

THE RICARDIAN REGISTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AMERICAN BRANCH,
RICHARD III SOCIETY



Direct correspondence to the Editor: MRS. WM B. AIREY, Secretary-Treasurer, 49 Second Street, Clymer, Pennsylvania

Volume I, Issue 6, April, 1967

LETTER FROM ENGLISH CHAIRMAN

LETTER CONT.

...I won't waste your time by going over any of the arrangements for your stay over here. ...Su fffice to say that I shall do what I can during your London week to smooth your trip and ensure that you see the maximum, with the minimum of exhaustion, waste of time and interference. We have a few pleasant occasions lined up for you and will see you too, some of us, at Bosworth Field and Leicester and again in London after that. I have written to a key member in Yorkshire about your visit. ...

Much sooner is another event of importance. This is the stage production of the two plays which have been written by Lydia Ragosin and were originally broadcast. So successful were they (and also two others in a medieval cycle, one on John of Ghaunt and one on Edward IV), that all four will be heard again this summer . . perhaps while you are over. The two which concern us are 'A CRY OF TREASON' (Richard) and 'A CROWN FOR THE STRONG' (Henry VII). The theatre of which I have long been an Acting member, the QUESTORS OF Ealing commissioned Lydia to adapt them for the stage and they are now in the final weeks of rehearsal. We are showing them alternately for a fortnight and since the QUESTORS is just about the largest, oldest, and most famous Little Theatre (Amateur) in Great Britain, and since we have a truly revolutionary and wonderful new theatre, we expect the National Press to cover the performances.

I - for my sins * am playing Lord Stanley ... in both plays, of course. I am also acting as Historical Adviser and the Society is having an exhibition of 'Ricardiana' outside the auditorium in the foyer. Lydia Ragosin is a Richard III Society member; that is the significance of the occasion! She makes a

brilliant and dramatic picture of the two Kings, is scrupulously fair minded and scholarly and makes BUCKINGHAM the instigator of the 'Princes'' murder. Some of us don't agree with that line and prefer - as do the Wigram's most strongly - the theory of young Richard's survival and impersonation of 'Warbeck' but I always remind members that we must be tolerant and flexible in our views and conjectures and stick only to what we know .. which is good enough to put Richard in proper historical perspective....

I shall be most interested to hear the names of your visiting party,
With best wishes,
Yours V. Sincerely,
Patrick Bacon
(Chairman)

MOST ENJOYABLE PITTSBURGH MEETING

A most enjoyable time was had by all those who were able to attend the Pittsburgh meeting. Among those present were Betty Schloss, Gretchen Clumpner, and Jean Airey. After a fascinating series of discussions in Mrs Schloss' apartment, sampling of various cheeses, Italian Olives, Flat Bread, and assorted beverages, the meeting was continued in the Bigelow Club swimming pool. (After all, it was a very hot day.) The party then remet outside the building, rode the Duquesno Incline up the mountain and ate in a restaurant overlooking the Golden Triangle and the Bridge to Nowhere. We then returned to the apartment and saw slides of the some 400 miles of England that the English trip will cover. The day was most interesting and delightful.

Jean Airey
Secretary-Treasurer

ANOTHER AUTHOR'S REFERENCE!

From a letter from Libby Haynes:
 "Here's another author for you. Mrs Richard Pyles mentioned to me THE SILENT POOL by Patricia Wentworth. This is a modern mystery story; on page 56 is this paragraph:

"Our sainted Edna is enough to bore anyone. ...So why on earth Geoffrey married her just has to take its place as one of those insoluble mysteries along with the Man in the Iron Mask and Who Killed the Princes in the Tower. It's pretty certain Richard didn't, because if he had, Henry VII would have tumbled over himself to accuse him after the battle of Bosworth." ...The book was copyright 1953 by Patricia Wentworth Turnbull, published by J. B. Lippincott Co. Philadelphia and New York, 1954.

Libby also writes that NOTHING LIKE THE SUN is not a Ricardian novel. It has two brief mentions of Richard - in one of which, Shakespeare's Negro mistress, commenting on Burbage: 'Him I did see in Rish Hard de Turd'. Enough said??

PAGING PONZIO

One aspect of this trip - and of the travel agency organizing it - has not been sufficiently emphasized. That is the willingness of Ponzio to help you to see what you want to see in England. They would be most happy to obtain information on various plays which will be 'on' while we are over - if you should want to go to the theatre. Every good Englishman enjoys the races, and they will be glad to tell you which tracks are open (Ascot isn't) - and don't forget, bookies are legit over there. They can arrange special visits to spots like Broadcast House, British Museum, Covent Garden, British Design center, Lloyd's, the National Gallery, Scotland Yard, and, of course, shopping on Oxford Street for just about anything in the apparel line - if you're mod, of course, you might want to go to the real Carnaby Street! - and buy some originaly.

