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IN THE BRITISH ISLES

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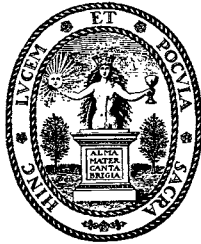
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A HISTORY OF  
**BUBONIC PLAGUE**  
IN THE BRITISH ISLES

J. F. D. SHREWSBURY

*Emeritus Professor of Bacteriology  
University of Birmingham*



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TO  
MY COUNTRY,  
ENGLAND

## CONTENTS

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<i>List of plates</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>Editorial note</i>	xi
<i>Introduction</i>	1
1 The rat and its relation to the history of plague	7
2 The English setting for 'The Great Pestilence'	17
3 Plague invades the British Isles	37
4 'The Great Pestilence' in Britain	54
5 Plague and pestilence in the years 1350 to 1500	126
6 The sixteenth century	157
7 The first quarter of the seventeenth century	264
8 The second quarter of the seventeenth century	348
9 The second half of the seventeenth century	433
<i>Appendices</i>	539
<i>Abbreviations</i>	542
<i>References</i>	544
<i>Bibliography</i>	622
<i>Index</i>	649

## PLATES

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- |     |   |                        |
|-----|---|------------------------|
| 1 a | <i>Rattus rattus</i> (the old English black rat; the house- or ship-rat)<br>[Reproduced by permission of the British Museum (Natural History)]  | <i>facing page 224</i> |
| 1 b | <i>Rattus Norvegicus</i> (the grey or brown rat; the field- or sewer-rat)<br>[Reproduced by permission of the British Museum (Natural History)] |                        |
| 2   | Rats ( <i>Rattus rattus</i> ) hanging a cat. A drawing on a late thirteenth-century manuscript  | 225                    |
| 3   | The frontispiece to G. Thomson's <i>Loimotomia: or the pest anatomised</i>  | 240                    |
| 4   | <i>Rescued from the plague</i> by F. W. W. Topham, R.I.<br>[Reproduced by permission of the Guildhall Library]                                  | 241                    |

## PREFACE

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In the compilation of this history I have received much generous help from many quarters and I tender my sincere thanks to all those literary bodies and individuals who have helped me and are not mentioned here by name. I am particularly indebted to the Librarians of the City of Birmingham Central Reference Library, the Warwickshire County Library, the Borough of Shrewsbury Public Library, and the City of Dublin Public Library. For their help I am grateful; but this study could not have been made without the generous and able help that I have invariably received from the staff of the Library of the University of Birmingham, especially from the late Miss M. P. Russell., one-time Sub-Librarian in charge of the Barnes Library in the Medical School of the University, and from Mr A. Nicholls, the Sub-Librarian responsible for External Readers in the Main Library. I can only place on record my great indebtedness to them because no mere expression of thanks is adequate to repay them for the help they have given to me. I am indebted also to Miss A. P. Barnes, the Librarian in Charge of the Worcestershire County Library, and to Mr D. Newman, Senior Library Assistant, University of Birmingham, for their willing help.

To Dr J. Lunn I owe an especial literary debt for his most generous loan to me some twenty years ago of the typescript copy of his work, *The Black Death in the bishops' registers*, which was the version prepared for publication—but never published—of his thesis, 'The Black Death', which was awarded the Ph.D. degree of the University of Cambridge in 1930. Unfortunately this typescript has since been lost and it has not been possible therefore to paginate my references to it. I hope that the incorporation of some of his work in this history will in some measure discharge my debt to him.

I am much indebted also to my one-time colleague, Professor H. A. Cronne, of the University of Birmingham, who kindly read my draft manuscript and corrected a number of factual errors I had made with respect to British social and economic history. He is in no way responsible, however, for any of the opinions expressed in this work; any criticism of these must fall wholly upon me. I also accept sole responsibility for all errors of omission and commission that may be found in this work.

I hope that Professor G. R. Elton will find in the publication of this history justification for the friendly advice and encouragement that he has given to me in the course of its preparation for publication.

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*Preface*

Finally I wish to record my grateful appreciation of the willing and able technical assistance rendered to me by Mr G. J. Barson, who was the Senior Laboratory Technician in the Department of Bacteriology during the latter years of my tenure of the Chair, and who made the photographic copies of the charts, diagrams, maps, and illustrations embodied in this work.

J.F.D.S.



## EDITORIAL NOTE

- A Wherever blank columns occur in the tables and histograms in this work they signify that no information is available about the particular detail in the table or histogram. They do not mean that there were no burials or plague-deaths, and so on, in the particular month or year.
- B Throughout this work, irrespective of the particular calendar in use at the time, the seasons of the year have been constituted as follows: Winter—January to March inclusive; Spring—April to June inclusive; Summer—July to September inclusive; and Autumn—October to December inclusive.
- C The sources most frequently referred to in this work are listed with their abbreviations on pp. 542–3. All other sources referred to will be found in the references (pp. 544–621) and in the Bibliography (p. 622).