

**THE PLAGUE OF  
MARSEILLES IN  
THE YEAR 1720**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649296828

The plague of Marseilles in the year 1720 by John Ireland

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**JOHN IRELAND**

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MARSEILLES IN  
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*you*  
*P. Allen Hall*

THE  
PLAGUE OF MARSEILLES.

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**PLAGUE OF MARSEILLES**

IN  
THE YEAR 1720.



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FROM DOCUMENTS PRESERVED IN THE ARCHIVES OF  
THE CITY,

AND PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY, IN THE YEAR 1820.

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By JOHN IRELAND, D. D.

DEAN OF WESTMINSTER.

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READ AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, MAY 26, 1834.

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LONDON.

MDCCCXXXIV.

151. n. 333.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

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IN a paper on the "Plague of Athens," read at the Royal College of Physicians, Feb. 27, 1832, allusion was incidentally made to the Plague of Marseilles, and a wish expressed for more authentic information concerning its origin and character.

Since that time the kindness of a friend<sup>1</sup> has obtained for me a copy of the work alluded to in the title-page.

It is a collection of historical documents, in two volumes, concerning the Plague of Marseilles, and of some parts of Provence, in

<sup>1</sup> Mr. James Morier.

the years 1720, 1721, and 1722.<sup>1</sup> The first volume, in two parts, contains the principal papers relating to Marseilles itself; namely, a Journal of the Transactions during the Plague, from May 20 to December 10, 1720; Letters and Public Addresses of the Bishop to the Clergy and People; Orders from the Council of State; Opinions of Physicians concerning the Disease; and other notices connected with the subject.

In the second volume, also in two parts, are accounts of the extension of the Plague to Aix, Arles, Toulon, and other places; with a Memoir, read at the Academy of Sciences at Marseilles, in 1819, preparatory to the publication

<sup>1</sup> Pièces Historiques sur la Peste de 1720, 1721, et 1722, trouvées dans les Archives de l'Hôtel de Ville, dans celles de la Préfecture, au Bureau de l'Administration Sanitaire, et dans le Cabinet des Manuscrits de la Bibliothèque de Marseille, publiées en 1820, à l'occasion de l'année séculaire de la Peste.



of the volumes in question in the succeeding or secular year.

It is with the first volume the following paper is chiefly concerned, though notice is occasionally taken of other parts of the work. It consists of a brief narrative reduced from the Journal; the substance of the opinion of the physicians sent by the court to inquire into the nature of the disorder; and a few observations which occurred to me from the perusal of the whole collection.

When the paper was completed, it was submitted to the judgment of Sir Henry Hallford as a sequel to the former. Sir Henry perused it with his accustomed indulgence, and obligingly wished that it might be read to the Royal College. It is almost needless to say that after the experience of so much kindness it was impossible not to acquiesce in the proposal;

and the paper had the honour of being read by the President, on May 26, 1834.

I will only add, as my apology for engaging once more in a discussion foreign from my general pursuits, that if I had not considered the present paper as exhibiting a decided specimen of the Levant Plague, and its characteristic difference from the Plague of Athens, I should not have ventured on the preparation of it; and that, having done this, I have completed my view of a subject to which I was first led by accident alone.

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ERRATA.

<i>For</i>	<i>parat</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>read</i>	<i>parat.</i>
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ON the 25th of May, 1720, a trading vessel arrived at Marseilles from the coast of the Levant,<sup>1</sup> with clean bills of health, the plague not having appeared there till after her departure. In her voyage, however, she touched at Leghorn, where some of her crew died of what was supposed by the physicians of that place to be malignant fever.

Another sailor having died, two days after the arrival at Marseilles, the body was inspected by the principal surgeon who superintended the health of that port, and who found no mark of contagion on it. The same judgment was

<sup>1</sup> De Seïde, de Tripoli de Syrie, et de Chypre.—Vol. i. p. 33.