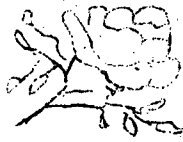


THE RICARDIAN REGISTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AMERICAN BRANCH,
RICHARD III SOCIETY



January, 1967, Volume I, Issue 3

TWO AUTHORS, ONE ACTOR * ROYAL FLUSH!

Andre Norton, the well-known author of science-fiction and science-fantasy novels, always known for their highly accurate historical references (see REGISTER 1), has consented to become an honorary member of the Society. Her letter to me accepting the membership reads in part:

My acquaintance with Richard's life began years ago when I read the novel UNDER THE HOG. Then, of course, the key book really set me to searching out more about him. All the material I could uncover presented him as a sensitive, highly talented man, probably the best ruler of his line, had he been granted his chance to really hold England through a normal reign. And I still can not understand how the Tudors had the least right to the throne, their claim was founded fully on an illegitimate line. Also, comparing the character of Henry Tudor with Richard and anyone can see how badly England lost by the Battle of Bosworth...

I will be pleased and honored to accept the honorary membership you so graciously offer me. Only wish that I lived close enough to attend some of what must be most interesting meetings.

Thank you very much indeed.

Sincerely,
Andre Norton

Our second famous author is Rex Stout, internationally known for his Nero Wolfe mysteries, and 'found' as a Ricardian by a reference in his latest novel: DEATH OF A DOXY (See REGISTER 2). His letter to me reads in part:

AUTHORS, ACTOR, cont.

I have your letter and shall be delighted to be an honorary member of the Richard III Society. If being convinced that Richard did not kill the boys, and was framed, makes me a Ricardian, I am one...

Sincerely,
Rex Stout

The actor referred to in the headline is none other than the world famous actor-producer and director José Ferrer. Mr Ferrer, well known to all of us for his roles in OTHELLO, CYRANO de BERGERAC, THE STRIKE, and, most recently, MAN OF LA MANCHA. He is also known in the theatre for his magnificent directing and producing of STALAG 17 and THE FOURPOSTER. Mr Ferrer first became interested in Richard while performing in New York several years ago, through Alexander Clark. When Mr. Hogarth made contact with him a few months ago in an effort to locate Mr Clark, Mr Ferrer was very interested in the Society and what we are doing, and was very pleased to accept an honorary membership.

I know that I speak for all of us when I say that we are ourselves honored by the presence in our membership list of two distinguished authors and a distinguished actor-producer-director.

HELP NEEDED TO LOCATE REFERENCE

Nadia C. Elin reports that Robert Lewis Taylor has a book out, recently (12/23) reviewed in 'Book Week,' in which he refers to Richard. Does any member know the name of this book?

IF MY UNCLE IS MY FATHER'S BROTHER...

A most interesting letter was received this month from Mrs William Lichtenstein and as it is of general interest, I am reprinting it in full.

Today I found my thoughts turning to a subject which has always fascinated me. The curious family entanglements created by the limited arena for an advantageous marriage among the great English families of the Middle Ages, and although I know the majority of our members are well versed in Richard's family tree, from the roots up, I thought some might find my private reflections interesting.

Particularly interesting to me was the awareness that Richard and his brothers, through their mother Cicely Neville, were as true descendents by blood of John, Duke of Lancaster as was Henry the Sixth, although the bar sinister rears its ugly head here as it does in the family tree of Henry Tudor. It must be remembered that John Beaufort, Earl of Somerset, the ancestor of Margaret (Henry Tudor's mother), was one of four children born to Katherine Swynford and John of Gaunt during their illicit relationship and later declared legitimate by the Pope and Richard the Second, when the two married. John, Thomas - who became Earl of Exeter, Henry - later Cardinal Beaufort, and Joan, who became the second wife of Ralph Neville the fourth Baron Neville of Raby and mother of Cicely, Duchess of York.

I have always reflected with great interest, upon the fact that some tend to blame the Wars of the Roses on the profligacy of Edward the Third, which may or may not have helped the situation along. When curiously enough the three major combatants, King Henry the Sixth, the brothers York, and Henry Tudor were all either by maternal or paternal descent the great grandsons, or as in the case of Henry Tudor, the great-great grandsons of 'Old John of Gaunt, time honoured Lancaster' to borrow Shakespeare's epithet.

