

**ENCYCLOPÉDIE OU *DICIONNAIRE* RAISONNÉ
DES SCIENCES, DES ARTS ET DES MÉTIERS**

UNSIGNED

BARAICUS

BARAICUS or **BURAICUS**, (Myth.) nickname that Hercules took from a town of Achaia, celebrated for the oracle of this hero: the manner of which he himself rendered this oracle, was singular. After one had made his prayer in the temple, one took four dice; one threw them at random; the faces of these dice were imprinted with hieroglyphic figures; one carefully noticed the figures produced; & one went next to seek the interpretation on a tableau where they were explained. This interpretation passed for the response of the god. See the article **Dé**, for how many ways four dice of six faces can be combined: you will find 1296; the oracle should have had as many responses; but it having had much fewer & it was easy that the question of the one who appealed to the oracle, let us say, was of those for which the answer was not in the dice: but it was necessary to count until 1296, in order to feel the impertinence of the oracle, & people do not know how to count so far, & when he would know it, he would make himself doubt.

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Translated by Richard J. Pulskamp, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH .