

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

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NEW ADDRESS OF THE EDITOR-SECRETARY : 368 Kenwood Ave., Delmar, N Y
LETTER FROM ENGLISH CHAIRMAN MORE ABOUT OUR TRIP

(referring to the production of the two plays mentioned in the last REGISTER) The occasion was a pronounced artistic success and drew an approving criticism in the TIMES among other papers. We enjoyed about 85% capacity house and a total audience of nearly 4,000 people. What with that and the amount of direct and indirect Ricardian publicity which we managed to enjoy, plus the new members we enrolled, plus the profits we made on the exhibition outside the theatre, it was quite an event.

I have asked Miss Ragosin to let me know as soon as she hears what dates the BBC are fixing for the revival over the radio of her whole cycle of four historical plays in case either the Richard or the Henry one coincides with your visit. Plans are going ahead for our various meetings with you and we are excited at the prospect of meeting you all and anxious to have some time for serious round-the-table discussion on the subject of the RICARDIAN and other policy matters. This will, of course, be debated at the council meeting at Leicester which you will be attending but we need informal talks first.

Patrick Bacon

WASHINGTON REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORTS

I am preparing something re your comment on page 1 of the March issue on explaining why we are so concerned about Richard III. Perhaps, this would be a good subject for discussion also at a 'Roundtable' at the annual meeting.

I'm also working on the article on Richard's legislation, and its significance for us - in between extensive field trips with the Postmaster General's Presidential Advisory Board!

William Snyder.

NAME CHANGE

Kay J. Doebner to Kay J. Peterson.

Our trip was advertised in the March 25th issue of the SATURDAY REVIEW, and there will also be an ad in the June 11th travel section of the Pittsburgh Press, so we are getting plenty of publicity.

Betty Schloss will be at the airport to help us get off smoothly, and is more than willing to help with any other travel arrangements which need to be made. Just write to her at the Bigelow Apts in Pittsburgh and ask.

If you have any friends who are interested, you might remind them that this is a high value trip with accommodations at first class hotels. It has been planned to especially satisfy the interests of Ricardians, but other interested parties would do well to take advantage of the low, low round trip airfare of \$230, and just come along with us for the flight. Then they can go on their own, or ask Ponzio Travel to make arrangements for their trip over there.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Articles by R. J. A. Bunnett:

SIR EDWARD BRAMPTON

JOHN OF GLOUCESTER, bastard son of Richard,

Duke of Gloucester (also Katherine

Plantagenet and Richard Broome)

DID THE PRINCES LEAVE THE TOWER?

DID THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM MURDER THE TWO PRINCES?

gifts of Mr Bunnett

"Minster Lovel" a short story by Valerie

Giles - gift of Miss Giles

"The Fall of the House of York" Xeroxcopy of Chapter XX of THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND FROM THE ACCESSION OF RICHARD III (1377-1485) by Sir Charles Oman. This is the 'Sir Cuthbert Oliphant' quoted in THE DAUGHTER OF TIME.

gift of Elizabeth Haynes

Frank Hoffman writes:

I would also like to call your attention to a college textbook dealing with Richard -- Taylor Littleton and Robert R. Rea: TO PROVE A VILLAIN: THE CASE OF RICHARD III (Macmillan Co., 1964). This is a freshman English text of a type called a casebook, providing a full range of readings on a specific subject -- its purpose is to provide both primary and secondary source materials for student compositions. Despite the implications of the title, there is no bias in the book -- it is a strictly neutral collection of source texts. (Here follows a list of the texts - and they are quite complete in range and depth)... The book concludes with suggested writing and research topics, a good bibliography, and a genealogical chart from Edward III to Henry VII.

(If any of you live near enough to a campus bookstore, you might be able to have them order it for you. It certainly sounds like a good investment)

NEW MEMBERS

A sincere welcome is extended to these new members:

Robert L. Curry
2563 Fenwick Road
University Heights, Ohio 44118

Lowell E. Sachnoff
105 West Adams St.
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Christel Stevens
4216 Underwood St.
University Park, Md. 20782

Madeline Dejesa
P.O. Box 389
Garden City, N Y 11530

NEEDLEWORK AVAILABLE

Anne M. Gordon, 164 Congress St., Brooklyn, N Y has available for members a hand worked reproduction of Richard's seal. This comes complete in a gilt frame and the total cost is \$15. Please order directly from her. The needlework is beautifully done.

PORTRAIT OFFER RENEWED

11x14 reproductions of the National Gallery portrait of Richard are again available for \$3.00 and a seal from the inside of Maxwell House instant coffee - write to Libby Haynes.

BOOKS BEGIN NEW YEAR

Any members joining after this newsletter will be listed as 67-68 members, although library privileges begin immediately. If any of you want to renew your membership now, please feel free to do so.

(Regarding my question as to the apparel of the other sisters at the party where Anne and Elizabeth wore the same dress) We don't know what the other sisters were wearing...but Cicely, who was very near Elizabeth in age was probably there, and the Croyland monk shakes his head over "vain changes of apparel". (I thought there was a chance that they all could have dressed alike)

(Regarding my wondering if Edward's failure to regularize his marriage was to give Richard a chance to take over if a minority Woodville reign seemed in the offing) I must admit I have often wondered why Edward did not regularize his marriage with Elizabeth Woodville, especially after Clarence had so nearly spilled the beans. Perhaps it couldn't be done without a Papal dispensation, and then it might have got out. But I suppose it is always possible he did leave Richard a loophole on purpose. Referring to Clarence, a member had recently sent me a very interesting article about him by Hugh Ross Williamson in the DECEMBER number of HISTORY TODAY. Why none of all our members happened to see this at the time and tell us about it I don't know. (She goes on to discuss the difficulty of obtaining even this one back copy - and our desire to obtain more - can any of you help? Even a Xerox of a library's copy would be worthwhile)

Yes, the answer to the question of why we are so concerned with Richard is a poser, isn't it? I know the answer, up to a point,...Of course the people who take up his cause are concerned that the truth should be told and justice be done, but that begs the question why this particular truth or justice in this particular case when there are so many cases of historical injustice. True, Richard has had a lot of publicity, especially in the latter years, but that only leads up back to the few original people who cared so passionately about this case that (as in the case of Josephine Tey) they saw to it that the truth was told in a manner which would get it the greatest publicity. Then why did she, and the other pioneers, care so much? I can only say that there is a spiritual force behind the Ricardian movement.... I think we are now moving out of the phase of the original spiritual impetus into a phase of what one might call 'intellectual consolidation', and that is where you Americans come in! But of course only part of that can ever be given to people as an explanation. Perhaps it's the mystery of it which is such fun.

All good wishes,
Isolde Wigram

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

There is a chance that I will be living in Atlanta Georgia next year. If this comes about, I will have a chance to inform you in the June REGISTER - or else send you all a letter, but unless you hear otherwise, write to me at the Delmar address.