

THE RICARDIAN REGISTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE

AMERICAN BRANCH,

RICHARD III SOCIETY

Vol. I, no. 1

CO-CHAIRMAN TRACKS DOWN 'FRIENDS'

Many thanks to all of you who sent in suggestions for finding our mysterious 'friends'. Bill Hogarth has located them! Through an initial contact with Jose Ferrar, he was able to get in touch with Alexander Clark, an organizer, with Richard Aldridge and Stanley Cahn of the 'Friends of Richard III, Inc.' Mr Clark admitted that his group was not able to get very far, and has promised to send us all of their original material. He is also interested in joining our Society!

Mr Hogarth is now acting as our agent in attempting to track down the mysteriously named 'Junior Brands Association' which might possibly turn out to be a Tudor front! Does anyone have any clues we can use to find this group?

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

The Library was received by Mrs. Wynnes on June 17, 1966, with \$6.00 in its account. Since then, two items have been returned which were out at the time. Three groups of items have been sent out and two returned. Three back issues of THE RICARDIAN have been sold for \$.50 each, and \$.25 spent for postage, leaving a balance of \$7.25 in the account. The library has back issues of THE RICARDIAN, #14 and #15 for sale at \$.50 each.

CHARTER FLIGHT TO ENGLAND?

It has been suggested by several members and by our late secretary Arthur Kincaid, that there might be sufficient interest among American members and their friends to warrant a group charter of a plane to England. Ideally, this would be scheduled in August, in time for the anniversary of Bosworth field. I have asked Miss Wogram what the English branch would be able to offer us in terms of helping us get to the places we should see, and possibly having someone who knows the place show it to us. Of course, the only thing we would ask you to commit yourself to would be the flight over and the flight back. If you wanted to take off on your own, you could. If any of you would be interested, please let me know so that Miss Clumpher, Mr Larkin and I can start the arrangements.

MEMBERS PREPARE WHO'S WHO

Good news for those of us who get lost in the maze of family relationships involved in the 'War of the Roses' comes from Mrs Joan Murray and Miss Dolores Marotta. They are working on a complete geneological chart of the family relationships of all of the descendants of Edward III - with a view towards establishing who might have thought they had a legitimate claim to the throne and the possibility of their murdering the prince. When completed, this will be an outstanding addition to the library, as well as being a logical candidate for printing and possible sale to members.

On November 2, Mr William Snyder, regional director of the Washington area, gave a talk entitled 'Why Richard III' to the Toastmasters International Club of Washington, D. C. The following quotes are excerpts from this talk.

'...the careful, objective, and interested student of history can observe the layering of myth, legend, and propaganda into so-called history, shrouded in textbooks and sanctified by repetition over these 500 years. In the same manner as the skilled pathologist dissects and lays bare diseased tissue, students of history are examining the life and times of Richard III with scrupulous care and objectivity and are attempting to lay bare the facts and remove the thick layers of fiction, propaganda, and hearsay.'

'Let's go back again to the Grand Canyon. Note how the colors of the rock seem to change with the shifting light of the sun. In the same way, we can observe how the character of Richard III changes as we focus the strong, clear light of careful and objective research and evaluation on this man and his times.'

'Such research has real meaning for our times, when the failure to distinguish between propaganda and fact might conceivably result in a holocaust.'

'What is truth and how does one recognize it? This problem confronts every age and explains why the character of King Richard III now, more than ever, poses a fascinating and challenging problem.'

APPOINTMENT OF NEW REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Miss Lydia Fish, The Folklore Institute, 714 E. Eighth St., Bloomington, Indiana, has been appointed regional director of the Indiana area. She has a copy of the chapter formation guide, so if any members in this area would be interested in forming a chapter, please write to her.

URTHER AIDS TO STUDENTS OF RICHARD

Mr and Mrs William Lichtenstein are working on a book which will consist of short biographical sketches of all the Plantagenet wives. This will be a most interesting addition to our library.

At the moment it looks as if you will be receiving a listing of the names and addresses of new members with the December newsletter. This year the members will be arranged according to states, in the hope that members might be able to get together more often.

It is fairly definite that there will be a meeting in Pittsburgh this spring. This is in answer to requests from the students that we try to have a meeting when they can come. I realize that many of you would prefer New York, but it is impossible for me to come to New York twice a year. Besides, we have members in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia and Western Pa. who cannot attend a New York meeting. I would like to schedule this during Easter vacation, and the date of April 1 has been mentioned. Would persons please write to me and let me know what dates would be best for you?

So many of you have ordered pins that I had to order more from England. Miss Wigram told me that their supply had run out, so they have had to have more made and the new pins should be arriving shortly. I have gone down the list as far as I can, and if you have not received yours, you will as soon as the English supply comes in.

If any of you have any suggestions - pro or con - please write to us and tell us. We are not tyrants or despots and are more than willing to consider anything you might offer. We have fulfilled our pledge to England, thanks to your generosity, and as you receive this, the check is being sent to England. I am sure that I will have word from Miss Wigram in time for the next issue.

