

Dodo as Avian Christ

for voice and violin

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Dodo as Avian Christ

compiled from eyewitness accounts

I. Walgvoogel

These Burgemeesters are superb and proud. They displayed themselves to us with stiff and stern faces and wide-open mouths. Jaunty and audacious of gait, they would scarcely move a foot before us. Their war weapons was their mouth, with which they could bite fiercely; their food was fruit; they were not well feathered but abundantly covered with fat. Many of them were brought on board to the delight of us all.

-anonymous 1631

They walked upright on their feet as though they were a human being.

-anonymous 1598

II. Didus Ineptus

(Nonsense syllables)

III. The Depredation of these Creatures

Among the birds are the dodderse which are larger than geese but unable to fly having only little stumps of wings, but they are fast runners. One party of us would chase them so that they ran toward the other party, who then grabbed them. When we had one tightly gripped around the leg it would cry out and then the others would come to its aid and they could be caught as well.

-Volkert Evertzen 1662

The sailors brought back 24 or 25 Dod-aarsen, so big and heavy that scarcely two were consumed at meal time, and all that were remaining were flung into salt.

-Willem van West-Zanen 1602

... meat it is to some, but better to the eye than stomach, such as only a strong appetite can vanquish; but otherwise, though its oiliness, it cannot choose but quickly cloy and nauseate the stomach, being indeed more pleasurable to look than feed upon.

-Sir Thomas Herbert 1628

IV. Didus Ineptus II

(Nonsense syllables)

V. Mare aux Songes

I employed several hands but I met with but few specimens of Dodo-bones till I thought of cutting away a mass of floating herbage nearly two feet in thickness, which covered the deepest part of the marsh. In the mud under this, I was rewarded by finding the bones of many Dodos.

-George Clark 1865