

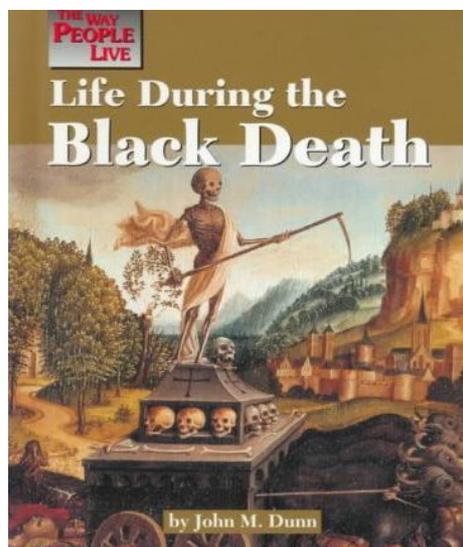
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
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Dunn, J. M. (2000). *Life during the Black Death*. San Diego, California: Lucent.



Other Long-Lasting Changes

Population shortages caused still other lasting changes to European life. Many landowners, for example, switched from growing grains—an activity that required many workers—to less labor-intensive crops. In England, for instance, many fields were enclosed for the raising of sheep. Farmers in southern Germany planted woad, a European herb whose leaves are used for blue dyestuff.

The need for human labor also sparked human inventiveness. Increasingly, Europeans sought technological solutions to problems caused by the lack of workers. For example, new water mills and windmills appeared in parts of Europe to make up for the shortfall of human labor. Another big change came in the production of books. A shortage of scribes—men who copied books by hand—helped to

stimulate the invention of the movable-type printing press sometime around 1450.

Because physicians were in short supply for many decades after the Black Death subsided, medical colleges had faculty openings for years. But as these positions were eventually filled, medical science took off in a new direction. New personnel brought new ideas. In addition, the failure of the medical establishment during the plague sparked a continuing quest for accurate and useful information. No longer were physicians content with the old medical knowledge. Increasingly, teaching in medical schools reflected the importance of anatomy and the scientific method rather than the ideas of the ancient Greeks.