NEW RICARDIAN BOOK TO BE PUBLISHED

Valerie Giles' Shine Out, Far Sun has been accepted for publication by the Vantage Press. Miss Giles was secretary of the English Branch last year.

While down in Florida and doing some light reading, I came across the following interesting reference:

"Earlier in time E625 had been one with the world Blake had once called home. Then two crucial alterations of events had given it another future altogether.

The first came in 1485. Thereafter no Henry Tudor had resigned in England. Instead Richard the Third's courageous charge at his enemy during the battle of Bosworth had carried him to the Lancastrian Pretender and, with his own hand, Richard had put an end to the red rose for all time.

Once firmly on the throne, Richard had developed the potentials that historians in Blake's world had come to grant him, with regret that he had never, in their own past, had never, in their own past, had a chance to show his worth as probably one of the ablest of the Plantagenet house. ... The brilliance that, in Blake's world, had marked the reign of Elizabeth Tudor, had in E625 flourished a generation earlier under Richard and his immediate successors.

Andre Norton, QUEST
CROSSTIME, pp 75-76,
Ace Books, Inc., New
York, 1965

COLOR PORTRAIT OF RICHARD AVAILABLE

If anyone would like a good sized color copy of the NPG portrait of Richard, Mrs Haynes has a slide of it and a letter authorizing copyright material. This would be a good time to get it under the Maxwell House offer of an 11x14 enlargement on canvas textured paper for \$3.00 and the inner seal from a jar of their instant coffee. Mrs Haynes, 4149 25th St., N., Arlington, Va. 22207, will take orders from members until the middle of February.

The executive board would like to make it clear to all our members that, although we will be stepping up our activities in the future, at no time will any member be asked to do more than he or she feels like doing. We realize that there are some of you who are perfectly content to just pay your dues and receive the various notices. This is fine with us, and we will never pressure you into doing anything else. However, we must ask you to realize that there are other members who would like the Society to be more active, and who have the time, energy, and/or money to devote to these activities. These members are not happy being just dues-payers. Therefore we are trying to satisfy both sides. We are going to give the members who wish to be active an opportunity for action, and we are not going to push our other members into action they do not want to take. We are a Society of individuals, and as long as the present officers are in charge, each member will be treated as an individual. If you want to be active, fine; if you just want to pay your dues, finetoo.

MEMBER ASKS FOR SUGGESTIONS

Miss Mary Ellen Triolo, 7 Rotany Drive, Summit, N J, will be doing her Senior history thesis on Richard and would appreciate suggestions as to an area in which to concentrate her research.

BELATED THANKS OFFERED

Miss Arlene B. Rosner deserves the thanks of all of us for her contribution to the Society last year. She typed, duplicated, and collated the minutes of the 1965 meeting and donated her time and the cost of the paper. The thanks we are offering are late, but are truly sincere.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR INFORMATION CARD.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE 1966 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
EASTERN AMERICAN BRANCH OF THE RICHARD III SOCIETY

At the Annual Meeting, October 1, 1966 in New York City, the officers and members of the Eastern American Branch of the Richard III Society took issue with the present form of the Ricardian, in respect to its usefulness to educational and historical institutions, the serving of which is a stated aim of the Society.

This took expression in the following resolution:

We, the officers and members of the Eastern American Branch, feel that it is a primary purpose of the Society that Ricardian information and the results of Ricardian research be made usefully and convincingly available to the educational and historical communities. Such information and the results of such research are generally made available to members of the Society through the Ricardian. Although we feel that many of the articles published in the Ricardian are worthy of serious regard, we nonetheless have strong misgivings about distributing the Ricardian, in its present form, to non-members.

We regard it as imperative that, if the Ricardian is to be generally distributed to non-members, its content be such as not to jeopardize the reputation of the Society or the historical view which the Society seeks to defend. We feel, for example, that the articles in the Ricardian have all too often displayed a one-sided and fanatical character; this inconsistency with the scholarly aims of the Society is likely to result in our historical position being dismissed as no more than an eccentric cause. Further, we feel that many of the historical articles fail to meet adequate standards of research, organization and style. Moreover, the internal news reports have more than once referred to distinguished scholars in a manner which is incompatible with academic propriety, and which therefore runs the risk of causing unnecessary offense, not only to individuals, but in the academic community generally. Finally, these same news reports seem often to be addressed to an overly limited audience of initiates, and to be cast in an inappropriate and often frivolous style.

The officers and members of the Eastern American Branch wish therefore to recommend that the Society modify the Ricardian so as to conform with the aim of circulating it among appropriate non-members. In particular, we wish to recommend that the following program be adopted.

1. The establishment of appropriate standards of acceptability for articles submitted for publication in the Ricardian.
2. The implementation of these standards by means of a procedure for having such articles refereed by members of the Society.
3. The separate printing of informal and personal material, still of vital interest to Society members, such material being attached only to those copies of the Ricardian sent to members of the Society.
4. The establishment of arrangements for subscriptions to the Ricardian for appropriate non-members, both individual and institutional.

By adopting this program, we feel that the Society will be able to make available to interested non-members the results of the research of the Society, which so often merit the attention of scholars and educators, without thereby incurring the risk of damaging the reputation of the Society and its cause.