The Black Death: A Description of the Plague

This account is from Messina, Sicily and describes the arrival and initial progress of the disease.

Gabriele de' Mussi, a notary from Piacenza, gave a vivid account of the plague in Kaffa and Sicily.

Petrarch endured the black death in Parma, Italy and responded to its effects in highly personal and emotional lamentations.

Francesco Petrarca wrote in response to the black death in Tuscany, Italy.

Jean de Venette wrote on the progress of the black death in France.

Marchione di Coppo Stefani was born in Florence, Italy in 1336. He wrote his Florentine Chronicle in the late 1370s and early 1380s.

Statutes of Pistoia in Italy reflected both the scientific knowledge and the practical issues which the black death brought to a head.

A description of the plague from Agnolo di Tura, of Siena, Italy.

The Ordinance of Labourers, an attempt by the king of England to freeze wages paid to laborers at their pre-plague levels, is indicative of the labor shortage caused by the black death.

The onset of the black death in Italy was described by Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-1375) in The Decameron.

The black death and the Jews

The period following the black death saw a number of political and social upheavals, caused by the disease itself, as well as wars and other insecurities. There were a number of peasant
rebellions. The one in France in 1358 was known as the Jacquerie - since a common name for a peasant was a "Jacques". Here it is described in 1358 by the chronicler Jean Froissart.

http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/542procopius-plague.html
Procopius describes the black death in Byzantium.

http://www.mytimemachine.co.uk/blackdeath.htm
Henry Knighton’s account of the plague in England.