

looked after by the Beos, whose sole pleasure consists of tending to the Articoles — to whom they offer everything, including their own women.

Even when they cannot create, the Articoles create. A famous Article writer, Rouchko, published an interesting confession, some 16,900 pages long, entitled *Why I Cannot Write*. According to the Articoles, every subject, every experience, deserves to be expressed as a form of art. Thus, an Article will publish not only his *Intimate Journal*, but also his *Journal of My Intimate Journal*; and his wife will publish the *Journal of My Husband's Journal of His Intimate Journal*. In recent times, publishers addicted to the Bloomsbury faith have wholeheartedly subscribed to this Article creed.

Because art and life are synonymous for the Articoles, actors must be taken by the rest of their countrymen for the roles they represent. A certain actress, whose servant had forgotten to change her name on her dressing-room door for that of the character she was going to portray, entered the stage as her real self and caused a commotion of national proportions.

Visitors are well treated. They are lodged in a five-star hotel, the *Psycharium*, where they are studied by the Articoles, who try in this manner to increase their knowledge of human passions (which they lack) so as to use them in their next *oeuvre d'art*.

(André Maurois, *Voyage au Pays des Articoles*, Paris, 1927)

**MAKALOLO**, a small country in central Africa inhabited by a tribe of women warriors. In Makalolo the men are never given any real power; the highest post to which they can aspire is that of royal cook. Travellers will be interested in the large military parades in which the tall women warriors, mounted on armoured giraffes and ostriches, display their combat regalia.

Makalolo is an elective monarchy in which two queens are elected for a period of five years. When their reign comes to an end, a large banquet is served to the highest Makalolo officials and worthies in which the two outgoing queens are roasted and eaten. As the next two queens are among those present at the banquet, the inhabitants of Makalolo believe that the wisdom of the previous monarchs passes on to their future rulers, thereby preserving the kingdom's spiritual heritage.

(Albert Robida, *Voyages Très Extraordinaires de Saturnin Faraudoul dans les 5 ou 6 parties du monde [et dans tous les pays connus et même inconnus de M. Jules Verne]*, Paris, 1879)

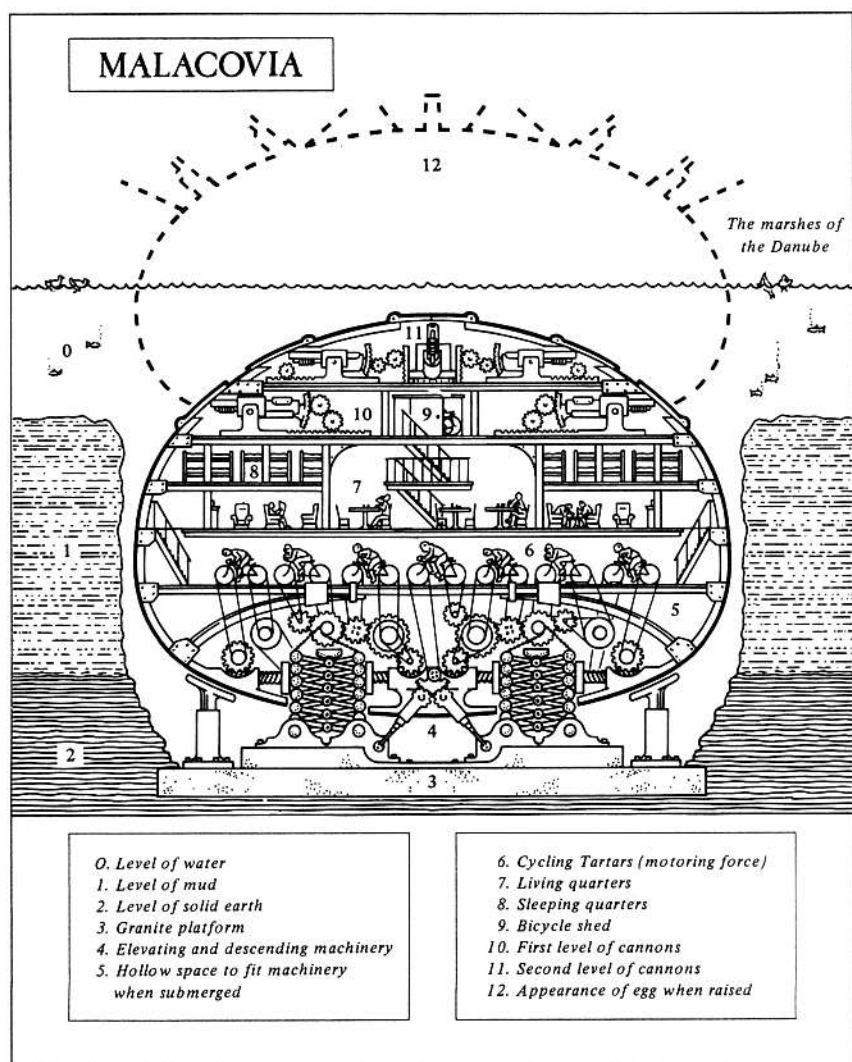
**MALACOVIA**, a city-fortress built in iron on the delta of the Danube, on the branch known as the St. George, not far from the southernmost mouth of the river. The city was built in 1870 by specialized workers imported from France and from England who in fact did not know where they were working, believing the site to be on the banks of the Dnieper, USSR. Once the work was completed they were sent back to their countries.

