

**JOHN DE BURDEUS OR JOHN
DE BURGUNDIA, OTHERWISE
SIR JOHN DE MANDEVILLE,
AND THE PESTILENCE**

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John de Burdeus Or John de Burgundia, Otherwise Sir John de Mandeville, and the pestilence
by David Murray

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DAVID MURRAY

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AND THE PESTILENCE**

JOHN DE BURDEUS

OR JOHN DE BURGUNDIA

OTHERWISE SIR JOHN DE MANDEVILLE

AND

THE PESTILENCE

BY

DAVID MURRAY M.A. LL.D.

MDCCCXCI.

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PREFACE.

THE following pages contain a reprint of an article on John de Burdeus, or de Burgundia, and the Pestilence, which originally appeared as a note to an account of the Black Book of Paisley, published in 1885 in the New Club Series. I have added a transcript of the Latin text of the smaller tract *de Pestilentia* of John de Burdeus, taken from the Black Book of Paisley, and the English or Scottish version of the same tract taken from the Chartulary of Kelso. These are not selected as standard texts, but merely because of their connection with Scotland.

Since the publication of my note, there has appeared Mr. Warner's¹ valuable edition of *The Buke of John Mandeuill*. In his exhaustive Introduction, he enlarges and works out in more detail the conclusions of Mr. E. B. Nicholson and Col. Yule. He traces more fully the sources from which the statements in the *Travels* were taken, and clearly proves that the work is a mere compilation. This, however, is true, to a greater or less extent, of very many medieval treatises. Mr. Warner further shows that the English version of the *Travels* was not the original or the earliest text; but that it was a translation from a French original; thus displacing Mandeville

¹ *The Buke of John Mandeuill, being the Travels of Sir John Mandeville Knight* 1322-1356. . . . Edited together with the French Text, Notes, and an Introduction, by George F. Warner, M.A., F.S.A. . . . Printed for the Roxburghe Club. Westminster, 1889. It is reviewed and abridged in *The Quarterly Review* for April, 1891, p. 431. See also *The Academy*, 6th September, 1890.

from the position, formerly assigned to him, of the father of English prose. This is in accordance with the statement of Thomas of Walsingham (post, p. 17). He follows up the connection, already pointed out, between Sir John Mandeville and Johannes de Burgundia; and does something to show that the real author of the *Travels* was the physician Jean de Bourgogne, and offers a pregnant suggestion as to how he came to adopt the name Mandeville.

There is a manuscript of the longer version of the *Travels* in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow — "Itinerarium dni Johannis Maundeville militis de mirabilibus mundi et ceta," fol., vellum, of the fifteenth century, 72 ff.—but it contains nothing to clear up the question of authorship. It contains the usual introduction and statement that the author was born at St. Albans. He leaves England on St. Michael's day, 1322, and the last chapter records that he had reduced his observations to writing in 1361, viz., in the thirty-fourth year after his return from foreign parts. There is no mention of John de Burgundia.

DAVID MURRAY.

13 FITZROY PLACE,
GLASGOW, 15TH APRIL, 1891.

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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in financial reporting and auditing.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and techniques used to collect and analyze data. This includes both qualitative and quantitative approaches, as well as the use of statistical tools and software to process large volumes of information.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the interpretation and presentation of the collected data. It discusses how to identify trends, patterns, and anomalies, and how to communicate these findings effectively to stakeholders through reports, presentations, and visual aids.

4. The fourth part of the document addresses the ethical considerations and challenges associated with data collection and analysis. It highlights the need for privacy, confidentiality, and integrity, and provides guidance on how to navigate these issues responsibly.

5. The fifth part of the document concludes by summarizing the key points and offering final thoughts on the importance of data-driven decision-making in today's business environment. It encourages ongoing learning and adaptation to new technologies and methodologies.

JOHN DE BURDEUS, OR DE BURGUNDIA.

JOHN DE BURDEUS, de Burgundia, or cum Barba,¹ was a citizen of Leodium (Liège), and professor of medicine there about the middle of the fourteenth century. He was an astrologer as well as a physician, and, like Chaucer's Doctor of Physic,² . . .

" He was grounded in Astronomye,
He kepte his pacient wondrously wel
In houres by his magik naturel."

In his opinion, none was fit to practise medicine who had not a competent knowledge of astrology. "And I 40 yere and more have of tyn tymes proved in practise that a medecyn gyvn contrary to y^e constilacion, although it were both wele compowynd or medled and ordynatly wroghte after the scheme of phisik, yet it wroght nowther after the purpose of the wareher nor to the profite of the pacient."³ He was the author of two tracts upon the plaguc (De Pestilentia), a larger and a smaller, the latter of which is transcribed amongst the miscellaneous matter at the beginning of the Black Book of Paisley. Both have been translated into English. He also wrote a work, "De causa et natura corrupti aeris sive iudicia Astrologie," commencing, "Deus Deorum"; and another, "De distinctione morborum pestilentialium," commencing, "Quia

¹ Perhaps John Burgoyne, or John Beard, Baird, or Berde; or it may be Burdeye or Barbour or Barber. He also appears under the names John de Burgoyne, de Burgeyne, of Burgoyne, of Burgon, John Burgoyne, John de Burdegalia, de Bourdeaux, of Burdeaux or Burdeux, of Burdewes or Burdewz, or Burdoux, John the Burdoux, John de Barba, la Barbe, a la Barbe, de Berbe, ad Barbam.

² Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, *The Prologue*.

³ Translation, Sloane MS. 3449, f. 6.