

# The Ricardian Register

Newsletter of the  
American Branch

Richard III Society



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## BOOK LOOK

Attention, all new members or those individuals who have been bluffing their way through the Society for several years, as have we! How well do you know your Richard III? Could you answer the following questions? "To what extent, in appraisal of Richard, does Myers escape from the moral necessity of "proving a villain"? "Who is Myers?" "Could you analyze the basis of the "revisionist" position?" If you have succeeded in answering the preceding questions in the affirmative, you have obviously already read the book and have conjectured by now that we are describing Professors Littleton and Rea's To Prove a Villain. If not, pray continue.

They have compiled from a broad scope of historical and literary sources a variety of views of Richard ranging from Shakespeare's original portrait of a villain, to the more complex character that has been popularized by Josephine Tey. The result is a totally unbiased, "decide for yourself," case-book. This is of particular value for the novice who would appreciate a broad understanding of the dispute of "villain versus saint." It also makes available to the layman, works that would otherwise be rather difficult to obtain. Unless you happen to have among other things, a copy of the "English Historical Review," VI (1891).

The authors have supplemented their work with a series of thought provoking questions and an excellent bibliography for those whose interest has been stimulated to further research. However, fine as it is, it overlooks an important work by not mentioning The Last Plantagenets from Thomas B. Costain's series dealing with the dynasty's history.

## BOOK LOOK (Contd.)

Also on the negative side unless you are an "introduction or preface" reader, the chronological order may throw you off a bit.

Professor Rea's interest in Richard goes back to his childhood exposure to the plight of the princes through an old nineteenth century painting and Hollywood's famous version, "The Tower of London." As with many of us, it was Josephine Tey's mystery which, combined with his profession as an English historian that made Professor Rea an avid Ricardian. And at the suggestion of Professor Littleton, they collaborated on "To Prove a Villain." At any rate, the result in our opinion, was brilliant.

Madeline Dejesa  
Pat Coogan

## WASHINGTON AREA MEETING

About 15 Washington area members attended the regional meeting held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Snyder. It was very easy for new members to locate the house, as the silken white boar banner made by Libby Haynes was flying from a flagstaff on the front lawn. Bobbi Jacobs who was visiting told about the Rowse meeting and each member spoke about his or her Ricardian activities. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder then showed slides of their May, 1968 trip to England. Dessert and coffee were served, and an excellent time had by all.

## COME TO ANNUAL MEETING!

September 28, 1968, John Barleycorn,  
New York City

THE ROSE OF RABY

I have been looking for The Rose of Raby Evelyn Payne Ellis, mentioned in The Daughter of Time. After much consultation of old books in print and cumulative book indexes available at the San Francisco Public Library and at University of California at Berkeley, I've concluded there is no such book.

I began my search by using Guy Paget's Rose of Raby, 1937, in which he mentions in his preface an earlier historical novel about Cicely, and so that book must have been published previous to his. Working back from that date I finally found in the book catalogue of the U.C. Library a novel listed as Cicely; or The Rose of Raby, an Historical Novel, printed in 1795 in London, four volumes, catalogued with the author as Agnes Musgrave. But the books as I examined them do not have an author listed on the title page, nor is there any Agnes Musgrave in the book, although there are fictitious Musgrave characters.

There are four small volumes about 250 pages each, long boring pages in type difficult to read, typical of the period. The four volumes tell of Cicely's life through "letters addressed to a lady of the noble family of Lumley; many from the Duchesses of York and Clarence, Countess of Warwick, and some few from Anne, the Queen of Richard the Third; those the most mutilated were written by Edward the Fourth and all their dates were confined between the years 1440 and 1500."

In Paget's preface he says he could refer to a "novel called Cicely Neville, The Rose of Raby which makes Cicely out to have first married an Earl of Warwick, who never existed, and to have had a baby by him at the age of two! "So he must have been referring to this Musgrave book in which Cicely marries Lord Beauchamp, the heir of the Warwicks, about 1416, shortly after she has met Henry V after the Battle of Agincourt, 1415, the year that is established as Cicely Neville's birth. In this Musgrave novel, Henry V fell in love with Cicely who did not return his love. Henry wanted his beloved Cicely to be a queen even if she wouldn't be his, and proposes that she marry James of Scotland, but James loves Joan of Somerset, Cicely's cousin. It is at Henry's court that Cicely is first styled the Rose of Raby, her admirers wearing a white rose in her honor. The Duke of Orleans is also Cicely's admirer

## THE ROSE OF RABY (contd.)

and surprisingly enough, so is his father who had somehow escaped his supposed murderers.

The four volumes tell of Cicely's adventures, very difficult to follow, with some names and events reasonably correct, but most of the account rambles and rambles. The tone is anti-Richard, the book ending with Cicely's letter to her confidante Matilda: "Ah Richard, what did royalty avail thee, short lived was thy power-thy conscience thou vainly triedst to still, by the dream of grandeur, thou hadst waded through seas of blood to obtain, seated on a throne, with a breast corroded by care, thy aching heart cursed the thorns which lined that coronet, thou fanciedst filled with down, yet soon thou hadst no heir to inherit the station thou hadst taken such pains to curse thyself to obtain; ah when Edward, his only child expired at Middleham, sure then the infant blood he had split, sate heavy on his perjured soal. Ah, sure, sure, neer mother was so unhappy in her offspring as I have been....When the news reached me of the defeat of Richard at Bosworth, I did not mourn, I had lost a son, but I was humbled before the Ruler of the World who had made me a mother, who gave Richard as a scourge for the crimes of the race of Plantagenets, of whom perhaps he was the last, destined to fill the throne of England. (Then she talks about Elizabeth of York)....Come, Matilda, and see Elizabeth of York, seated on a throne which shall descend to her posterity forever; still you will love her, as you fondly used to say, in face, person and temper, she so strongly resembled your CICELY."

Advertisement - Through unforeseen circumstances, the work has laid dormant - it was given into the hands of the printer two years since. He hopes the public will accept this apology for its delay.

I've read all four volumes and don't feel they add anything to the story of Richard unless someone is doing a paper on attitudes toward Richard III at various periods of history. If anyone has any clues about the Payne-Ellis book, I'd be pleased to know of them. -- by Dorothy Marsden

ATTENTION HISTORIANS!

Mrs. Sol Newman writes: "I subscribe to the magazine "History," published by the Historical Association in England, and the June issue carried an article by A. R. Myers titled "Richard III and Historical Tradition." I had it xeroxed and mailed it to Libby Haynes for the library. I would be interested to see comments on it by some Ricardian member who is a trained historian. It is well worth reading, and gives considerable information on C. R. Markham who wrote on various other subjects besides Richard. I assume the British Society will be aware of the article." Mrs. Virginia Jacobs also spotted the same article and sent me a copy and I certainly agree with her comment that it is very informative and definitely "must" reading for any member of the Society.

A SOUND BODY = A STRONG MIND?

Doctor Louis Pelnar has sent in a fascinating article from Diagnostica, May-June, 1968, entitled "A Werish, Withered, Arm," by David Unwin. This is a most interesting article contrasting the "normal" Richard and the Tudor monstrosity. Mr. Unwin comments, "The moderate view among concerned historians now holds that having one shoulder higher than the other was Richard's sole deformity of body." He also places quite a bit of credence in Dr. J. Swift Joly's "strawberry" theory. (And if you don't know what that is, read "To Prove a Villain.") This is a very well written and unbiased article and contains one statement on which both sides have to agree. "The dispute over the true nature and actions of Richard III is now more than 350 years old, and shows no signs of abating."

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

By now you should have all received copies of the annual meeting notice. If you haven't, see the first page for details. Our seating is limited, and reservations will be on a first come - first serve basis, so make your reservations now.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY (Contd.)

This will be a most important meeting, besides the proposed raise in dues, we will also be voting on a reorganization of the American Branch set-up. If you would like to invite some friends to the meeting, they would be welcome. We don't demand a showing of credentials.

I would like to welcome to this issue two new contributing editors, Madeline Dejesa and Pat Coogan. They have fulfilled their first assignment admirably and are now working on their second.

There were six In Memoriam notices in the New York Times including one by the Phantom "Jr. Brands Association."

John Ballantine  
1340 Greenwood Drive  
Palo Alto, California 94301

Byroh Belt  
24 Vanderbilt Avenue  
Marhasset, New York 11030

Regan Claire Benson  
743 Winter Street  
Spring Lake, Michigan 49456

Mrs. Blackwell Brown  
3102 Allendale Street S.W.  
Roanoke, Virginia 24014

Patricia Coogan  
6 Cathedral Avenue  
Garden City, New York 11530

Diane Crane  
504 Burnett Ferry Road  
Rome, Georgia 30161

Terry deGroot  
% F. Weber  
7 West 14th Street  
New York, New York 10011

Mary Louise Dodge  
93 Vosper Street  
Saranac, Michigan 48881

Judith Anne Halper  
1733 Highland Parkway  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55116

