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**Article:**

Craig-Atkins, E. [orcid.org/0000-0003-2560-548X](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2560-548X) (2018) Book review: Charterhouse Square: Black Death Cemetery and Carthusian Monastery, Meat Market and Suburb. *Medieval Archaeology*, 62 (2). p. 464. ISSN 0076-6097

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00766097.2018.1535389>

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This is an Accepted Manuscript of an article published by Taylor & Francis in *Medieval Archaeology* on 20/12/2018, available online:  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/10.1080/00766097.2018.1535389>

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Charterhouse Square: Black Death Cemetery and Carthusian Monastery, Meat Market and Suburb. (Crossrail Archaeology Series – 7). By Sam Pfizenmaier. 19 x 25 cm. MOLA xv + 152 pp, 93 colour and b&w pls and figs, 33 tables. London: Museum of London Archaeology & Crossrail Limited, 2016. ISBN 978-1-907586-41-5. Price: £10.00 pb.

This volume reports the part of MOLA's Crossrail excavations which took place at Farringdon eastern ticket hall and Charterhouse Square, London and revealed part of the West Smithfield cemetery. Known previously from documentary records alone, this cemetery was the slightly earlier of two emergency burial grounds opened in response to the Black Death in 1348-9 (the other was the better-known and previously-excavated East Smithfield). The volume presents detailed investigation of the 25 14<sup>th</sup>- and 15<sup>th</sup>-century skeletons recovered and a suite of scientific analyses including the positive identification of *Yersinia pestis*, the pathogen responsible for plague. A second key finding was the large ditch marking the southern boundary of the cemetery, the remains of Faggesswell Brook which ran westward towards the Fleet. The fill of the brook produced a significant assemblage of 16<sup>th</sup>-century material culture, including fragments of silk cloth of Italian or Spanish origin and a wonderful selection of leather shoes, some of which belonged to children. The latter phases: encroachment of the nearby Spitalfield meat market; construction of the Metropolitan tube line and 1930s cellars bring the report to a close, and the present.

This volume is expertly produced and very well presented. It reflects MOLA's aims to bring their commercial work to a wide audience through their publication programme and has effectively tackled the challenge of being accessible to the non-expert and conveying the academic quality at the core of their work. Footnotes, for example, provide both extra technical detail for the researcher and explanations for the layperson where necessary. Section drawings are presented with photos of key finds placed in their stratigraphic context. I also particularly enjoyed the vignettes of contextual detail, for example forays into medieval medical theory and Tudor costume, but the brevity of wider contextualization of the evidence was a slight disappointment for me, as a researcher.

This is an archaeological site report for the digital age – a visually engaging, concise and accessible volume tied in to a web-based digital project report archive where the finer detail and raw data can be found. It provides a taster of every aspect of the project, and an effective route through which MOLA's work can reach its very broad audience.