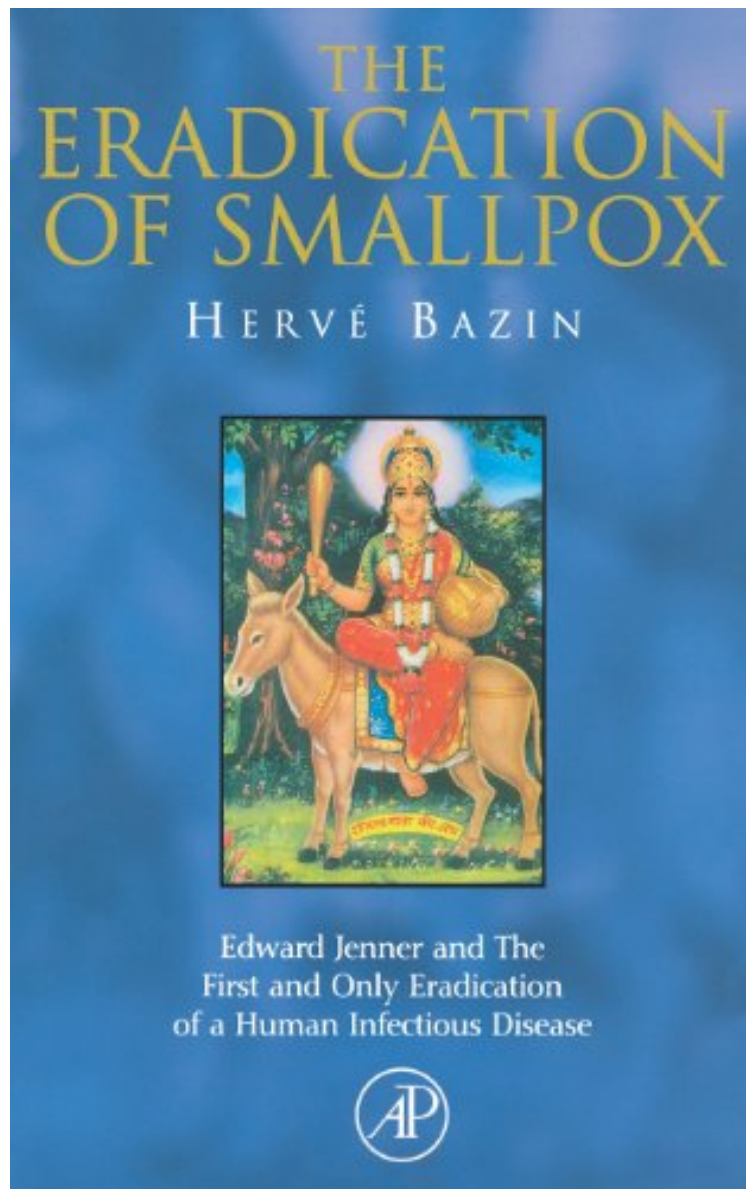


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The Eradication of Smallpox: Edward Jenner and The First and Only Eradication of a Human Infectious Disease

Herv Bazin

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Herv Bazin : The Eradication of Smallpox: Edward Jenner and The First and Only Eradication of a Human Infectious Disease before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Eradication of Smallpox: Edward Jenner and The First and Only Eradication of a Human Infectious Disease:

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Eradication of Smallpox By A Customer More a biography and canonization of Edward Jenner than a comprehensive examination of the eradication of smallpox, *The Eradication of Smallpox; Edward Jenner and The First and Only Eradication of a Human Infectious Disease* is, nevertheless, a useful text and a pleasant read. While Herve Bazin does apply necessary attention to the various factors that lent themselves to the development of a smallpox vaccine and the eventual elimination of the disease from humanity, the book places heavy emphasis on the contribution of Edward Jenner to the process. There can be no doubt that Jenner's contribution was significant and should in no way be dismissed. In this regard, *The Eradication of Smallpox* is a thorough examination of his life and influence. The work by others to achieve the only instance of the complete eradication of a human infectious disease could, however, have been treated more fully. *The Eradication of Smallpox* is worth picking up if only for its discussion of Jenner's life, an important component of the history of smallpox. A more complete study of smallpox, however, would require further reading.

