

a more developed introduction in place of the short foreword at the beginning. This would have been a useful place to provide a definition of witchcraft and magic that is fairly consistent across the essays and thus save each author from having to include an often repetitive definition. This would also have been a good place to do some work regarding the relationship of religion with magic, again saving individual authors from repeating work which appears in places throughout the book. The collection of essays is accessible and provides a good starting point for readers interested in the ubiquitous discourse of witchcraft and magic still prevalent in our culture.

Jacob F. Field. *London, Londoners and the Great Fire of 1666: Disaster and Recovery*. London: Routledge, 2018. xix + 172 pp. + 3 maps + 11 figures + 10 tables. \$149.95. Review by TY M. REESE, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA.

On 2 September 1666, an improperly extinguished fire in Thomas Farriner's Bakery shop on Pudding Lane caught the structure on fire. This fire, aided by a variety of elements including a long dry summer, the medieval and crowded layout of the City of London, and the fact that most structures were made of wood, quickly spread. Over the next three days, the City of London burned as its inhabitants fled.

This fire, an important seventeenth-century event for both the city and for England, as one-sixth of the total population lived there, is the subject of Jacob F. Field's work. While the story of the fire is well known, Field adds to our understanding by exploring the fire beyond the City of London and by effectively utilizing a variety of records to expand our knowledge of the demographic and economic consequences of the fire. The short, but insightful, work is divided into two parts with part one exploring the events of the fire and the attempts to rebuild, while the second part works to understand the demographic and economic consequences.

If one just wants to know the story of the fire, part one is an excellent place to find it. Here, Field has constructed an engaging narrative that explains the start of the fire, the reasons why the fire spread so rapidly, why it spread to some areas and not others, and how the city

and state responded to the fire. We learn why the Lord Mayor was blamed for its spread though his options were limited, how Charles II and the Duke of York viewed the fire from a barge, how inhabitants started to flee with their property, and how cartmen and porters took advantage of the situation by increasing their fees, and finally how the fire came to an end. In just a few days, the fire destroyed St. Paul's Cathedral, 84 parish churches, over 13,000 homes and 44 out of 55 livery houses; but very few died. With the fire extinguished, the narrative then turns to the rebuilding process, the plans for a new city and the development of acts and regulations, especially the stipulation that new structures be made of brick, came about. In the end, the city was not re-envisioned because of property concerns but the rebuilding did change the look and character of the city.

The importance of Field's research comes in part two as he explores the demographic and economic consequences of the fire. The population of London was mobile but for the most part people moved within neighborhoods based upon their socio-economic status. Many of the people affected by the fire were either tenants or sub-tenants, and the new regulations of rebuilding increased the costs of living in the city. To understand the demographic consequences, Field utilizes Hearth Records and finds that after the fire, there were more hearths than before and that many structures, once rebuilt, remained uninhabited. Field also finds that the consequences of the fire varied greatly depending upon one's means and occupation. He shows that booksellers were greatly affected by the fire because their stock was easily combustible and that numerous tradespeople were affected as their homes were also their business. From the Hearth Records, Field then moves to the records of the Merchant Tailors and Booksellers to explore the economic consequences of the fire. What he finds is that the fire caused a decline in the activity of both, as would be expected, but that the booksellers recovered within the city more than the merchant tailors who became more dispersed after the fire. Much of this most likely comes from the rebuilding of the city and how increasing costs drove some out. There was, both before and after the fire, a clientele within the city that wanted access to books and information. Field ends his work by looking at the cultural reaction to the fire and how both the French and Catholics often appeared in the various conspiracies about

the fire. Beyond this, the fire became politicized on a local, regional, and national level.

The nature of the sources utilized and the attempt to understand the demographic and economic consequences means that the second part of the work reads very differently from the first. The second part, except for the final chapter on cultural reactions, is dominated by data and charts which all provide important insight into the consequences and allows Field to develop an intimate understanding of the fire's consequences. Overall, in a time when disasters are increasing—floods, fires, and arctic vortices—Field's work provides one example of how communities respond to these crises. What he clearly demonstrates is that while the short-term consequences proved disruptive to many, over time the city and its activities recovered.

Craig Spence. *Accidents and Violent Death in Early Modern London, 1650-1750*. Woodbridge and New York: Boydell, 2016. xii + 273 pp. + 35 illus. \$115.00. Review by LARRY BONDS, MCMURRY UNIVERSITY.

Craig Spence's *Accidents and Violent Death in Early Modern London, 1650-1750*, is a data-driven analysis of the many ways in which primarily accidental violence injured and killed people in early modern London between the years of 1650 and 1750. Not consisting of mere lists of accidents and their causes across the century indicated in the title, *Accidents and Violent Death in Early Modern London* contains a great many anecdotes as well as literary references that make the book a valuable resource to historical and literary scholars of the period and perhaps to creative writers who might rely on the book for factual information about events in works set in the era. Accurately and thoroughly indexed, *Accidents and Violent Death in Early Modern London* is, in short, a useful tool for people interested in the subject and period.

Spence makes the book's purpose clear in the Introduction, where he states:

The aim is not to reduce portrayal of such [violent] incidents and fatalities to anecdotal tales of 'human interest' or, for that matter, to see them as a window onto 'everyday life' in