



The Great Plague Scare of 1720

From 1720 to 1722, the French region of Provence and surrounding areas experienced one of the last major epidemics of plague to strike Western Europe. The Plague of Provence was a major disaster that left in its wake as many as 126,000 deaths, as well as new understandings about the nature of contagion and the best ways to manage its threat. In this transnational study, Cindy Ermus focuses on the social, commercial, and diplomatic impact of the epidemic beyond French borders, examining reactions to this public health crisis from Italy to Great Britain to Spain and the overseas colonies. She reveals how a crisis in one part of the globe can transcend geographic boundaries and influence society, politics, and public health policy in regions far from the epicenter of disaster.

CINDY ERMUS is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

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The Great Plague Scare of 1720

Disaster and Diplomacy in the
Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World

CINDY ERMUS

University of Texas at San Antonio



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For Arlo, who showed me the meaning of life

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Abbreviations

| | |
|-------------|---|
| AC | Actas Capitulares (AMC & AMU) |
| ACCIM | Archives historiques de la Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie Marseille-Provence, Marseille |
| ADBRM | Archives départementales des Bouches-du-Rhône, Marseille |
| AE | Affaires étrangères (AN) |
| AGI | Archivo General de Indias, Seville |
| AHN | Archivo Histórico Nacional de España |
| AMC | Archivo Municipal de Cádiz |
| AMM | Archives municipales de Marseille |
| AMU | Archivo Municipal de Murcia |
| AN | Archives nationales de France, Paris |
| ANOM | Archives nationales d'outre-mer, Aix-en-Provence |
| ARV | Archivo General del Reino de Valencia |
| ASG | Archivio di Stato di Genova |
| ASR | Archivio di Stato di Roma |
| ASV | Archivio di Stato di Venezia |
| BL | British Library, London |
| BNF | Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris |
| BNP | Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal |
| <i>JHL</i> | <i>Journal of the House of Lords</i> |
| MAR | Fonds de la Marine (AN) |
| MNE | Ministério dos Negócios Estrangeiros |
| <i>PNAS</i> | <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i> |
| Sanità | Antichi regimi, Provveditori e Sopraprovveditori alla sanità (ASV) |
| SP | State Papers Foreign (TNA) |
| TdT | Arquivo Nacional Torre do Tombo |
| TNA | The National Archives of the United Kingdom, London |