Simply, and with great humanity, *The Eradication of Smallpox* tells the story of smallpox - its origins, the horror of the disease, and the millions of people killed or disfigured by it. During the 18th and 19th centuries, it is estimated that one out of every ten people died from the disease; some say one out of every seven. Smallpox attacked very young children in particular. The story progresses with the practice of variolation, the life of Edward Jenner who first proposed 'vaccination' with cow pox vaccine (little James Phipps was the first person ever vaccinated in this way), the years of debate about the efficacy of this novel method, and the later worldwide initiatives to rid the planet of this horrific disease. In 1979, the story culminates in the only total eradication of an infectious disease that mankind has ever accomplished. This year celebrates the 20th anniversary of this momentous achievement. In the intervening years, debate has raged about what we should do with the remaining smallpox viral stocks. Do we destroy them, so they can't fall into the hands of bioterrorists, or do we maintain them, in case they may be of use in some unexpected way, for therapeutic purposes? These questions are thoroughly discussed in the book. Covers the background, history and origin of smallpox, and brings the story up to the present day Gives full and interesting details of Jenner's life, and tells how this humble country doctor brought about a revolution in vaccination Includes many quotes from historical figures Features 120 high quality photographs, many originating from unique historical plates in the author's private collection Includes new research data Provides new views on the eradication and destruction of smallpox

"The copious illustrations are of considerable interest. ...Historians of medicine and of public health may want to add it to their collections principally for its illustrations and extended references." -Warren Winkelstein, Jr. for *BULL. HIST. MED.*, 2002 "Written in a concise, nontechnical style by a respected immunologist, both the general public and health professionals will find this a fascinating book." -CHOICE, 2001 "...fresh, enjoyable account of smallpox eradication... [The author] displays a remarkable knowledge and interest in the life and activities of Edward Jenner... Though originally written in French, this translation by Andrew and Glenise Morgan is faultless, and I strongly recommend this book to all students of immunology, virology, and vaccinology." -Brian W.J. Mahy, National Center for Infectious Diseases, in *VIRUS RESEARCH*, 2001 "We owe much to Edward Jenner, and I encourage everyone who is interested in this story and its important impact upon the disciplines of science and medicine to read Dr. Bazin's book. I imagine that you too will be unable to put it down until you have read it from cover to cover." -John A.T. Young, McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research, University of Wisconsin at Madison, in *CELL*, 2000 From the Back Cover Every one of us can be glad - for ourselves, for our children - that humankind has triumphed in eradicating smallpox from the world. What toll of human suffering lies in the past? How many died or were disfigured by this cruel disease? Where did it come from, how was it transmitted? How did Edward Jenner, a humble country doctor bring about a revolution in vaccination that changed history in an almost unparalleled manner? What has happened since then to eradicate this disease, and how have we managed the world's remaining stocks of the virus - kept under the tightest security in two sites in Russia and the USA? Our lives have all benefited immeasurably from the history recounted here. Thoroughly researched, and written in an engaging style by Herv Bazin, the story of the eradication of smallpox - from its first known origins to the present day - is a fascinating, heart-rending, humorous and uplifting tale. Illustrated with 120 photographs, many originating from unique historical plates in the author's private collection, this book is just testimony to the success of immunology and virology, and marks the 20th anniversary of the global eradication of this infectious disease. "Since the discovery of the vaccine is the only one that medicine has achieved in the current period, it will suffice as an eternal illustration of our period in the history of science, and to immortalise the name of Jenner by assigning him an eminent place amongst the principal benefactors of humanity." Cuvier (1810) About the Author Herv Bazin is Professeur Extraordinaire at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Louvain, Belgium.