did not remain in that service but returned to Spain and, taking part in campaigns in Italy and Austria, rose to high military rank. He was great-grandson of Con Mac Calvagh and from his line are descended the Larkfield O'Donnells. The chief of the name in 1962 was John O'Donei of Monkstown, County Dublin, of the Larkfield branch, and the presumptive successor to the title the duque de Tetuán, the next senior branch of the name. The 1st duque de Tetuán was Leopoldo O'Donnell (1804-67) who became a field marshal and grandee of Spain and was several times a prominent member of the government. There were also branches of the clan in Austria, the best-known individuals being Gen. Graf Karl O'Donnell (1715-71) of the Larkfield line. Gen. Daniel O'Donnell (1666-1735), great-grandson of Hugh Dubh of Ramelton, was another notable soldier; he led a regiment of the Irish brigade against the duke of Marlborough at Oudenaarde and Malplaquet. Other notable bearers of the name were James Louis O'Donnell (1738-1811), a Franciscan, known as the apostle of Newfoundland; John Francis O'Donnell (1837-74), poet and Fenian propagandist; and Patrick Cardinal O'Donnell (1856-1927), archbishop of Armagh. See also IRELAND: History.

See F. MacLysaght, *Irish Families* (1957), and *More Irish Families* (1960), which include bibliographies. (E. A. MACL.)

O'DONNELL, LEOPOLDO, CONDE DE LUCENA and DUQUE DE TETUÁN (1809-1867), Spanish general and politician, a loyal supporter of Isabella II, was born at Santa Cruz de Tenerife on Jan. 12, 1809. He made his name by his successful campaigns against the Carlists in the 1830s. He went into exile in France with María Cristina I (*q.v.*) in 1840 and helped to overthrow the Spanish government headed by Gen. Baldomero Espartero (*q.v.*) in 1843. He served in Cuba from 1844 to 1848 and then returned to Spain to become minister for war. In this post he shared control of affairs during the so-called *bienio progresista* (1854-56) with Espartero, whom he displaced as premier in July 1856, having formed a supporting group of dissidents known as the Unión Lib-

eral. He led the administration only until October, but returned to power from 1858 to 1863. During this ministry he took part in the victorious expedition to Morocco (1859-60) and captured Tetuán. O'Donnell was rewarded with the title duque de Tetuán. He resumed office briefly in 1865-66; but though he was severe in repressing the San Gil rising (June 1866) he was not as harsh as the queen wanted and had to hand over his authority to Gen. Ramón María Narváez. He then retired to Biarritz, where he died on Nov. 6, 1867. O'Donnell enjoyed great personal popularity as a result of his successful African campaign, but his administration was marred by his lack of political ability and the absence of any clear political program.

See M. Ibo Alfaro, *Apuntes para la historia de D. Leopoldo O'Donnell* (1868).

ODONTOGLOSSUM, a genus of more than 100 species of showy, tropical-American, tree-perching (epiphytic) orchids. More than 30 are grown in greenhouses for their unusual flowers. *O. grandifolium* (the so-called baby orchid) of Guatemala and *O. crispum* of Colombia have flowers three to six inches wide in handsome clusters. With their many hybrids these are among the showiest, best known and most easily grown of all orchids. (N. T.)

ODORIC (c. 1286-1331), Franciscan friar, traveler and *Beatus* of the Roman Catholic Church who spent three years in China, was born about 1286 at Villanova, a hamlet near Pordenone in Friuli. At an early age he took the vows of the Franciscan order and entered their house at Udine. Between 1316 and 1318 Friar Odoric was sent to Asia where he stayed until 1329. During these years there was a great extension of missionary activity.

His route to the east lay by Trabzon and Erzurum to Tabriz and Sultaniah, in all of which there were Franciscan houses, then by Kashan, Yazd, Persepolis and the Shiraz and Baghdad regions to Hormuz on the Persian gulf; at the last, he embarked for India. He landed at Thana near Bombay about 1322. After visiting many parts of India, and possibly Ceylon, he sailed in a junk to Sumatra calling at several ports along the northern coast, to Java to the coast of Borneo (possibly), to Champa (south Cochinchina) and to Canton.

He traveled extensively in China and visited Hangchow (Canton, Khanzai or Quinsai, *i.e.*, *Kingsze* or royal residence); then renowned as the greatest city in the world (he included many details about its splendours in his narrative). Continuing northward, he crossed the Yangtze, embarked on the Grand canal and traveled to Peking (Cambaluc). He stayed for three years in Peking, and was possibly attached to one of the churches founded by the archbishop Giovanni di Monte Corvino.

Returning to Europe by way of central Asia, Odoric seems to have journeyed through Tibet, possibly visiting Lhasa. Thereafter, he appears to have traveled to northern Persia, to Millettorte, once famous as the land of the assassins in the Elburz mountains, and thence, probably by way of Tabriz, to Venice. The account of the last stages of his homeward journey is vague and fragmentary. During at least a part of his long journeys Odoric was accompanied by Friar James, an Irishman.

Shortly after his return Odoric entered the Minorite house attached to St. Anthony's at Padua; there in May 1330 he related the story of his travels; his itinerary was taken down in simple Latin by Friar William of Solagna. Several months later while on his way to the papal court at Avignon, Odoric fell ill at Pisa. He was taken to the Franciscan house at Udine where he died on Jan. 14, 1331.

The fame of Odoric's journeys seem to have made a greater impression on the laity of Udine than on his Franciscan brethren. The latter were about to bury him, when the chief magistrate (*gastald*) of the city interfered and ordered a public funeral. Odoric's body was buried in the presence of the patriarch of Aquileia and other dignitaries. Popular acclamation made him an object of devotion and the municipality erected a shrine for his body. Although his fame had spread far and wide before the middle of the 14th century, he was not formally beatified until 1755.

Numerous surviving copies of Odoric's narrative (of the original Latin text as well as of versions in French and Italian) show how quickly it became popular. The substance of Sir John