Judith Lichtenstein

NEW MEMBERS AND ADDRESSES

The Society would like to extend a sincere welcome to the following members who have joined since the last REGISTER.

Alexander Clark
175 West 79th St.
N.Y., N.Y. 10024

Christopher Hogarth
207 Carpenter Ave.
Seacliff, N Y

Jose V. Ferrer
375 Park Ave.
N.Y., N.Y.

Diane Jayson
Box 330 Lake Forest College
Lake Forest, Illinois

Andre Norton
Route #1
Box 19-B
Maitland, Fla. 32751

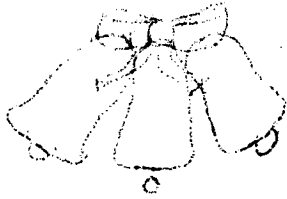
Nancy Schmier
Howard School
West Bridgewater, Mass 12379
Home:
3 Lancaster Ave.
Lunenburg, Mass. 01462

Rex Stout
High Meadow
Brewster, N Y

Mrs Ernest G. Vetter
818 Turkey Run Road
McLean, Va. 22101
Mr
Mrs Clara C. Wood
Lincoln Sq. Bldg.
Gettysburg, Pa. 17325

ATTENTION WASHINGTON AREA MEMBERS

Watch for the Shakespeare Society of Washington's RICHARD III at the end of February and early March. It looks as if it will be a good show, from local members' reports. It will be held at St. Thomas' Church Hall, 18th & P Sts. N.W. Fri. & Sat. Eves, Sun. Matinee.



WEDDING BELLS FOR RICARDIANS

The above bells (if you can recognize them as such, are ringing for Mr and Mrs Smith Freeman. Mrs Freeman is the former Natalie C. Gallagher. They are both members of the Princeton Chapter and were married last month.

ANYBODY OWN A XEROX?

In our latest effort - revived - to arrange for reprints of the RICARDIAN, we need to know if any member can beat the price of 10¢ a sheet. At this price, the cost of the complete set is around \$30. I don't think that many of you would want to pay that, so to repeat the headline, DOES anyone out there own a Xerox (or equivalent).

ELIZABETH OF YORK SPEAKS OF RICHARD THE THIRD

He stood before me, dark and still
And all my heart was torn with pain.

For him I loved; although men tell
That on him lies a bloody stain:

A dreadful Tower, grim and chill,
Where perished young my brothers twain.

Yet him I loved; and when he fell
On Bosworth Field my heart lay slain.

Susan Overby
1956

FURTHER NOTES ON PITTSBURGH MEETING

As of now, the meeting will be held in Pittsburg on Saturday, April 1. The time and place are not just yet set, but I would like to have some idea of how many of you are coming. If you have already told me that you plan to come, you don't need to write again, but if you haven't, please write and let me know.

NOTE TO WESTERN BRANCH

What you are receiving is our branch's monthly newsletter. This is the third issue, and material for future issues is piling up. We started this in an effort to make our members feel that they were in closer contact with one another than was possible geographically. We feel that it is succeeding. If you would like to participate in this venture, you may subscribe to the REGISTER for 75¢. Since our year runs Oct. - Oct, we will send you back issues you may have missed. You are of course welcome to contribute if you would like to.

In case you wonder about the name. It is in this paper that we register our opinions, thoughts, and discoveries Ricardian - as well as the names and addresses of new members who have joined.

Sincerely;
Jean Airey
Secretary-Treasurer
Eastern American
Branch

BOOK LOOK

UNDER THE HOG by Patrick Carleton
E. P. Dutton & Co., N Y 1938

Very fine historical novel. Covers years 1470-85. Exceptionally well researched and detailed. Richard's character is particularly well-defined and sympathetic, probably the truest representation of him in fiction. He is devoted to his brother King Edward, his wife Anne, to England, to the cause of justice for the commons, and above all to the prevention of civil war which he considers to be the ultimate evil. All the individuals are well-rounded and believable and their relationships human and understandable. The story gives excellent glimpses of medieval life and thought.

Libby Haynes,
Reviewer