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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 slabs. 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 slabs. 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 with hot water. From their birth until the moment they make their cocoons and prisons, worms sleep and rest 4 times, and each time they remain 4 or five days resting without eating, as if they were dying so as to be born again, because each one sheds their skin and begins by uncovering the head, then consequently, on different days, the rest of the body, and they go from white to grey, and from grey to white. And if one of them has some sickness and does not have the strength to shed, one needs to help it and to be careful not to squash it, because if it gives off a yellow liquor, it is no longer worth anything. And they do not even serve much if one handles them. Around Pentecost, they begin to want to climb on the dry heather branches that we prepare and attach</ab>

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

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How they are <ill/>

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