In charge of the project was an eccentric Nogai prince, very rich and somewhat mad, who emigrated from the Crimea with several of his compatriots and settled in Dobrugia, dreaming of rebuilding the lost fatherland. To achieve this purpose the prince decided to build an iron fortress, hidden in the marshes, as a base from which to launch quick and deadly incursions against the coastal cities of the Holy Russian Empire (in particular Odessa) and to sink or capture the Russian ships crossing the Black Sea. Brought up in Petersburg, the prince, unlike his companions, had the advantage of a university education and became enthralled by the mysteries of mechanics, especially by those of a new invention that seemed to offer innumerable possibilities: the bicycle.

The prince planned Malacovia as a sort of huge iron egg bristling with cannon. The egg could be made to retreat within a granite platform beneath the marshes to hide it from sight; this vertical mechanism was worked by means of a series of bicycles linked to a gigantic system of cogs; the bicycles were pedalled by some fifty Nogai Tartars. The name Malacovia was given to the city by the prince who had only a vague knowledge of ancient Greek and believed that *malakos* meant "shell" while in fact it means "soppy" — a good name, however, for a town of the marshlands.

From this fortress the Nogai Tartars would cross over to the Russian coast on flat boats propelled by pedals; each Tartar would carry his own bicycle on his head and once on dry land would ferociously attack the Russian settlements. Though a few of the prince's companions were at first in favour of using the traditional horses, they were soon convinced of the great advantage of the bicycle, seeing the surprise and terror that an apparition of cycling Tartars caused in the hearts of the Russians.

When finally the Imperial Russian government, incapable of coping with these pirates, was on the point of asking a foreign government for aid to destroy the prince's egg and bring peace once again to the Black Sea, nature took its course and an unexpected solution presented itself. The extreme humidity of the Danube delta



trusted the cogs in the lifting mechanism of Malacovia and one day in 1873 it refused to budge in spite of the generous efforts of the Nogai pedallers. Conscious that the end was near, the prince and his brave companions, with their bicycles on their heads, escaped through a secret tunnel and dispersed throughout the world. Even as late as the early 1900's it was a common sight in Paris or London to see a cycling Tartar race down one of the residential boulevards, much to the delight of the population who were sincerely impressed by the speed they could achieve. The prince, heartbroken, married a rich Armenian who had been captured in Odessa, and founded in Bucharest the first factory of Rumanian bicycles.

(Amedeo Tosetti, *Pedali sul Mar Nero*, Milan, 1884)

**MALDONADA**, a port in BALNIBARBI.

**MANCY**, a kingdom on the east coast of India, one of the best and fairest lands in the world, a land of plenty,

with more than two thousand cities and many towns inhabited by Christians and Saracens. The chief city is Latoryn, a port on a river about a day's journey from the sea, that is said to be larger than Paris.

The people of Mancy worship idols, roasting meat before them which is then eaten by the holy men. The birds of Mancy are twice the size of European birds. The most common species looks somewhat like white geese with great crests. There are many serpents in Mancy, which are considered a great delicacy, and no feast will bring the host honour and esteem if it does not include a dish of serpents. A peculiar race of white hens which bear wool like sheep are bred here. Some small animals called *loyres* are very popular and have been trained for fishing.

The city of Cansay, formerly the residence of the Kings of Mancy, is recommended to all visitors. Several days' journey from Latoryn, Cansay has been called the "City of Heaven". It is fifty miles in circumference, and was built on a lagoon, as Venice is.

Many mendicant religious men live in Cansay, in an abbey reached by boat and surrounded by a garden. When the

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