Stanley M. Hanfling  
323 North San Mateo Drive  
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San Mateo, California 94401

Robert H. Irrmann  
738 Park Avenue  
Beliot, Wisconsin 53511

Irene Kimmel  
40 Ocean Avenue  
Lynn, Massachusetts 01902

Victoria Lippman  
120 West 58th Street  
New York, New York 10019

Oscar Lopp  
1852 North Pira Drive  
Merced, California 95340

Myra Morales  
62 Montgomery Street  
Apartment # 3  
Poughkeepsie, New York

Stephen Morrissey  
146 Thaxter Road  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ridenhour  
2060 Cunningham Drive  
Hampton, Virginia 23366

Margaret Simmons  
18705 Loree Avenue  
Cubertino, California 95014

Mrs. Anne Stokes  
Stokes Mr. Anthony  
1808 Wesley Avenue  
Ocean City, New Jersey 08226

Mrs. Dorothy Texeira  
1036 Jones Street  
San Francisco, California 94109

James M. Weiskopf  
18046 Hubbell  
Detroit, Michigan 48235

Bernard Witlieb  
2421 Webb Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10468

TEXT OF LETTER WRITTEN BY RICHARD III TO HIS CHANCELLOR, THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN:

By the King,

Right reverend Father in God etc. Signifying unto you that it is showed unto us that our servant and solicitor, Thomas Lynom, marvellously blinded and abused with the late (wife) of William Shore now being in Ludgate by our commandment, hath made contract of matrimony with her, as it is said, and intendeth, to our great marvel, to proceed to effect the same. We for many causes would be sorry that he so should be disposed. Pray you, therefore, to send for him, and, in that ye goodly may, exhort and stir him to the contrary; and if ye fine him utterly set for to marry her and none otherwise will be advertised, then, if it may stand within the law of the Church, we be content, the time of the marriage deferred to our coming next to London, that upon sufficient surety found of her good bearing, ye do send for her abearing keeper and discharge him of our said commandment, by warrant of these, committing her to the rule and guiding of her father or any other by your given, etc. discretion, in the mean season.

To the Right Rev. Father in God the Bishop of Lincoln our Chancellor.

Harleian Library, No. 2378 (spelling modernized)

EXTRACT OF A WARRANT, ISSUED AT WINCHESTER BY RICHARD III, AUTUMN, 1483

to Mr. John Gunthorpe, keeper of the Privy Seal, to discharge Richard Bele from his place of the said Privy Seal, to which he had been admitted contrary to the old rule and due order, by mean of giving of great gifts, and other sinister and ungodly ways, in great discouraging of the under-clerks, which have long continued therein to have the experience of the same, to see a stranger, never brought up in the said office, to put them by of their promotion.

Harl. 433, Vol. 123 (spelling modernized)

LETTER WRITTEN BY RICHARD III TO HIS MOTHER, THE DUCHESS OF YORK:

Madam,

I recommend me to you as heartily as is to me possible. Beseeching you in my most humble and effectuous wise of your daily blessing, to my singular comfort and defence in my need. And, madam, I heartily beseech you that I may often hear from you to my comfort. And such news as be here my servant Thomas Bryan, this bearer, shall show you; to whom please it you to give credence unto. And, madam, I beseech you to be good and gracious lady to my lord my Chamberlain, to be your officer in Wiltshire in such as Colyngbourne had. I trust he shall therein do you service. And that it please you that by this bearer I may understand your pleasure in this behalf. And I pray God to send you the accomplishment of your noble desires.

Written at Pounfreit, the 3rd day of June, with the hand of Your most humble son, Ricardus Rex.

Harl. 433, Vol. 2 (spelling modernized)

ARTICLE ON WILLIAM CAXTON - APRIL, 1960 ISSUE OF "HISTORY TODAY", AND THE FOLLOWING EXTRACT IS OF INTEREST TO RICARDIANS:

"After Edward IV's untimely death and the cruel elimination of "the gentle Rivers," even when the "most fair and most redoubted younge lords," Edward Prince of Wales, had vanished like a shadow, he (Caxton) felt no compunction in presenting "The Order of Chivalry" to his "redoubted naturel and most dradde soverayn lord, Kyng Richard." Has any apologist of Richard III suggested that Caxton may have had personal knowledge of the fate of his former patron's eldest son that cleared Richard in the printer's eyes from any tincture of guilt? Otherwise it is difficult to understand how he could conclude the Epilogue thus:

And I shalle pray almyty god for his long lyf, & prosperous welfare, that he may have victory of al his enemyes and after this short & transitory lyf to have everlastyng lyf in heven."



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