In short, this is a personal travel agency, and a chance of a lifetime for you to customize your tour of England.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

As you can see by looking over the list of new members who have joined since November, our membership is rapidly growing. I also have had many people write for information - and who have said that they would like to join whom I have written to and not yet heard from. As I am working full time, I hope that you will forgive me if occasionally I get behind on my correspondence with you. There is one way in which you can help both me and the Society. If you know someone who might be interested in joining, it would be better if you would talk to them, show them the brochure, collect their dues and send them to me. All that I can do on an initial inquiry is to send the brochure anyway - unless I am asked a specific question about the Society, and personal contact for recruitment is much more effective. If any of you would like a brochure and/or application cards for this purpose, please let me know.

Next month will be the last month that I will be sending the REGISTER out from this address. I will be moving to Albany, N Y in June. My address up there will be: 368 Kenwood Avenue, Delmar, N Y. I will list it in the forthcoming REGISTERS.

MEMBER NEEDS HELP

Mrs William Lichtenstein would like to know if any member has a copy of or can tell her where to obtain a copy of THE ROSE OF RABY, by Evelyn Payne Ellis! It does exist - but we don't know where.

NOTICE ON 'KING RICHARD'S COLLEGE...'

I do not have any copies of this. As a matter of fact, I haven't even read it myself - yet. However, I have ordered some from England, and will mail orders out as soon as said order comes in.

J.A.

SUMMARY OF WESTERN BRANCH'S LETTER

(This letter was sent to England in response to an inquiry as to the Western Branch's position on the Resolution)To summarize and incorporate my own views, I think our members hold a middle ground. We have enjoyed the RICARDIAN as it exists..including personal news notes and occasionally less than scholarly articles.

None of us is entirely convinced that the membership, consisting as it does largely of amateur students of history, can produce even an annual scholarly journal on our subject. We are eager to see our views of Richard spread to anyone who learns 15th century history but (this is my own opinion here) it may be that we can make strides in this direction in large part by individual members 'propogating the faith', so to speak, as we have been doing. I feel that much of the good the Society has done thus far has been made by individuals writing letters to the Editor, by the memorials placed by the English branch, and by telling our story to acquaintances singly or in groups. (ED: hand written note on my copy: Possibly I am not ambitious enough??)

When we periodically have material suitable in import and composition for presentation to Historians, we approve of the production of a Digest for them.

For the purposes of a strictly-for-the-members publication, I'm sure none of us would object to high standards of research and presentation -- but I think that for this same purpose we also enjoy the "camaraderie" of the newsletter reflecting shared views and passing on personal news.....

with best regards;

Nancy Wilson

(ED: comments welcome.)

ATTENTION: STUDENTS

If you would make arrangements to post the trip brochure on one of your school bulletin boards, with your name and address on it for people to make contact with, some of your fellow students, faculty, or visiting parents might be interested in taking advantage of this low cost offer - and it would help us.

BOOK LOOK

LOYALTY BINDS ME by Ruth Trevan

Robert Hale Ltd., 63, Old Brompton Road, London S. W. 1, 1966 Price: \$2.70 - includes postage and handling.

Biographical novel of Richard from his early adolescence to Bosworth. Emphasising his total loyalty to Edward even to the seemingly permanent loss of his true love Anne, until the time comes when Richard cannot keep faith both with Edward's sons and with England.

Pleasantly written; not a great book but completely accurately researched. Richard is presented as a believable human being, kind, normal, honest, with a stern conscience and an appealing dry wit. The fate of the princes is handled in a way that could well be true: Richard suspected Buckingham of killing them but had no proof, and condemned himself for failing to recognize Buckingham's weakness and ambition, and giving him the power and means to reach the boys. Recommended as an excellent easy introduction to Richard's true character.

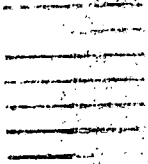
Libby Haynes,
Reviewer

Members interested in purchasing this book are advised to write to England as quickly as possible, as it is going out of print, and a second edition is not anticipated.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

THE GOLDEN LONGING: by Francis Leary, gift of Miss Dorothy E. Marsden
"Batman on the Battlefield" Kendall's review of Rowse's BOSWORTH FIELD. London Times, November 11, 1966. Gift of Miss Rae T. Lewis.

"Flash - History Wrong, Richard III Innocent" from Maclean's Reviews, October 1, 1966. Xerox made possible by William Hogarth from William J. Buyers. Article inspired by Mr Buyers' IN MEMORIAM notice in the Toronto GLOBE AND MAIL, discussing aims and achievements of the Richard III Society.



Mrs William P. Haynes
4149 25th St.
Arlington, Va.