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<image>http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b10500001g/f112.image</image>

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<head><al>Silkworms</al></head>

<ab>They are produced from seed, that is to say eggs, that which is sold by the ounce, which is commonly sold in Languedoc iii lb v s. The one from Spain that merchants bring there is considered the best because the worms which come from there are not so subject to illnesses &amp; make more silk. In Spain, one ounce of seed, they produce there worms which commonly yield xv lb. of silk. But from one once of seed produced in France, they only return x or xii. Three ounces of seed are for producing such a quantity of worms, that with them you will be able to furnish a room accomodated with three or 4 shelves of large shelves. Willingly they begin to unskin themselves around holy week. And for doing this, one puts them in a fir box, like those where one puts <fr>dragée</fr>, warmly among feather cushions. And at the beginning, they unskin themselves skin like little black ants, &amp; as soon as there are two or three unskinned, one needs to give them white mulberry leaves, and then arrange them on the shelves. And three times per day, one needs to exchange fresh leaves. And if during the day there is some thunder or rainy weather, cloud-covered &amp; cool, one needs to keep in the room three or 4 chafing dishes and with glowing charcoal, &amp; put in incense until all the room would be filled with smoke. And when the weather is warm &amp;<fr>serain</fr>, the silk abounds more &amp; and then it is better. Some worms make it whiter, others more yellowish. And even if it may be white, it yellows when one draws it through hot water. The worms, from their birth until the time when they make their cocoons &amp; their prisons, sleep &amp; rest 4 times, &amp; each time remain 4 or five days resting without eating, as if they were dying for rebirth another time, for each time they change skin &amp; begin by unskinning the head then consequently, on different days, the rest of the body, &amp; from white turn grayish, &amp; from grayish to white. And if one of them has some illness who does not have the strength to unskin, one needs to help it &amp; prevent puncturing it, for at that time rendering a yellow liquor, it is no longer worth anything. And further they scarcely profit after one has handled it with the hand. Around Pentecost, they begin to want to climb on the dry branches of heath or heather that one prepares for them &amp; attaches</ab>

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See Marco Girolamo Vida, Bishop of Alba and Cremona, wrote a poem on the nature of silkworms.

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How one moves them

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