Contents

List of graphs, maps, and tables
Preface

Introduction

1 Recurrent epidemic diseases: plague and the other plagues
   Periodic epidemicity
   A plague was many plagues
   Plague misdiagnosed

2 Florentine deaths in the first plague century
   Florence’s Books of the Dead
   Causes of death in the Books of the Dead
   Normal years and plague years
   A general picture of Florentine health and disease

3 Plague in Florence
   Demographic background
   Mortality rates of major and minor plagues
   Seasonal characteristics of minor plagues
   Geographical distribution of plague
   Individual diagnoses of plague
   Contagion and the minor plagues
   Were the minor plagues true plague?

4 The social effects of plague in Florence
   Demographic significance of minor plagues
   Legislative significance of minor plagues
   Social significance of emerging plague legislation

5 Plague controls become social controls
   Plague controls in 1348
   Plague controls after 1348
Contents

The evolution of true plague controls 116
Plague legislation for the poor 121
Conclusion 127

Appendixes
I Limitations of the Books of the Dead and the means for estimating numbers of children 133
II Deaths by quarter in Florence (parts 1–6) 136

Notes 143
Bibliographical essay 166
Index 177