Of the foul customs followed in the isle of Lamory;
and how the earth and sea are of round shape,
proved by means of the Star Antarctic

From this country men go through the Great Sea Ocean by way of many isles and different countries, which would be tedious to relate. At last, after fifty-two days' journey, men come to a large country called Lamory [Sumatra]. In that land it is extremely hot; the custom there is for men and women to go completely naked and they are not ashamed to show themselves as God made them. They scorn other folk who go clothed; for they say that God made Adam and Eve naked, and men ought not to be ashamed of what God has made, for nothing natural is ugly. They say also that men who wear clothes are of another world, or else believe not in God who made all the world. In that land there is no marriage between man and woman; all the women of that land are common to every man. They say that if they were to do otherwise they would sin greatly, because God said to Adam and Eve, Crescite et multiplicamini et replete terram, that is to say, 'Increase and multiply and fill the earth.'* And therefore no man says, 'This is my wife,' nor any woman, 'This is my husband.' When women are delivered of a child, they give it to whom they want of the men who have slept with them. And in the same way the land is common property. So one year a man has one house, another year another; each man takes what pleases him, now here, now there. For all things are common, as I said, corn and other goods too; nothing is locked up, and every man is as rich as another. But they have an evil custom among them, for they will eat human flesh more gladly than any other. Nevertheless the land is abundant enough in meat and fish and corn, and also gold and silver and other goods. Merchants bring children there to sell, and the people of the country buy them. Those that are plump they eat; those that are not plump they feed up and fatten, and then kill and eat them. And they say it is the best and sweetest flesh in the world.